

# Coalition For Animals & Animal Research

## CFAAR Arizona Newsletter

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To join the Arizona Chapter of CFAAR, please fill out the membership form on the back page. Donations publish our newsletter and educational materials. A years subscription to this newsletter is included with your contribution.

### CFAAR: Who We Are

CFAAR is a nonprofit educational organization which formed in response to activists who were attempting to discredit animal research and animal researchers in 1988. Several local CFAAR chapters have since sprung up across the country. These groups share the following objectives:

- 1) To **organize** students, faculty, and staff at institutions where animal research is performed so effective letter writing campaigns can be initiated quickly.
- 2) To **educate** the public, in general, and the campus, in particular, about the true nature of animal research and animal researchers.
- 3) To **support** responsible and humane use of animals in biomedical research.

The first of these objectives will be the primary function of the group. As legislation is introduced that affects animal research, we need to respond so our representatives know exactly how we, the people, want them to vote. Accordingly, through our newsletter, we will help inform you about legislation and other "happenings" concerning attacks on animal research. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible to contact your Washington, D.C. representatives.

The key to the effectiveness of this organization is you! We need your willingness to write an occasional letter, perhaps talk with a school group and, of course, give a few dollars to cover the cost of printing the newsletter and educational materials.

**HELP SUPPORT CFAAR  
SO WE CAN SUPPORT YOU**

### PETA Targets UNC Lab

By Catherine Clabby

For months, a spy with a hidden camera roamed among hundreds of cages holding lab mice and rats at UNC-Chapel Hill, documenting everything she saw. Today, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals will release video footage of rats being beheaded and live mice mixed in with dead rodents to protest what it calls inhumane handling of lab creatures in Chapel Hill.

The animal-rights group wants improvements at UNC-CH. But its primary goal, leaders say, is to defeat a move by U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms to prevent the federal government from requiring greater protection for the millions of mice, rats and birds used in research labs. "Somehow people see images of rodents used in research, and it doesn't bother them. We really want people to know that these rats and mice have feelings like any other animal," said Kate Turlington, the PETA investigator who worked undercover at UNC-CH from October to Wednesday, her last day on the job.

UNC-CH officials had no idea PETA had infiltrated their campus, which is accredited by a national agency that sets standards for the care of lab animals. On Wednesday, they said they have strong guidelines in place. But if evidence of poor treatment emerges, they said, the problems will be fixed. "We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to animals," Vice

Chancellor Tony Waldrop said. "We will look into any aspect of any allegation."

Turlington, who is 24 and a 2000 N.C. State University graduate, said she offered to work undercover somewhere in Research Triangle Park for PETA last year, after she finished an internship with an animal-rights group on the West Coast. PETA has a long tradition of sneaking its people -- and cameras -- into places where it's not wanted, including a Camden County hog farm in Eastern North Carolina where evidence the group turned up resulted in criminal convictions in 2000 of two men who beat injured hogs.

Turlington, a onetime English major from Greensboro, inquired about several jobs in the Triangle, including one at a lab at the Environmental Protection Agency. But in October, she landed a \$20,000-a-year post as a technician in the animal quarters at Thurston Bowles, a research building near UNC Hospitals. She expected the job to be a training exercise for undercover work and at first did not take a camera to work. But in time, she became concerned about what she was seeing. So she started wearing the camera, fitted with sound, along with the scrubs, gloves and disposable caps required on the job. PETA declined to say how she hid the minicam.

"She found absolutely atrocious conditions. We said this is something that we can't ignore," said Mary Beth Sweetland, PETA's director of research and investigations, who is based in Norfolk, Va. The videotape will be released to local press and to members of Congress considering Helms' measure against expanded protections. Local research universities have opposed the proposal.

In one segment, a laboratory worker from an alcohol research lab explains to Turlington that a procedure says baby rats should be placed on ice for four minutes before they are beheaded. But the lab worker says he prefers just to spray alcohol. That is faster, he says, and doesn't risk affecting the animals' brain. "We need to get better results, so I keep

brain fresh," the lab worker says. As he speaks and cuts out the brain, the rat's beheaded body wriggles on a table in front of him.

On a different day, Turlington finds eight live mice left in the dead animal cooler eating the body of a decapitated rat. Whoever disposed of them didn't make sure they were dead, she said. In another case, a rat hooked up to wires designed to induce a seizure violently thrashes against the inside of a plastic bucket. Lab workers are seen decapitating grown rats with tiny guillotines. Sick animals that need medical care or euthanasia languish in cages without treatment for days, she said. At several points in the video, the only thing visible is Turlington's gloved hands, picking up mice and displaying them to her camera. Sometimes she strokes the animals gently or speaks to them kindly. Once she says, "Bless your heart."

PETA officials said they will file a complaint with the National Institutes of Health, which awards millions of dollars to UNC-CH each year for research. Dr. Philip B. Carter of the College of Veterinary Medicine at N.C. State University is chairman of the board of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, the organization that accredits universities that prove they care for lab animals responsibly.

Carter said UNC-CH has a good reputation and solid policies when it comes to caring for lab animals. His organization, along with the federal government, requires that campuses such as UNC-CH keep the animals in clean and comfortable surroundings. They also require that animals receive pain relief if they are to be hurt in studies, unless the drugs or some other relief would alter research results. Each accredited campus has a committee that is required to inspect all animal facilities twice a year. Still, Carter said, sometimes people slip. "There can always be breaks in protocol," he said. "If a student or even a faculty member doesn't follow the protocol, there is not much you can do."

(News & Observer, 4/18/02)

## **Eco-terrorism Is on the Rise, FBI Official Says** By Michael Bender

Eco-terrorists in the United States are attacking more often and more aggressively, the FBI domestic terrorism chief said Wednesday. "At the inception of these groups (in the 1970s) there was a focus on legitimate lawful protest," said James Jarboe, of the FBI's counterterrorism division. "Over the years splinter groups have continued to emerge which have been dissatisfied with more conventional protest methods and have escalated the intensity of their protests with ever increasing violence."

Since 1996, the FBI estimates that two groups alone, Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front (ALF), have been responsible for more than 600 crimes and caused more than \$43 million in damage. During that same time, just nine men have been arrested in connection with crimes ELF has taken credit for, Jarboe testified before a U.S. Senate committee Feb. 12.

Jarboe answered questions about eco-terrorism during an on-line chat Wednesday, where the high number of crimes and low number of arrests had some concerned whether the FBI understands the movement. Some questioned whether the FBI should even be involved. "When I go to sleep at night I have no fear of eco-terrorism," said one person from College Park, Md. "Well, what about the militia/right wing fundamentalist movement in this country? ...The constant danger (including anthrax threats, clinic bombings and assassinations) against abortion providers and other "enemies of god" scares me much more." Jarboe said the issue of eco-terrorism vs. other types of terrorist activities is important. "I would think that the firefighters who have to go into blazing buildings that were set on fire by arsonists may take exception to the tone of your message that eco-terrorists are not worthy of our interest," Jarboe wrote.

One person pointed out that no one has been killed in eco-terrorist activities and that only businesses are affected. "Is the FBI being duped into catering to special interests of the private industry?" Jarboe said the FBI maintains independence while conducting investigations.

"Terrorism is terrorism regardless of who is the victim," Jarboe wrote. "We focus on criminal acts and aren't influenced in our priorities by any group."

The number of FBI special agents has grown 224% to 1,669 between fiscal years 1993 and 2003, according to Jarboe's testimony at the Feb. 12 eco-terrorism hearing before a congressional subcommittee on forests and forest health. During that time, the FBI has also established Joint Terrorism Task Forces in 44 cities across the country. By the end of 2003, the FBI plans to establish task force offices in 12 more cities. "These task forces are particularly well-suited to responding to terrorism because they combine the national and international investigative resources of the FBI with the street-level expertise of local law enforcement agencies," Jarboe said.

ELF has taken credit for several destructive raids on businesses, including the October 1997 torching of a Vail, Colo. ski facility in which four ski lifts, a restaurant, a picnic facility and a utility building were destroyed. Most recently, on Jan. 26, ELF claimed responsibility for a fire at the construction site of the Microbial and Plant Genomics Research Center at the University of Minnesota. The fire damaged machinery and a trailer and spread to the adjacent Crop Research building. "We are fed up with capitalists like Cargill Corp. (who is funding the construction of the research building) and major universities like U of M who have long sought to develop and refine technologies which seek to exploit and control nature to the fullest extent under the guise of progress," according to a message on ELF's website.

(Washington Post, 2/27/02)

## **Animal Research Saves Lives** **Lawmakers Target 'Eco-terrorism'** By Todd Milbourn

Rep. George Nethercutt, R-Wash., invokes the language of the war on terrorism in describing environmental and animal rights activists who ransack research labs and torch

ski resorts. "Like the murderers in New York and Pennsylvania, members of these shadowy organizations have no respect for human life and will stop at nothing in pursuit of their dark vision of the future," he said at a recent congressional hearing. "National environmental organizations need to know: Either you are with us or you are against us." In a wartime climate, lawmakers are hoping to toughen penalties for crimes involving plant or animal research by making them violations of federal racketeering laws.

The FBI is also deploying more special agents to track down elusive activists, whom they label "eco-terrorists." Since 1996, the FBI estimates, groups such as the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) have carried out 600 violent acts that caused more than \$40 million in damage. In Minnesota, the groups have struck at least 10 times since 1984, most recently in January. In that attack, the ELF claimed responsibility for setting fire to the construction site of the Microbial and Plant Genomic Research Center on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus.

In 1999, ALF raiders took more than 100 research animals from a university lab and trashed equipment, setting back research on Alzheimer's and other diseases. "It's only a matter of time before somebody gets hurt," said Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., a member of the House subcommittee on forests that held the hearing. The FBI describes the groups as patchwork confederations of saboteurs aiming to advance their agendas through "direct actions" -- violent or symbolic acts, such as arson and vandalism -- against those perceived to be harming animals or the environment.

The ALF Web site offers how-to guides for raiding labs and constructing incendiary devices. It also features a primer titled, "Arson Around with Auntie ALF." The Agroterrorism Prevention Act, co-sponsored by Rep. Gil Gutknecht, R-Minn., would establish a federal

clearinghouse for information on "eco-terrorism" to assist law enforcement efforts. It also would allow prosecutors to seek the death penalty if such a crime results in a fatality.

David Barbarash, an ELF spokesman in British Columbia, said that the terrorist label doesn't fit ELF activists. "It doesn't apply to individuals who do not harm or kill people, who are engaged in political acts of economic sabotage," he said, noting that the activists plan attacks and take precautions to minimize risks of injuring people. The ALF says in a report that it, the ELF and other groups carried out 137 acts of sabotage in 2001.

Despite the groups' public presence, the saboteurs have generally eluded law enforcement. Officials have made several arrests, but most of the cases remain unsolved. The FBI's counter-terrorism chief, James Jarboe, said at the recent subcommittee hearing that it is difficult to make arrests given the groups' freedom-of-speech protections and their lack of hierarchical structures.

Michael Pendleton, a professor at the University of Washington who has studied forest crime, testified that property rights groups pose a greater threat than animal rights activists. "The vast majority of property crime and violent acts are committed not by eco-terrorists, but by a relatively small but known group of local residents," Pendleton said. In the mid-1990s, a small pipe bomb exploded outside of a Forest Service outpost in Nevada. Months later, another bomb detonated outside a Forest Service worker's home, destroying the family's van and part of the house. Pendleton said about \$100 million worth of timber is stolen each year from national forests.

McCollum said that Congress, in focusing on animal rights groups, should be careful not to deal with one extremist wing and not the other. "Both groups need to be held accountable for their actions," she said. McCollum said that the violent actions of

radicals make it more difficult for the causes they espouse to get a fair hearing. She said they would probably find more success seeking change legally. "We have a process," she said. "It's called a ballot box."

(MN Star Tribune, 4/7/02)

## **Ovarian Cancer Therapy Shows Promise in Mice** By Jacqueline Stenson

A new gene therapy approach can help shrink ovarian tumors and prolong life in mice with the disease, Alabama researchers report. While similar techniques are being studied elsewhere, the investigators said they believe their protocol overcomes some of the shortcomings of previous attempts and therefore may be more effective. Based on the success of this study, the researchers are hoping to start clinical trials in women with ovarian cancer later this year.

The new treatment, dubbed RGDTKSSTR, is injected directly into tumors. The approach uses an inactivated cold virus to "infect" tumor cells with a herpes virus gene called thymidine kinase (TK), which produces the TK protein in the tumors. The result is that the tumor cells become sensitive to treatment with the herpes drug ganciclovir. When the drug is administered, tumor cells are destroyed, explained study author Dr. Akseli Hemminki, a gene therapy researcher at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. "In essence, we're giving local chemotherapy," he told Reuters Health. A big advantage over traditional chemotherapy is that the new treatment is targeted to the cancer, sparing healthy tissue, he said.

In a paper published in the May 15th issue of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Hemminki and colleagues report that mice given the new gene therapy had smaller tumors and lived longer than mice given either

similar, previously studied treatments or sham treatments. For instance, 7 of the 11 mice (64%) in the RGDTKSSTR group were still alive 45 days following treatment, whereas most of the mice in the other groups had died. By day 72, at the end of the experiment, all of the mice had died except for two in the RGDTKSSTR group. The two animals showed no signs of cancer, the researchers note. Hemminki said the new approach may be more effective than previous attempts because it has been modified to better infect tumor cells with the TK gene.

An estimated 23,300 American women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer this year and 13,900 will die from the disease, according to the American Cancer Society. New treatments for ovarian cancer are urgently needed, Hemminki noted, because 70% of all ovarian cancer cases are diagnosed when the disease has already spread beyond the ovaries. At that point, the 5-year survival rate is just 30%.

(Journal of the NCI, 5/14/02)

## **Germany Becomes First European Nation to Guarantee Animal Rights in its Constitution**

Germany became the first European nation to guarantee animal rights in its constitution on Friday, with a majority of lawmakers voting to add "and animals" to a clause that obliges the state to respect and protect the dignity of humans. After a decade of debate, 543 lawmakers in Germany's lower house of parliament voted in favor of giving animals constitutional rights. Nineteen voted against it and 15 abstained.

Animals in Germany already enjoyed protection through legislation defining the conditions in which they could be held in captivity, but activists claimed it did not go far enough to prevent the use of animals in

research beyond what animal-rights groups believe is necessary. With the new measure, the federal constitutional court will have to weigh animal's rights against other entrenched rights, like those to conduct research or practice religion. This could translate to tighter restrictions on the use of animals for testing cosmetics or nonprescription drugs.

Consumer Affairs Minister Renate Kunast, a member of the environmentalist Greens party that has lobbied for many years to bring animal rights into the constitution, welcomed the change as groundbreaking, but emphasized it would not diminish human rights. "People remain the most important," Kunast said.

Conservative lawmakers had previously opposed the constitutional changes, arguing that it could put the interests of animals before those of humans and be particularly damaging to Germany's research industry. Animal rights activists say they will use the constitutional changes to try and end to what they say are unduly long transport routes for animals. Lawmakers said the government will also look at targeting more research funding to projects that seek alternatives to using animals for conducting experiments.

(AP Worldstream, 5/17/02)

## **Help Support CFAAR So We Can Support You! Terrorists' 'Economic Sabotage' Highly Destructive** By Mike Toner

The FBI calls the Earth Liberation Front the most dangerous domestic terrorist group in America -- one the agency claims is responsible for more than 600 attacks since 1996 and more than \$43 million in property damage.

Many of the ELF's self-described acts of "economic sabotage" have involved spray-painting buildings and uprooting experimental

crops. But the group has also carried out high-profile attacks against research facilities engaged in genetic engineering. They include an \$800,000 fire this year at a University of Minnesota crop genetics laboratory and a \$5.4 million fire last year at a University of Washington horticulture lab.

In claiming responsibility for the fire at Minnesota's new Microbial and Plant Genomics Center, the ELF decried efforts to "exploit and control nature under the guise of progress." The center was funded by the Cargill Corp., a major corporate player in biotechnology and agriculture.

Hundreds of environmental, consumer and food-safety groups -- from the Sierra Club to the Center for Food Safety -- oppose aspects of biotechnology and genetic engineering. Most of them limit their activities to lobbying, publicity campaigns and court action. But despite the growing public outrage over terrorism since Sept. 11, the Earth Liberation Front is undeterred and unapologetic about its tactics. Its Web site offers a free downloadable guide to setting fires with electric timers.

James Jarboe, chief of the FBI's counterterrorism division, says that in terms of destruction, the ELF is the most active terrorist organization in the country. The group's organizational structure -- a loose, underground collection of autonomous cells with no central membership -- makes it hard to crack.

So far, only three members of the group have received prison sentences -- including two men this year who were arrested in Santa Cruz, Calif., while assembling Molotov cocktails for an attack on dairy trucks, a protest against what they felt was mistreatment of cows.

During a recent congressional hearing on ecoterrorism, Craig Rosebraugh, a former spokesman for the group, refused to discuss any of ELF's activities and invoked the Fifth Amendment more than 50 times. The group's

current spokesman, Leslie James Pickering, is less reticent. "We are not terrorists," he says. "The ELF doesn't hijack planes, and we take precautions to see that no one gets injured by our actions. We make sure no one is in a building before we burn it down."

Pickering says he doesn't know any members of autonomous underground ELF cells and only finds out about their activities from anonymous communiques after attacks. But he freely acknowledges the group's role in most of the incidents the FBI alleges. In a 43-page "Year End Report for 2001" -- \$10 per copy by mail -- the ELF and a companion organization, the Animal Liberation Front, claim responsibility for 137 "illegal direct actions" last year alone, including 14 against genetic engineering sites. Those attacks include the fires in Minnesota and Washington and a \$400,000 fire in the agriculture hall at Michigan State University.

The group has also claimed credit for the destruction of fields of genetically modified strawberries and onions at DNA Plant Technology Corp. in southern California and other "crop choppings" in Maine, Wisconsin, Oregon and Hawaii. The toll from the attacks is not fully tabulated. But Charles Muscoplat, dean of the University of Minnesota's agricultural college, says in addition to damage from the fire there, the attacks are forcing the university to spend millions more to beef up security. "These are clearly terroristic events," Muscoplat says. "Someone could get hurt or killed in a big fire like we had."

Pickering says the group hopes to generate public interest in the risks of genetic modification by "drawing attention in a radical way" to modification research that most people don't know about. "The only way to stop genetic engineering is to stop it at the roots," he says. "That's why our focus is on experimental efforts."

Toby Bradshaw, a University of Washington botanist whose laboratory was firebombed by the ELF last year, has a

different view of the group's tactics. "The Earth Liberation Front is fairly long on rhetoric and fairly short on scientific understanding," he says. "And it's not ecoterrorism any more than the KKK burning a cross is Christian terrorism. It's just plain terrorism."

(Atlanta Journal, 5/19/02)

#### **How has animal research helped cancer patients?**

In the 1930's less than one in five people with cancer was alive five years after treatment. Today, almost half of those with cancer live at least five years, many of them apparently cured. This dramatic progress is largely due to careful research using animals. More than 30 anti-cancer drugs are used routinely to treat cancer. Appropriate radiation therapy doses have been carefully calculated with the help of tests on mice and rats, and many surgical procedures for cancer were developed and perfected on dogs and monkeys as well as other animals. Animals, too, are vulnerable to cancers and have benefitted directly from research.

What's ahead for cancer patients? - Finding the causes of cancer poses one of this century's major medical challenges. Many questions about the growth and behavior of normal and tumor cells can only be answered through studies of animals. Researchers at campuses nationwide are looking for those answers. The high rate of progress in cancer diagnosis, treatment and prevention must continue until the disease is conquered.

**Coalition For Animals & Animal Research - CFAAR  
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