

Corvallis Gazette Times  
November 16 Letter to the editor

### **GMOs 'sustainable'? Hardly. They're evil**

I agree with Megan MacKenzie that the ethics and safety regarding the science of genetic engineering is a nebulous issue (Nov. 15, "As I see it," "Rethink GMOs as sustainable agriculture").

She raises a valid intellectual challenge that genetic engineering is not fundamentally different than breeding or mutagenesis. From a scientific perspective, perhaps she's correct. Many disagree with her, I'm sure.

However, from a legal perspective, there was a Supreme Court ruling in 1980 that, in my mind, is a deal breaker in my support of genetic engineering.

In this ruling, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) — including food crops — may be patented, but the results of breeding cannot be patented.

This means that GMOs are categorically different than any other kind of food. It is morally wrong and legally inconsistent to patent any food crop, regardless of how it was derived. In this legal context, GMO foods are evil.

Don Boucher