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Article published Sep 16, 2006

Sep 15, 2006

## **I'm not an animal, I'm a graduate student**

As a graduate student in the Department of English, I am disgusted by Mel New's reference to me as a "stable" inhabitant" in his Sept. 12 letter to the editor. I also find it difficult to agree with his contention that morale remains high while at the same time he refers to his colleagues as animals in a "stable."

The budget cuts in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are due to a myriad of factors. However, no specifics have been given by any administrator. The major factor is a consistently decreased budget in the face of ever-growing demand to teach more and more students. As a result, many departments have hired more faculty and recruited more graduate students to fill this need. This is true not only in the English Department, but across the College.

Those hardest hit by the cuts will be the German Department. By the year 2010, the Five Year Plan calls for the elimination of German graduate students. Since the administration has said absolutely nothing in regard to what the cuts will mean as far as class size, work load for faculty and graduate students, and what role grads will play in the college, we are left to speculate. Additionally, Dean Sullivan has been quoted in the Sun as saying the college may not honor faculty contracts; the moratorium on travel funds placed in June already illustrates the administration's willingness to do so.

This university would not function without graduate students, who have no current worthwhile health insurance and are paid wages at or below poverty level. We are public servants who have dedicated ourselves to service and education. If this is Mel New's idea of high morale, I want no part of it.

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