

# Coalition For Animals & Animal Research

## CFAAR Arizona Newsletter

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To join the Arizona CFAAR, please fill out the membership form on the back page. Donations purchase our newsletter and educational materials. A year's subscription 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.

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SO WE CAN SUPPORT YOU

### FBI Warns Biotech Industry of Animal Extremists

By Clive Cookson

The US pharmaceuticals and biotechnology industry is at risk from an increasingly violent animal extremist movement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has warned. The FBI regards ecological and animal rights extremists as the country's leading domestic terror threat.

Philip Celestini, the special agent supervising FBI operations against animal and ecological extremists, told BIO, the largest US biotech conference, that most of the companies represented there were on a list of 1,100 potential corporate targets circulating among activists. "The FBI was a little slow to respond to the threat," said Mr Celestini. "But as we noted the escalation in violent tactics, we had no choice but to divert resources from other pressing matters. We now have agents in San Francisco and 35 FBI field offices nationwide addressing animal terrorism."

Mr Celestini appealed to his audience to face up to the threat. "The biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries have not raised this as a strategic issue," he said. "There is a certain amount of denial going on but until the issue is addressed it will not go away."

One biotech company that has faced up publicly to animal terrorism is Chiron, which is suffering a sustained campaign of intimidation, including a double pipe-bomb attack on its headquarters in Emeryville, near San Francisco.

Linda Short, vice-president for corporate resources, told the conference that senior executives had debated whether to accede to the extremists' demands that Chiron pledge never to use the services of Huntingdon Life Sciences, the British animal testing company that is a prime target for activists worldwide. "We decided that caving in on this issue would not make the problem go away," said Ms Short. "So we are going to stick it out."

Ms Short said about 30 Chiron employees worldwide - some senior, some quite junior -

seemed to have been singled out almost at random for systematic harassment. "No one has resigned because of this intimidation, though SHAC [Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty] would like to claim that one or two did," she added.

Mr Celestini said US animal extremists use "what we call the European strategy because it was used first on the continent of Europe and quickly spread to the UK and then the US". This involves secondary and tertiary targeting of companies that have business or financial relationships with the primary target, with the aim of ending those links. "If SHAC achieved its goals and Huntingdon Life Sciences shut down tomorrow, the extremists would shift their campaign to new companies and their research facilities and a new range of tertiary targets," Mr Celestini said. "These are dedicated people who devote their lives to absolute cessation of animal research worldwide."

Some members of the audience looked shaken. During the questions after the presentations one executive went up to the microphone and said: "I don't even want to give my name - but this issue is not on my company's radar screen at all." Mary Handley, executive vice-president of the National Association for Biomedical Research, who also warned the conference of violent animal activism, said: "I wish we were exaggerating about these things, but we are not."

(Financial Times.com, 6/10/04)

## **FBI Sheds Light on Activist Terrorism**

By Jennifer Fiala

In an age when activist often means more than mere protester, FBI experts warn veterinarians and those in the animal industry that extremists are elusive, dangerous and hard to predict.

Nearly seven months after vandals sabotaged and spray painted an empty Louisiana State University (LSU) veterinary research laboratory, New Orleans FBI agents request the public's help in solving the case. The Animal Liberation Front (ALF), an extremist animal rights group, claims responsibility, and the FBI offers a \$20,000 reward leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

Clues that ALF parties are involved might seem like a head start, but the organization's activists are hard to catch, says Phil Celestini, special agent in the FBI's Domestic Terrorism

Operations Unit in Washington. "These people are much smarter than average criminals on the street," he says. "They're elusive. You're not talking about a criminal organization in the classic sense. In terms of the level of property destruction and violence, it's escalating."

ALF claims responsibility for hundreds of violent incidents ranging from vandalism to arson and bombings. According to its Web site, supporters carried out at least 75 illegal actions in North America in 2003, and last fall, allegedly bombed two cosmetic product-testing companies in the San Francisco Bay area. ALF members always leave a hallmark, usually in the form of spray painted messages, Celestini says. "They want to propagate their ideology," he says. "They will come out and speak, but they won't talk about criminal activity. They're hard to catch because there's not membership, no rolls. You can be an ALF supporter one day and the next, decide you're not."

The group's mission: to "liberate" animals from "exploitive" environments using non-violent and violent means that usually cause financial loss through damage and destruction of property. That includes research, thus college medical and veterinary laboratories are especially prone to ALF attacks, says David Kinard, special projects coordinator with anti-terrorism training group Law Enforcement Academic Research Network, Inc.

In March, Kinard urged leaders to better prepare for activist terrorism during a presentation to industry insiders and American Veterinary Medical Association executives at the Animal Agriculture Alliance Stakeholders Summit in Arlington, Va. "This means doing more than just putting up cameras, fences and hardware," he says. "It's about training people because this is a people problem. You're dealing with groups who have agendas. You've got to understand what they're thinking and how to respond."

The objective of effective counter terrorism is to neutralize a threat's capability to form, fund, equip and conduct operations within an area that needs protection. "Understanding motives and methods of would-be attackers is part of the process," Kinard says.

Requiring background checks for employees is a good start, Celestini adds. "These people frequently try to gain employment in the places they wish to target," he says. "Many of these people don't have criminal records, but it's safe to say if you have someone with a couple of graduate degrees and working on a Ph.D., they're grossly overqualified to clean cages in a laboratory and something's wrong."

Standard security will afford buildings and staff some measure of safety, but employment allows activists easy access, Celestini adds. "It doesn't cost a lot to buy bolt cutters, dark clothing and a mask," he says. "With a \$100 worth of materials, you can do \$1 million worth of damage."

### **String of Attacks: ALF Targets Universities**

By Jennifer Fiala

Since 1984, animal rights activists known as The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) have been engaged in a series of terrorist activities aimed at ending the "exploitation of animals." Most ALF actions in the United States follow a set pattern: Arson and vandalism is executed at an animal research facility or business involving animals. Graffiti often is found at the scene baring the ALF name and a press release soon follows in which ALF claims responsibility for the action. The attacks are designed to end animal exploitation by economically crippling the targeted business or research facility.

The following lists a number of universities ALF members claim to have attacked. University officials, police reports and court documents corroborate the details, although most of the facts can be viewed on the organization's Web site. The FBI has designated ALF a domestic terrorist organization.

#### **Oregon State University - June 10, 1991**

- An anonymous telephone call claimed ALF set fire that destroyed a single-story building at the Malecky Mink Ranch in Yamhill, Ore. Malecky Ranch's owner claimed his business was destroyed. The ranch works with Oregon State University's research on mink breeding and nutrition.

#### **Washington State University - Aug. 21,**

**1991** - Washington State University's fur animal research facility in Bustad Hall was burglarized and vandalized. A mink, mice and coyotes reportedly were freed from cages. The crime scene showed the hallmarks of an ALF action, and in a letter claiming responsibility for the incident, faculty scientists were warned of future attacks and told to "beware."

#### **Michigan State University - Feb. 28,**

**1992** - ALF activists used a timed incendiary device to set two university researchers' office aflame and vandalized facilities where mink were kept. In this incident, ALF joined forces with the nation's largest animal rights organization, People

for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), in contacting media. PETA released photos of the destruction and reported ALF motives were to end the university's animal research programs. Authorities estimated damage to the office at more than \$100,000. The research facility reportedly incurred \$25,000 in damages.

#### **Utah State University - Oct. 24, 1992 -**

ALF claims responsibility for arson at the university's farm where coyotes are housed. Researchers were studying their behavior to determine ways to protect them in the wild. The fire was started with an incendiary device, causing an estimated \$100,000 in damages.

#### **Cornell University - July 5, 1998 -**

Activists broke into a laboratory at Cornell University and released dozens of wood chucks into the wild. The university breeds them for anti-viral drug and vaccine trials. ALF also reports the raiders engaged economic sabotage by removing data cards on cages, destroying log books and allowing vials of serum to spoil at room temperature.

#### **University of Minnesota - April 5, 1999 -**

Vandals broke into the university's research facilities, stole 116 research animals, ransacked a dozen laboratories, destroyed computers, microscopes and medical equipment. In addition to millions of dollars worth of physical damage, the vandals destroyed or delayed research, including a project that had developed mice to mimic traits found in Alzheimer's patients and human cancer cells taken from brain tumor patients were lost. ALF graffiti was found at the scene.

#### **Louisiana State University - Sept. 23,**

**2003** - Activists broke into and vandalized a research facility undergoing construction at Louisiana State University's veterinary college campus. No animals were in the laboratory during the break-in. An estimated \$300,000 in damages was reported. FBI investigators are offering a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

[Though not listed in the article, **University of Arizona- Apr. 2, 1989** - ALF claimed responsibility for arson of two buildings and four labs were vandalized at a cost of over \$100,000 in structural damage. More than 1,200 animals were stolen.]

(DVM News, 6/1/04)

## **Animal Rights Activists Arrested For Harassing Chiron Employees**

Several animal rights activists were indicted in New Jersey Wednesday for their aggressive actions against Huntington Life Sciences -- a campaign that included emails and demonstrations targeting employees of Emeryville-based Chiron Corporation which did business with the testing laboratory.

The indictment said the activists targeted companies doing business with Huntington hoping to force them from using the lab's vaccine testing services. Among the incidents of "stalking and conspiracy to stalk" contained in the 27-page U.S. Justice Department indictment were posting on the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty USA website in May 2003 that warned Chiron employees -- "We know how you are, we know what you look like, we know where you socialize and best of all we know where you live."

Chiron's headquarters was rocked by two bombs on August 28, 2003. No one was injured and there was minimal damage. While an animal rights activist is a suspect in the bombings, the indictment did not tie Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty USA to it. However, following the bombing the group kept the pressure on Chiron executives. According to the group's own website they launched a persistent campaign of harassment against 'KS' -- who worked in Chiron's toxicology department -- and also an employee identified as 'AH.' Huntington Life Sciences has laboratories in New Jersey.

Those indicted also made telephone, e-mail and fax blitzes to divert Huntington employees from their work, the indictment said. The conspiracy charge against all the suspects carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The stalking charge carries a five-year maximum prison term.

A year ago, the FBI's domestic terrorism squad seized computers and printed materials at the activist group's headquarters in Franklin Township and a house in Seattle.

A resident of that house, Joshua Harper, was among those arrested. Arrests were also made in New Jersey, New York and California.

Critics claim Huntington kills hundreds of animals a day and treats them cruelly for unnecessary research. Huntington's Web site says its research saves human lives and that it is a supporter of the Fund for Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments, which says the

level of animal experimentation is too high but that the immediate elimination of it is not practical.

(KTVU.com, 5/26/04)

## **PETA Earns Rebuke From Dalai Lama**

The office of the Dalai Lama said Friday the animal rights group PETA misrepresented the nature of a request by the spiritual leader that fast-food chain KFC not open an outlet in his homeland, Tibet.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, based in Norfolk, Va., released a document Thursday from the Dalai Lama asking that the Louisville, Ky., restaurant chain "abandon its plan to open restaurants in Tibet."

But the Dalai Lama's heading on the document, "APPEAL," was changed to "Dear Mr. Novak," a reference to CEO David Novak of Yum! Restaurants, the parent company of KFC. PETA then issued a news release saying the Dalai Lama had "dispatched a letter" to the company.

The rest of the text of the Dalai Lama's appeal was unchanged, including his comment that seeing a chicken slaughtered outside a kitchen in India in 1965 made him decide to become a vegetarian.

The Dalai Lama's secretary, Tenzin Geyche Tethong, said in a letter faxed Friday to Ingrid Newkirk of PETA in Norfolk, that "We strongly object to your changing the nature of the appeal without seeking our approval."

Tethong said in the letter, made available to The Associated Press, that the Dalai Lama's office had "intentionally sent ... a general appeal," and had rejected a PETA request that a letter be addressed to Novak.

In Louisville, Yum! spokesman Jonathan Blum said Thursday the company has no current plans to enter Tibet.

(Seattle Times, 6/25/04)

## **Young Owl Flies to Freedom with New Set of Eyes** By Marsha Walton

A great horned owl named Minerva is making history in the treetops of eastern Wisconsin. At least, her eyes are. Veterinarians say she's the only animal in the world, in the wild, with surgically implanted artificial lenses. The

bird with a new lens on life has a lot of humans to thank for her newfound health.

Last December, Renee Prausa called veterinarian Dr. Chris Katz in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, to ask if it was normal for an owl to sit on a fence for three days, without moving. Katz told her that kind of lethargy was a real danger sign, especially in such a cold climate. He told her to call the rescue group, Wildlife of Wisconsin, or WOW, immediately. "She was so weak and dehydrated we had to put a tube into her stomach," said Susan Theys, who works as a full-time volunteer for the rescue organization.

Dr. Katz later examined the bird, and even in its weakened state, he said she showed some spunk. "They are not timid animals," said Katz. "Even though she couldn't see us very well, she was really using her talons, we had to be careful," he said. Other than her weakness from malnutrition, X-rays and a thorough exam didn't reveal any other health problems.

Katz and veterinary ophthalmologists Samuel Vainisi and Gretchen Schmidt confirmed that the owl had cataracts in both eyes, which had prevented her from seeing and catching prey. Because the bird was only about a year old, and otherwise healthy, the doctors and the WOW volunteers decided to go the distance to try to rehabilitate this feisty bird.

When the bird was stable, her next stop was the University of Wisconsin Veterinary School in Madison. The staff there named her Minerva, after the ancient goddess of war and wisdom. "She's a really tough bird, she fit both the 'war and wisdom' descriptions," said Dr. Renee Carter, a resident in veterinary ophthalmology.

Dr. Chris Murphy, professor of ophthalmology at the veterinary school, led the surgical team in the four-hour procedure to remove both cataracts, and to implant artificial lenses so the owl could again see things in focus. While Murphy and his colleagues primarily treat the eyes of domestic animals, they have also done procedures on wild and zoo animals "Armed with the right information, humans can design, fabricate, and implant artificial lenses on any animal," said Murphy.

Minerva did not even have to wait for her lenses to be made: Murphy had a pair of custom lenses that had been created for another great horned owl six years ago. They were not used then because the bird had other problems that prevented the eye surgery. Murphy says an owl's eyes are much different from a human's, because they've adapted for nocturnal hunting. "There's a

big pupil, and a big cornea to collect a lot of light," said Murphy. "Even though owls only weigh about two kilograms (4.4 pounds) their eyes are significantly bigger than a human's," he said.

Drs. Murphy, Carter, and Katie Diehl donated their services for the surgery. Wildlife of Wisconsin paid \$300 for anesthesia and other drugs. Carter says the experience with this owl will help in understanding and designing lenses for other birds, possibly endangered species such as condors and eagles. After her eyes healed and Minerva proved she could see and catch live prey in a confined area, it was time to let her go. She was fitted with a radio transmitter so her movements could be tracked, and released April 30 at the same place where she had been rescued.

Wildlife of Wisconsin rescues hundreds of animals each year, but the group's volunteers had a special attachment to Minerva. "It's always gratifying to release an animal," said WOW's Jerry Theys. "This one may be special because it took a lot of people to get this bird on her way," he said. And about her disposition? "We've had quite a few great horned owls," said Theys. "This is by far the orneriest great horned owl we've had," he laughed. WOW will continue to monitor Minerva's moves for the next few months.

(CNN.com, 5/14/04)

## **Animal Rights Group Moniker Found at BYU Arson Fire**

The moniker of a radical animal rights group was found early Thursday morning after firefighters doused a suspicious fire in a recycling building on the Brigham Young University campus in Provo. The letters "ALF," thought to represent the Animal Liberation Front, were found spray-painted in red at seven locations near the building, said BYU Police Capt. Michael Harroun.

Fire damage was limited to a corner of the building where bundles of recycled cardboard were stored to be shipped, and in a nearby stall where two small tractors also were set on fire. No animals were kept in the building. "Obviously, the fire appears suspicious," he said. A damage estimate was not immediately available.

The letters "ALF" were found on a bed of a truck, outside a nearby horse barn, a concrete ramp, on a trailer, on the sides of two sheds and on a roll-up door, he said. It's the third incident BYU police have attributed to the sister organization of the environmental radical group

Earth Liberation Front. The ELF took responsibility last month for a \$1.5 million lumberyard fire in West Jordan.

Within the last six weeks at BYU, Harroun said someone broke into a horse barn and released animals, and later equipment that researchers were using to test the breeding habits of fish were removed from an aquarium. "We don't really understand why they've chosen BYU to make a statement," Harroun said.

(KUTV.Com, 7/8/04)

## **Animal Research Is Not Just for Humans**

By Susan Paynter

I'm not sure what I expected to talk about, over lunch, with America's most-honored, nearly 96-year-old physician, Dr. Michael E. DeBakey. Maybe what it felt like to perform the first dozen heart transplants in the United States? The excitement of developing the roller pump as a mere med student, which, 20 years later, helped make possible the first successful open-heart surgery? The satisfaction of performing the first successful coronary bypass? Or developing the first M.A.S.H. units way back in the '40s?

I did not think one of our topics would be his beloved Yorkshire terrier, Itsy Bitsy DeBakey, and the fact that, thanks to animal research, a tracheal operation and a hysterectomy bought the little fur ball six more years of romping in the dandelions. But the fact that animal research helps save both human beings AND other Itsy Bitsies is too often overlooked, DeBakey said. And that fact was pressing on the sharp mind of this decorated medical statesman when we met a week ago in Washington, D.C.

With passion, he spoke about what he sees as the costly and troubling toll taken on research and on the lives and families of researchers by the most radical animal activists who target them. "They're really terrorists in this regard," DeBakey said. And the very day I arrived back in Seattle, the FBI's domestic terrorism squad had arrested another animal activist right here at home.

Joshua Harper was one of seven people arrested across the country last week on charges including torching researchers' cars, vandalizing homes and making threats against families. Much to Harper's satisfaction, no doubt, such tactics have had an enormous effect on research

according to the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research. Money for life-saving research goes, instead, to security systems and crime prevention.

In England, animal research virtually has been shut down. But, when I asked two local leaders in the field about the pressure exerted by animal activists, they said the effect has not been all bad, after all. "I jump on both sides of this issue," Mel Dennis told me. He's the chairman of the Department of Comparative Medicine at the University of Washington. He agrees with DeBakey "100 percent" that there comes a point when a surgeon-in-training must lay hands on a live, anesthetized animal. "And I worry about the competence of people who may go out into the practice of veterinary medicine who have not had the experience of working on live animals," he said.

In vet schools today, a small but vocal number of veterinary students is refusing to work on live animals. Some won't work on animal cadavers. And some will not perform euthanasia even when it is the only humane response to an injured animal's suffering. Still, partly under pressure from animal activists, some exciting alternatives, such as computer programs and plastic models, have been developed that make learning far better now than when he was in vet school, Dennis said.

And sometimes those "inanimate trainers" are better than live animals because they allow students to repeat things over and over until they get it right. Charlie Powell, public information officer for Washington State University's college of veterinary medicine, and a 30-year animal sciences veteran, agrees. He says his school tries to meet the "philosophical needs" of animal rights activists who are also veterinary students. And that's OK with him so long as it doesn't go too far.

Powell is happy that, thanks to models, fewer and fewer live, anesthetized animals must go under the knife in the cause of human and animal health. But, while activists would like to stop all animals from going to a teaching facility like WSU, the truth is that 70,000 unwanted and "unplaced" dogs and cats are born in the United States every single day. Animals that will die and be dumped into landfills, he said.

About 100 of those animals come to WSU each year, alive. These are animals that would be destroyed anyway, Powell said. Euthanasia is performed and then they are embalmed and used

to teach veterinary students how to save the lives of other animals. Even animals like Itsy Bitsy DeBakey.

(Seattle Post Intelligencer, 6/7/04)

### **The Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research - SwAEBR**

The progress of biomedical research is threatened by the growing scientific illiteracy of the public and, in particular, our young people. Opinion polls have shown that most adults do not understand the process of bringing basic research into applications that directly benefit their health and well-being. Biological science education is in serious trouble as indicated by the rapid decline in numbers of college students graduating with degrees in biomedical science. Education of the general public, our young people and their teachers is of vital importance to the future of science and biomedical research.

Science teachers in the elementary, middle and high schools must be provided information on the relevancy of animal research and the roles that animals play in scientific and medical progress. At all levels of society, the facts concerning the process of medical discovery must be instilled. Without exposure to the truth concerning research, many of our next generations will be deceived into believing that biomedical research, particularly that involving animals, is unnecessary.

#### **Mission**

SwAEBR has been formed with the specific mission of developing and implementing a strong proactive campaign to educate school children, as well as the general public, in the vital role biomedical research plays in their everyday lives. The Association will disseminate information necessary to improve the public's understanding of how responsible and humane animal research has led to significantly improved health care for man and his animal companions.

#### **Friends of SwAEBR:**

Individuals may support the Association through honorary membership known as Friends of SwAEBR. Friends are not required to pay dues, not entitled to vote, and have access to all services and programs sponsored by the Association.

## **How Can You Help?**

### **Provide financial support**

For general support, production of educational resources and sponsorship of the summer internship program.

- \$25 helps sponsor educational materials for the classroom
- \$50 sponsors a game for a class of students
- \$100 thanks teachers for getting their students involved in the essay contest
- \$250 helps pay for videos to be used by in classrooms
- \$500 sponsors awards for one of the regional science fairs
- \$1100 sponsors a student in the summer internship program

### **Serve on our speakers bureau**

Speakers are frequently requested for classroom and organization presentations. This increases the visibility of your company, SwAEBR, as well as educating the public.

### **How Will Your Company Benefit?**

\*Your website can be linked through our actively viewed webpage.

\*Satisfaction of contributing to the education of promoting biomedical research.

\*Through sponsoring the essay contest winners your company directly affects the workforce of tomorrow by enhancing their interest in science and technology.

To become a Friend of SwAEBR go to:

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or email [swaeb@ahsc.arizona.edu](mailto:swaeb@ahsc.arizona.edu)

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**Coalition For Animals & Animal Research - CFAAR  
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