

# RACHEL'S FRIENDS

## BREAST CANCER COALITION

### Behind the Pink Ribbon: Breast Cancer, Corporations, and You

Saturday, May 13, 2006, 7:30-9:30 pm

Portland State University,

Smith Memorial Center Student Union, Rooms 327/8

**Panelists:** Neha Patel, Program Director, Oregon Center for Environmental Health, and Oregon State Rep. Diane Rosenbaum

Barbara Brenner refuses to be satisfied with the sentimentality and passive acceptance of breast cancer awareness "pink ribbon" campaigns. She seizes opportunities to point out the need to go beyond ribbons to truly make a difference in eliminating breast cancer. Barbara, who describes herself as living with breast cancer, is dedicated to moving breast cancer research in a new direction, toward prevention.

Barbara was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1993. She left her position as a partner in a San Francisco law firm and began using her skills for breast cancer activism. In 1995, Barbara became the executive director of Breast Cancer Action (BCA) in San Francisco. BCA's mission is to

"carry the voices of people affected by breast cancer to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic."



Barbara and BCA spread the word that mammograms do not prevent breast cancer and that we live in an environment saturated with cancer-causing toxics. BCA advocates for true prevention by revealing and eliminating breast cancer's causes and working toward universal access to quality care

with more effective, less toxic treatments.

"Breast cancer has transformed me in terms of the work I do," she says. "I care very deeply about getting to the end of this. It's not about me. In a large degree, what's going to happen to me is out of my hands. But we have a generation of young people coming up who do not need to deal with what the baby-boomer generation is now dealing with in terms of breast cancer."

Known for "tell it like it is" campaigns like "Think Before You Pink" and "Follow the Money," BCA and Barbara are proud to call themselves the "Bad Girls of Breast Cancer." To learn more about Barbara and BCA, visit [www.bcaction.org](http://www.bcaction.org) and [www.thinkbeforeyoupink.org](http://www.thinkbeforeyoupink.org).

# EPA Sued for Approving Pesticide Tests on Humans

A coalition of activist groups filed a lawsuit in federal court on February 23, 2006, that seeks to overturn an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule that allows pesticide testing on humans.

The groups argue that the regulation issued on January 26 violates a 2005 law passed by Congress that set strict ethical and scientific protections for pesticide testing on humans. The rule became effective on April 7.

“EPA’s rule allows pesticide companies to use intentional tests on humans to justify weaker restrictions on pesticides,” says Margaret Reeves, a senior staff scientist with the [Pesticide Action Network North America](#). Although the rule outlaws

some kinds of testing and limits others, the groups contend that the EPA policy is “riddled with loopholes” that undermine its effectiveness and encourage more human testing. They also say the rule fails to ensure that pesticide testing on human subjects meets the standards recommended by a 2004 National Academy of Sciences report and outlined in the Nuremberg Code after World War II.



“The industry’s human pesticide tests are unscientific and unethical,” says Erik D. Olson, a senior attorney with the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#). “Their record of abuse is appalling, yet the EPA disregards Congress’s order to crack down on this abhorrent practice.”

## May 27: Celebrate Rachel Carson’s birthday

- Take a hike.
- Give a book about Rachel Carson to a child.
- Plant a tomato plant and use only organic fertilizers.
- Visit one of Portland’s pesticide-free parks: Arbor Lodge (N. Bryant & Delaware), Lair Hill (SW 2nd & Woods), and Sewallcrest (SE 31st & Market).
- Shop for fresh local produce at a farmer’s market.

**Rachel’s Friends Breast Cancer Coalition** is a non-profit all-volunteer advocacy group dedicated to eliminating environmental toxics that are linked to breast cancer. We honor Rachel Carson, a biologist and writer who died of breast cancer. Her 1962 book *Silent Spring* exposed the dangers of pesticides.

We work to **prevent breast cancer** by exposing environmental causes. We educate policymakers and the public about the **impact of pesticides and other environmental toxics** on the rising incidence of breast cancer.

We advocate for an environment free of carcinogens and for increased funding for **research on environmental causes of breast cancer**.

We support the **Precautionary Principle (better safe than sorry)**. We should act **now** to reduce our exposure to known and suspected carcinogens even if cause and effect relationships are not firmly established.

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## Tell your senators to vote NO on Food Uniformity Act

- Do you believe you have a right to know if your food contains toxins that cause cancer or could cause birth defects?
- Do you think states should have the right to provide this information?

In March, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 4167, the National Uniformity for Food Act. If it passes in the Senate, this bill will require

that all states have the same food safety standards. This law would take away local government and states' power to require food safety labels on foods or beverages that are likely to cause cancer, birth defects, allergic reactions, or mercury poisoning.

This bill would also prevent citizens from passing laws requiring labels for genetically engineered foods and ingredients such as Monsanto's Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH). Local governments could not respond quickly to public

health risks such as mad cow disease, because they would be required to get federal approval for any public safety message related to food.

**In Oregon, call the local offices of senators Smith and Wyden. Their Portland phone numbers are:**

- **Smith: 503-326-3386**
- **Wyden: 503-326-7525**

Say that you are an Oregon voter and you oppose the National Uniformity for Food Act. Ask if the senator opposes it. If the staffer doesn't know, ask her/him to find out and call you back. Be polite but firm. Remember — they work for you!

### **HARVEST for HOPE: A Guide to Mindful Eating** by Jane Goodall, review by Myra Himmelfarb

Consider sharing this book with friends who want to rescue a bit of our world by making their households healthier and their conversations more fruitful.

“Remember, every food purchase is a vote” – and every other purchase, too, Goodall writes. She details contamination emerging from industrialized farms and food industries, but also tells of her healthy childhood in wartime England when food was rationed. She shares stories

of contemporary African women reviving the soil around Gombe, her chimpanzee preserve in Tanzania, by planting trees that encourage grass to grow in the shade, thus creating fertile areas for food crops. Goodall lists farms, dairies, and markets that are meeting the world-wide demand for clean local products.

“Hope” is provided in sections labeled “What you can do” at the end of each chapter. The “Resources”



section lists relevant organizations and how to contact them, books, and sources of organic sustainable products. The book is liberally seasoned with inspirational quotes and photographs.

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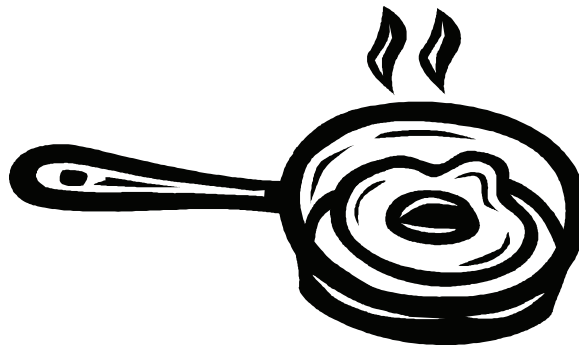
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## **Teflon chemical a likely carcinogen, says EPA Committee**

### **Beware of non-stick pans, stain-resistant fabric, and food wrappers**

A chemical used to manufacture Teflon should be considered a likely carcinogen, said a group of scientific advisers to the Environmental Protection Agency who voted unanimously on Feb. 15, 2006, to approve the recommendation.



The chemical, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), is a processing aid used to make fluoropolymers, which are

found in non-stick cookware. PFOA is also used to make fluorotelomers, used in stain-resistant textiles and grease-resistant food wrapping.

The DuPont Company owns the Teflon brand and is the only producer of PFOA in North America.

For details, visit [www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org).