

**From:** Fahrenbruck, Deborah  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 08, 2005 07:30 PM  
**To:** Stuart, Mike  
**Subject:** mrfeld.doc  
**Attachments:** mrfeld.doc

I had forgotten I had written this. I never sent this to Mr. Feld but I send it along for your information.

Mr. Feld  
Feld Entertainment  
8607 Westwood Center Drive  
Vienna, Va 22182

Dear Mr. Feld,

Please first let me start by saying how much I enjoy working for you and Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey. The history, tradition, the dedication, and especially the people it is truly an adventure. I've been hearing here and there of all the changes taking place in the near future and look forward to seeing and being a part of it.

Unfortunately I have recently felt compelled to write to you. I pride myself on being able to solve situations on my own but I feel I have to this point only been putting band aids on one which has recently become worse. As we all anticipated the California run would be very trying for all of us but especially would be for Troy because of past experiences. Understanding this I looked upon it as a challenge and gave Troy and our entire animal department as much coverage, support and understanding as I could. I felt that if we could just stick it out and support each other we would all take a sigh of relief after we left the West Coast. I've witnessed some things done by Troy and his crew that were troubling but I cannot say were truly abusive. When I brought these issues to his attention strictly for his knowledge and for him to deal with as the barn head I was always met with resistance and always felt he considered me an outsider and threat. I will not go into them here but it made it very difficult at times to defend Troy not only in the media but to his crew, building employees, inspectors and others.

One example I will mention is that the activist's tape taken in Oakland could have been easily avoided. I surveyed the situation and saw it could become problematic and went to Troy to discuss it and fix the situation easily by putting up a tent wall. His reaction was that he was doing nothing wrong and they could take all the video they wanted. It ended with him swearing and gesturing towards the activist. The result of that was of course my defending us on the local news in San Jose after the activists held a press conference. I agree with Troy I didn't see any wanton abuse on the tape but we all understood how the activists would spin it and there really was no justification for what Brian did. I will add that after discussing the situation with Alex a short while later a tent wall went immediately up and further videoing ceased.

Things did settle down after leaving the coast but unfortunately have taken a turn again. I believe Alex's transfer triggered some of this but Troy is Troy and even when he is confronted with his attitude acknowledges it and even sometimes apologizes but also says he not only has no plans to change but vows to increase it.

I have some first hand knowledge on how he berates his crew and a lot of second hand. I think we will probably lose at least several good people and possibly one key one. I will tell you of my own recent incident. As everyone is aware Isham is practicing to take over ring one in manage. Last night in the show I observed him hook Lutzki under the trunk three times and behind the leg once in an attempt to line her up for the T-mount. After the act I stopped backstage and observed blood in small pools and dripped along the length of the rubber and all the way inside the barn. Troy was readying two elephants for Spec. Not knowing if he was aware I asked very quietly if he had seen the blood. Ignoring me

and thinking he didn't hear me I asked again. He was very abrupt in his acknowledgement. Understanding this I said nothing more and went up to the barn to check on the elephant. I asked Mike which elephant was bleeding and was told Lutzi. I told him I was not surprised as I had seen Isham hook her in the show fairly severely. Mike said he thought it might have been Suny during the act either way we had an elephant dripping blood all over the arena floor during the show from being hooked. I observed Suny cleaning Lutzi's trunk and decided to let the elephant department handle it. I had decided to wait twenty-four hours before talking to Troy as I have found in the past he tends to get very defensive and apologies later. Before leaving the show that night I stopped by the barn for something totally different and was told by Mike Troy wanted to talk to me and that I was "banned" from the barn unless he was there. I left telling Mike I didn't want to talk to Troy tonight and would deal with it tomorrow.

As of now I haven't talked to him and see no purpose in doing so. He has made it clear his feelings and I will stay out of the barn for now only. Troy is very unhappy here and has said so himself. His attitude and quality of work has slowly declined. We are all aware of his moods but things are not progressing. This is very hard for me as I never have questioned Troy's love of elephants but I'm beginning to question his judgment and wonder what is best not only for the elephants and people but the company.

I ended up talking to Mike Stuart and John Griggs about Troy. I found both of them to be very supportive. Mike said he would talk to him. That night I realized I needed to talk to Troy. I wasn't looking to Mike to fight my battles but be there if I needed him for back-up. This is how I've done it in the past and have found it to be the best method. The problem is again I feel we are only putting ban-aids on the situation.

I talked to Troy the next morning and he immediately apologized and stated his side of the story. His main point being big fish were being made out of little ones and what happens in the elephant barn stays in the barn. I wasn't trying to make something more of the situation then necessary but it warranted a follow up. The resistance I met from Troy made this a bigger fish.

Deborah Fahrenbruck  
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