



# Coalition For Animals & Animal Research CFAAR Arizona Newsletter

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Vol 15, No 2 Editor: Grace Aranda (antrnweb@ahsc.arizona.edu)

**To join the Arizona CFAAR, please fill out the membership form on the back page. Donations publish 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.

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

## Campus-Wide Security Update

Tuesday, March 29: 11:30 am  
UMC's Duval Auditorium

This meeting will be held for all persons involved in biomedical research in order to prepare for April, **Animal Rights Month, & World Week for Animals In Labs** (April 17-24, 2005)

### Topics to be covered will be:

History of Protests, Vandalism, & Break-ins;  
How to Handle Suspicious Mail;  
Personal Safety Advice;  
Internet Security, etc

**This meeting should be considered mandatory for all new employees (anyone who was not here last April). Each lab should send at least one representative.**

Questions? Call 621-3931

## Protesters Gather Outside Researcher's Home

By Michael N. Westley

Cold temperatures and a jeer or two from neighbors didn't deter Jeremy Beckham from leading a silent protest outside the home of University of Utah researcher Allesandra Angelucci on Sunday night. Beckham, a sophomore at the U., is an animal-rights activist with strong opinions about the primate research that Angelucci conducts. Beckham, leader of the Utah Primate Freedom Project, hopes the protest will force University officials to open up a public forum for discussion about the research. "We are not going to relent until they become open about this issue," Beckham said.

No-trespassing signs flanked a driveway which leads uphill to Angelucci's stately east Salt Lake City residence. On the street below, about 25 protesters held candles and signs proclaiming the immorality of primate

research. Flashing images of caged monkeys lit the street from the four 100-inch screens of the "Tiger Truck" - essentially a moving van mounted with giant TVs. The truck was on loan to Beckham from the Showing Animals Respect and Kindness organization. The images displayed on its screens were captioned with brief insults like: "Angelucci gets rich abusing animals" and "Be advised: Ms. Angelucci has a violent nature. Keep pets away from her." None of the images, however, were from the University of Utah, Beckham said.

Beckham claims that the research at the U. includes drilling holes in the heads of primates while they are fully conscious. He is not swayed by the argument that primate research benefits mankind. "If they really cared about people so much, then why don't they open up and talk about it? They really don't care about people. They only care about the prestige of their university," Beckham said.

U. spokeswoman Coralie Alder said Beckham has a right to voice his opinion but expressed concerns about the protests. "We support the right of our faculty members to pursue their work free from intimidation," Alder said. Research at the U. complies with the ethical standards set forth by the National Institutes of Health, she said. "There is a lot of oversight with our labs that we follow strictly," said Alder.

This was the second protest outside Angelucci's home since August 2004 when she received a \$400,000 grant for primate research. Beckham made headlines in Jan. 2004 when he convinced a state records committee that research proposals, known as protocols, are public documents. The documents would, Beckham believed, detail the alleged animal abuse. The committee ordered University officials to release the documents.

(Salt Lake Tribune, 1/31/05)

### **Animal Rights Movement Creeping Closer to Home** By Tara D. Sullivan

It was a chilly, fall day on Aug. 7, 1999, in Escanaba, Mich. In the driveway of an ex-milk rancher sat a fishing boat engulfed in yellow-orange flames. Glowing behind the flickering fire, three words and three letters painted in 18-inch block-letter text on a garage door attempted to explain the incident: "Fur is murder. E.L.F."

The ELF officially professed that the ex-milk rancher was an Earth Liberation Front target since he put a "Fur is Enough" sign outside his rural Michigan home. The single event caused \$15,000 worth of damage, according to the ELF.

The idea that animals have rights that must be protected has been around long before recorded history, even predating the famous Greek mathematician Pythagoras, who ethically chose to eat a strict vegetarian diet.

While there are many groups today that lobby for animal rights, educate the public about their concerns, and care for rescued animals, a growing number of animal rights activists are now using direct-action methods. These methods often involve the illegal removal of animals from facilities that use them in ways deemed "unacceptable." A noteworthy number of those incidents have involved violence or the threat of violence toward those using animals for experimentation. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, between 1979 and 1993, there were over 313 incidents of break-ins, vandalism, arson and thefts committed in the name of animal rights. The FBI considers two major animal rights groups, the ELF, and their sister group, the ALF, or Animal Liberation Front, the top terrorist groups native to the United States.

Many grassroots animal rights and animal protection organizations, most of which have members who have at one point associated themselves with the ELF and ALF, call Michigan their home. Among these are the Michigan Animal Rights Society of Ann Arbor; the Kalamazoo Animal Liberation League of Kalamazoo; and Animals Deserve Absolute Protection Today and Tomorrow of Royal Oak.

Gary Yourofsky, founder of Royal Oak's ADAPTT, and regarded by many as a major player in the animal rights movement, took part in the 1997 ALF "mink liberation effort" at the Ebert's Fur Farm in Blenheim, Ontario. The effort resulted in 1,542 mink being released from their cages, and a 77-day prison stay for Yourofsky. Before being carted away to prison, Yourofsky addressed the court: "My presence in this courtroom today is paradoxical. I ask the court: If it is not a crime to torture, enslave and murder animals, then how can it be a crime to free tortured, enslaved and soon-to-be murdered animals?"

Yourofsky continues his activism, funded by PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals — an international nonprofit organization based in Norfolk, VA. — educating elementary, middle school, high school and college-aged students about the animal rights movement. With a large tattoo of himself wearing a hood and holding a rabbit with symbols of the ALF adorning his right forearm, Yourofsky, a 34-year-old bald-headed, blue-eyed, Oak Park native, has been arrested 13 times and has been convicted of one felony for animal rights related crimes. At a recent visit to Wayne State University, Yourofsky explained that one of his main aims is to help people "remove the blinders that destroy compassion."

Bushra Hawat of Lincoln Park, a 53-year-old mother of three, with one son currently attending WSU, feels that "If ... [Yourofsky] ... is dangerous and breaks the law, he may be dangerous to the kids." Many other parents share Hawat's fears for the impressionable youngsters, yet Yourofsky lectures in hundreds of schools around the country each year. Criticism falls heavily on PETA for drawing children into campaigns for "kids who want to eat their veggies and not their friends," urging children to "save the chickens," "save the pigs," etc.

Other important Michigan animal rights activities include the recent MARS campaign to expand the vegan

options offered for University of Michigan students; the ELF's 1998, \$100,000 release of 5,000 mink from the Upper Peninsula's Tom Pipkorn's Mink Farm; the ELF's dousing of a Michigan State University office with gasoline and then setting it ablaze because the university funded development of genetically modified crops; KALL's 1998 protest of MSU's inhumane acts towards lab animals; the 2002 animal rights protest of primate research at the University of Michigan; the ALF's leaving of a foul-smelling chemical within, and the spray painting of "McMurder" on a Troy McDonalds and other similar McDonalds vandalism efforts in Detroit in 2001.

Even inactive Michiganders seem to be concerned with animal rights, as Gov. Jennifer Granholm found out in June 2004. Shortly after signing a bill to remove the state's doves' "protected songbird" status, thus allowing the symbols of peace to be hunted, Granholm began to receive mail-in requests for a return of many citizen campaign contributions. Even today, walking through State Hall often brings WSU students face-to-face with activists as they push a clipboard and pen forward urging students to "help save the mourning doves." A flicker of sarcasm in her voice, "Well then, let's all go start shooting seagulls too," said Lindsey Ray, a 19-year-old WSU student. Ray feels it is ridiculous for anyone to allow the shooting of doves.

Currently, an issue involving the horse-drawn carriages on Michigan's premier tourist attraction, Mackinac Island, has been gaining publicity. Reportedly, in 2003 an Island tourist witnessed two horses struggling to pull a carriage holding 17 people. One of the horses, named Floyd, began visibly limping and straining, and eventually collapsed once, and then again. The tourist saw the carriage employees force Floyd, knees bloody and unstable, to limp back to the barn.

After a PETA investigation, it was learned that Floyd was sent to a farm following the incident, but was found dead several weeks later, speculatively said to have been related to the untreated wounds. Activists have been "politely" contacting Mackinac Island carriage tour company authorities, and the Island's Visitor's Bureau, governing agents, city officials, and lastly, the Michigan Humane Society in response — all at the direction of PETA.

Opposition to the animal-rights movement call such antics "madness," in an era where human suffering "outweighs" the need for animal rights. World Net Daily pointed out that social workers in Scotland recently rescued a pet monkey from a "filthy, drug-infested apartment of a couple of heroin addicts." Promptly contacting an animal welfare group, the social workers made sure the animal was removed from the "squalid cesspool of a home."

The criticism lies in the fact that although the social workers rescued the monkey, they ignored the little girl living with the couple. "The 5-year-old's fingernails had not been cut for more than a year, she was covered in bedsores, lying in human waste and

wearing a plastic cast on her broken leg that should have been removed 10 months earlier. When doctors eventually removed the cast from the girl, they found spoons, a fork, and a pen she had used to try to scratch her ulcers," World Net Daily reported.

Numerous other attacks on the animal rights movement focus mainly on PETA themselves. One such attack was waged for their suspected use of human embryonic stem cell research. Although one of the two non-animal testing research firms funded by PETA has denied using human embryos for their testings, the other has not. Opponents of the organization argue that this demonstrates that PETA believes human babies are not as important as rats. Joe Frazier, an 18-year-old Christian PETA opponent, explains, "Humans have souls; there's no heaven for animals."

(The South End, 2/8/05)

### **Targeting the Man Who Wasn't There (Or Was He?)** By Seth Kugel

Every other Sunday afternoon since April 2003, advocates of animal rights have gathered with bullhorns across from 279 Central Park West, near 88th Street. They are there to protest Huntingdon Life Sciences, a product-development company that does scientific tests on animals, and its chief executive, Andrew Baker, who lives in the building.

Or does he? Months ago, residents heard that he had moved out. And so, they wonder, why don't the protesters stop? "Someone would first of all have to provide really good proof that he's not in the building," said Camille Hankins, who organizes the events for the group, Win Animal Rights (or W.A.R.). "We've heard this story before." In fact, she said, they hear this claim almost every time they protest at anyone's residence, and it often turns out to be false.

Councilwoman Gale Brewer, who has received residents' complaints about the protesters for months and is herself convinced that Mr. Baker is gone, has offered her services as a go-between. One complicating factor: Mr. Baker's wife, or possibly his ex-wife, Susan, does live in the building. Where her husband, or possibly her ex-husband, lives if he does not live in the building is unclear. Calls to Mr. Baker at Huntingdon's offices in Hackensack, N.J., were returned by Richard Michaelson, who said Mr. Baker was out of the country and unreachable. Ms. Baker did not respond to a letter left for her, nor did the condominium's board chairman. Halstead Management, which runs the building, did not return calls.

Ms. Hankins remains unconvinced, citing an August 2004 court affidavit in which Ms. Baker affirms that she and her husband own an apartment in the condominium. The court paper was part of a legal case surrounding the protests. Regardless of their stand on animal testing, many residents would welcome an end to the protests. Some say they are loud and intrusive, and Vanessa Antonioli, a resident since 2001, said they were

giving her children nightmares. "As a college student, I did my share of protesting," she said. "But it just seems to be a lot of energy directed at an apparently absent target." "It's a protest, it's supposed to be loud and noisy," Ms. Hankins said. "They're at a consistently specific time so if people are disturbed by them they can avoid them."

If the protests stop (or follow Mr. Baker elsewhere), one Upper West Side couple will still not enjoy much peace. The couple, Kyle Okimoto and Stacy Kim, have the Bakers' old (and formerly listed) phone number, and receive regular calls from animal-rights advocates. Mr. Okimoto's views are not that far from theirs, he said, but added: "The individuals associated with this are so into the cause of helping animals that they've neglected to remember they're hurting innocent people in the process."

(NY Times, 1/16/05)

### **"Legal Rights" for Animals**

Various issues and initiatives related to extending legal rights to animals under the law continue to be discussed and debated, and cases filed to set legal precedent. Several of these efforts were the focus of discussion during the NABR 2003 Conference.

The American Bar Association has announced the creation of an Animal Law Committee under the auspices of the Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section. Eleven state bar associations, in addition to the District of Columbia, now have animal law sections or committees (Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington) with two in formation (Massachusetts and Oregon), as do seven regions (New York City; Chicago; Kansas City, Los Angeles; San Diego, St. Louis, and Tulsa). There are 42 law schools that offer animal law courses, and 50 law schools that have Student Animal Legal Defense groups (with 11 in formation).

The pet owner/guardian initiative was started in 1999 by the animal activist group In Defense of Animals (IDA). There are currently 12 U.S. cities or towns that have adopted owner/guardian measures including: Sherwood, AK; Albany, Berkeley, San Francisco, West Hollywood and Marin County, CA; Boulder, CO; Amherst, MA; St. Louis, MO; Wanaque, NJ; Woodstock, NY and Menomonee Falls, WI. One state, Rhode Island, has also included similar language in its constitution.

For more information about developments in Animal Law, visit NABR's New Animal Law Section at [www.nabranimallaw.org](http://www.nabranimallaw.org).

(NABR Report, 1/19/05)

**Animal Research  
Saves Lives!**

### **Test Case: Animal Advocates Hone Guerrilla Tactics on Lab** By Glenn Frankel

Greg Avery was a small-time activist on the fringes of the animal rights movement when, one day in 1999, he trailed a truck full of cats from a breeding farm to its destination: the gates of Huntingdon Life Sciences, Britain's largest animal research laboratory. Suddenly, he recalls, it came to him: Why focus on one little cat farm when you could declare war on a major publicly traded company that experiments on thousands of animals each year?

Over the next five years, the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign, known as SHAC, brought Huntingdon to the edge of bankruptcy and forced the company to cease trading on the London Stock Exchange and move its corporate headquarters to New Jersey. Activists with clubs assaulted two of its senior executives, and dozens of other employees reported harassment ranging from damage to their property to threatening phone calls and false allegations of pedophilia.

The campaign spread to the United States, where a federal grand jury in Newark last May indicted SHAC USA and seven individuals on charges that included violation of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. The trial is scheduled for June. The campaign against Huntingdon – a company with 1,400 employees and \$120 million in annual sales – is the longest, most aggressive and most ambitious that the militant wing of the animal rights movement has ever conducted. It marks an escalation in tactics and a new internationalization of the movement, which to a large extent was born and bred in Britain and still follows the lead of British activists.

Proponents of animal testing argue that without it, most of the drugs and modern therapies developed to combat cancer and other diseases would not exist. But animal rights advocates contend that testing is inhumane and largely unreliable. For activists such as Avery, testing is nothing less than mass murder. The key to strangling Huntingdon, Avery said, has been to focus on harassing its suppliers and customers – ranging from the bank that lent it money to the caterer who supplied its cafeteria food. "We decided to hit companies who don't need Huntingdon but Huntingdon needs them," he said. "These are banks with tens of millions of pounds – why risk their reputation for some crappy little company? If they wouldn't make a moral decision, we would force them to make a financial one."

Brian Cass, Huntingdon's managing director, said his company has survived the onslaught and is back on its feet. But Avery, who insists that he and his supporters operate within the law, contends the campaign is well on its way toward driving Huntingdon out of business within the next two years. Avery, 36, has waged his campaign with a handful of paid organizers, a few dozen dedicated volunteers and a support system of several thousand sympathizers utilizing a network of cell phones and Web sites. "It's very much a David and Goliath thing," he said.

But in this war of attrition, it's hard sometimes to tell David from Goliath. After SHAC published the name

and address of BOC, a British supplier of gas to Huntingdon, a female employee's property was damaged. A message signed "ALF" (Animal Liberation Front) was posted on Bite-Back, a Florida-based Web site: "If you don't think it is torture put yourself in that lab for one day. You would not be able to stomach it you sick freaks."

In December, BOC announced it was severing ties with Huntingdon. A company statement called the move "a commercial decision." A 10-foot-high fence topped by razor wire surrounds the headquarters of Huntingdon Life Sciences, 70 miles north of London, and the front gate is protected by a brick compound.

Huntingdon's fund manager, Phillips & Drew, sold its 11 percent stake in February 2000 after its London offices were evacuated following a bomb threat and the disclosure on the SHAC Web site of home phone numbers of the fund's directors. The Royal Bank of Scotland dropped out a year later, calling in its \$35 million loan. And when no other British bank would agree to assume the loan, the Bank of England stepped in to avert bankruptcy. The accounting firm Deloitte and Touche resigned as the company's auditor in February 2003. The company's insurance broker also quit, forcing the government to provide emergency coverage.

Huntingdon eventually found new financing with Stephens Inc., an Arkansas investment bank, and reincorporated in the United States as Life Sciences Research Inc. The American company's share price, which fell to less than \$1 in 2002, has risen to more than \$11, and it recently reported its 15th consecutive quarter of revenue growth. "This company is in a lot stronger position today than it was in 2000," Cass said. On the bulletin board of his office is a photo of him in a SHAC sweat shirt that reads: "Spongers, Hypocrites, Anarchists, Cowards."

At first, he said, government officials were slow to react. But this past year, police arrested 202 people on charges related to animal rights activism. The government has enacted new laws to establish security zones around businesses and homes targeted by activists, to allow for the prosecution of people colluding in harassment, and to enable executives and boards of directors of targeted companies to keep their identities and addresses confidential.

Just as Huntingdon migrated to the United States, SHAC has followed. Kevin Kjonaas, a student at the University of Minnesota, traveled to England to work with Avery and James in the early days of the campaign. He returned to the United States and founded SHAC USA. Kjonaas is one of seven activists facing federal animal terrorism charges for allegedly conducting and encouraging violence, vandalism and intimidation against Life Sciences, Stephens Inc. and other companies.

(Washington Post, 2/7/05)

## Monkey Thinks Robotic Arm into Action

By Michael Schirber

Robotic arms used by amputees are typically controlled by moving some other part of the body, like the opposite arm. Researchers would like to make such prostheses respond to the whim of the brain. Now it turns out researchers have found a method so easy (well, relatively so) that a monkey can do it.

In a new study, a monkey fed itself using a robotic arm electronically linked to its brain. The work was presented here Thursday at the annual meeting of the American Association of the Advancement of Science. The robotic arm is about the size of a child's, with a fully functional shoulder and elbow, as well as a simple gripper that can hold a piece of fruit or vegetable. "It moves much like your own arm would move," said Andrew Schwartz from the University of Pittsburgh. The monkey's real arms are restrained in plastic tubes. To control the robotic arm, 96 electrodes — each thinner than a human hair — are attached to the monkey's motor cortex, a region of the brain responsible for voluntary movement.

Although there is an area of the cortex generally associated with arm motion, the exact placement of the electrodes is not crucial, Schwartz explained. "You don't have to be exactly right because the brain is highly plastic," he said, referring to the fact that the brain will rearrange its structure to get things done. And food, it turned out, was a good motivator for the adaptable primate brain.

The electrodes measure the firing rate of a single neuron. Each one of the billion or so neurons involved with arm motion is thought to have a preferred direction. There is, for instance, a set of neurons associated with moving the arm up, or down, or to the right. With a special computer algorithm, the researchers are able to find an average direction from the small sample of neurons being measured. This average direction is used to move the robotic arm.

Rob Kass from Carnegie Mellon University, who was not involved in the new study, said this type of algorithm has been around since 1960. The computational shortcut has had a wide range of applications, including missile tracking and navigation. "The benefit of the algorithm is that it allows for a more efficient use of data," Kass said. "It also provides a framework for learning."

This learning was evident in the fact that, with practice, the monkeys became faster with the robotic control. The researchers also found that their subjects could adapt to different placements of the food. "Our algorithm is not exactly what is going on in the brain," Schwartz said. But the monkey's brain actually adapts its neural signal to be closer to the algorithm. The reward for this rewiring is the snack.

Interestingly, in the beginning, the monkey's restrained arms would twitch — as if they were trying to reach and grab the food. But after a day with the robotic arm, the monkey was completely relaxed. "He no longer was trying to move his own arms," Schwartz said.

Schwartz and his collaborators plan to move beyond the simple two-pronged gripper to a more realistic hand with fingers. "That's where we want to go next," he said. "We will need to connect electrodes to 50 or 100 more neurons — we think."

The research may one day lead to permanent artificial prostheses for those who have lost a limb, and it might also increase the mobility and dexterity of those suffering from spinal cord injuries or nervous system disorders, like ALS. "We hope to move to human subjects in two to four years," Schwartz said.

A big hurdle, however, is the fact that biological material builds up around the electrodes, causing the signal to degrade over time. On average, the electrodes in the monkey brains only lasted six months. More biocompatible materials, as well as devices that transmit their signal without wires, may be needed to make the jump to humans.

(MSNBC, 2/18/05)

### **PETA Tells Middle Schoolers That Chicken Is Foul Meal** By Kate Schott

Three animal rights activists, one dressed as a giant chicken, got a mixed reception at a La Crosse school Tuesday. The members of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals were outside Lincoln Middle School giving away "Chicken Chumps" trading cards that warned against what they claimed were health hazards associated with chicken meat.

But about a dozen students responded to the PETA visit by holding up signs that expressed enjoyment in eating chicken. Other students briefly chanted "KFC" nearby. "It's tasty," said eighth-grader Colin Clayburn, 14, whose sign read "I Love to Eat Chicken." "We can eat whatever we want, and PETA can think whatever they want," he said.

Aza Graw, 12, said she was glad to see PETA, even though she occasionally eats chicken. "I like the cards," she said. The cards had characters such as "Cruel Kyle," "Tubby Tammy" and "Sickly Sally," each meant to illustrate the potential ill effects of eating the domestic fowl. A fourth card, "Feathered Friends," portrayed chickens as family birds that don't want to be eaten.

A letter with more about the meat industry was handed out as well for the students to take home to parents. Lincoln Principal Larry Myhra, who watched from an entrance during the PETA visit, said he had social studies teachers review the First Amendment so students understood why the activists were allowed near the school. Myhra said he was unsure why Lincoln was targeted, since he doesn't consider it to be in a heavy traffic area. Chris Link, PETA campaign coordinator, said he hoped the information might convince students to become vegetarians. He contends all meat is packed with fat and cholesterol, which can lead to illnesses such as heart disease and obesity.

Chickens also are treated inhumanely before they are killed, packed into warehouses with no room to move and given antibiotics to plump them up faster, Link said. Those claims didn't fly with a representative of the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association. Elizabeth Krushinskie, vice president of food safety and production programs, said chicken is all natural and contains no hormones. She said chickens are low in antibiotic residues, adding that feed has to meet standards set by the Food and Drug Administration. Skinless chicken also is a staple of low-fat, low-carbohydrate diets, she said — it is breeding or batters that add fat.

(La Crosse Tribune, 2/23/05)

### **Airports Are New Target of Animal Groups** By Nick Fielding and Gareth Walsh

Animal rights extremists have opened a violent campaign against BAA, the company that runs most of Britain's big airports, for its role in importing live animals for laboratory research. Attackers have caused damage worth tens of thousands of pounds to the homes and vehicles of senior managers at BAA and other firms they claim are involved in importing animals.

Each year, thousands of mice, birds, monkeys and other animals are imported through airports for use in medical experiments. An anti-import campaign was launched in December by a protest group called Gateway to Hell with co-ordinated demonstrations at Heathrow and Manchester airports. The campaign is targeting BAA, Air France, Air Mauritius and the Dover Port Authority. Air Mauritius denies it imports animals.

The group is linked to Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (Shac), which has co-ordinated years of protests against Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), a medical testing company based near Cambridge. Four days after the new campaign began, unknown assailants attacked the homes and vehicles of five air transport executives including Margaret Ewing, 49, group finance director of BAA.

In all five attacks, homes were spray-painted and a total of 14 cars vandalized with paint-stripper or by having their tires slashed. Three cars in Ewing's drive were badly damaged. Graffiti was daubed on the walls of her home saying: "You are now a target for us, you will not win." Ewing, who is married with children, said last week: "They did some criminal damage, which was very upsetting, and my family are simply trying to get over what happened."

BAA held a meeting with police last week to discuss security for its staff. The company has altered records kept at Companies House to remove the home addresses of its directors on security grounds. This is not infallible — last week it was possible to obtain online archives with home addresses. Others attacked on the same night as Ewing included John Hextall, 48, a director of UTi, a freight-forwarding company. UTi believes its directors were targeted because it had delivered four

shipments of vaccine from Heathrow to HLS, which uses animals to test products on behalf of drug companies.

Other UTi directors have received threatening letters from the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) at their home addresses warning of "more visible signs of action" if the firm did not halt trade with HLS. As a result, UTi has said it will no longer do business with HLS. Other attacks have been launched against directors of Benair and the Charles Kendall Group, both of which are freight companies. UPS, which has also worked with HLS, has seen demonstrations at its depots, including those in Crawley, Peterborough and Coventry. Benair issued a statement after the attack denying it had ever had any connection with importing live animals.

Last night Brian Cass, managing director of HLS, said the new attacks were not just directed against his company, but were aimed at stopping all animals coming into the country for medical research. "This is aimed at companies, universities and the entire medical research community," said Cass. "The government needs urgently to put serious resources into combating these people."

A spokeswoman for the Research Defence Society, which represents users of animals in experiments, said: "A lot of animals are bred within the UK and quite often within the facilities where they are used. Certain animals, such as specialist transgenic strains of mice, have to be imported. Certain species of primate cannot be bred in the UK because conditions are not right." She added that 85% of the animals used in 2.8m experiments each year are mice and rats.

A spokesman for the National Extremism Tactical Co-ordination Unit, a police body that monitors the animal rights movement, said the Gateway to Hell campaign was closely connected to Shac. "It is linked to Shac by people who run the website," he said. The Gateway to Hell website is registered in Thailand in the name of a group based at the same address as Shac in Evesham, Worcestershire. Shac last week denied any knowledge of the connection.

Keith Mann, a spokesman for Gatewaytohell.net, said: "Once we have stopped the airports, which we will do before too long, it is going to be difficult for them to find other ways of bringing animals in." Mann, who was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 1994 for criminal damage and attempted arson, said the protest campaign was intending to expand to take on ports such as Dover.

Asked whether or not he condoned the attacks, Mann said: "It is an obvious extension to the campaign. The more the authorities clamp down on legitimate protest, as is happening through injunctions, it seems logical that people are going to resort to other kinds of tactics. They are effective, the proof is there."

(The Sunday Times, 2/27/05)

## **Beckham Continues His Pursuit to End Animal Research and Squelch SB 179**

By Susie Winlow

Though Jeremy Beckham, long-time animal rights activist and former U student is in Wisconsin, his battle to obtain U research records wages on. For now, the Utah arm of his campaign is deeply embedded in a fight against Senate Bill (SB) 179 sponsored by Sen. Gregory Bell.

The U-instigated bill, which passed unanimously in the Utah Senate and awaits a House approval, will allow results of sponsored research done at higher institutions of learning in Utah to be held confidential as per an agreement with the research sponsor. "The basis of the bill is that the U of U and USU have been feeling a loss of grants because of concerns by research sponsors that [Government Records Access and Management Act] could force disclosure of trade and business secrets," Bell said.

Coralie Alder, spokeswoman for the U, confirmed Bell's assertion. "[The U] instigated the bill because of problems with provisions of GRAMA which have proven unwieldy and cumbersome for large research contracts and grants. The bill seeks to make the process more workable while still providing access to information as appropriate," Alder said.

But, according to Beckham, who is also president of the Utah Primate Freedom Project, "the system is simply corrupt." "Even when you play their game and don't break any laws, they change the rules as soon as you start to win," Beckham said. He said he feels this bill is a direct roadblock the U set up to stop the Utah Primate Freedom Project, and other activist groups, from gaining information to help their cause. "As far as I know, that isn't the case," Alder said.

The 19-year-old Beckham has tremendous staying power. His motivation is deeply entrenched in his pure belief that vivisection-live dissection-is wrong. His belief began in high school, and was encouraged by his animal-activist mother. A concern for animal welfare combined with an active interest in debate made a combustible combination for Beckham.

Coming across the Primate Freedom Project Web site in the spring of 2002, curiosity about vivisection soon turned to abject horror as he read about primate's human characteristics and usage in medical research. Meeting the project's founders, Rick Bogle and Lynn Pauly, spurred Beckham into the relentless pursuit against vivisection that he continues today. "I recognize this is a long struggle, and I don't expect victories overnight," Beckham said.

A tenacious animal rights activist, Beckham more than ruffled a few feathers at the U fighting to save primates from medical research, or vivisection. The U is one of many universities in the United States housing monkeys for medical research. Promising to step up his confrontational efforts to save the primates, Beckham said his fight here in Utah is far from over. "Anyone who knows me will tell you that for the past couple of years, and for the foreseeable future, trying to end vivisection

has largely consumed everything I've done in life," Beckham said.

While at the U, Beckham fought relentlessly to have U research records released. The U refused. Beckham said these records, detailing primate experiments performed on campus, should be public under the Utah GRAMA. At a January 2004 hearing, the State Records Committee agreed with Beckham, but gave the U the right to redact, or black out, what it felt was confidential information.

It was a hollow victory for Beckham, as the U imposed a \$300 fee to obtain this information. At a September 2004 hearing, the State Records Committee struck down Beckham's appeal for a fee waiver or reduction. "I was truly surprised at the outcome. But I can honestly say that not once have I felt an urge to give up," Beckham said in a recent interview. "When I lost the hearing last September, it only made me rethink the strategy for the future of the campaign."

Keeping SB 179 from passing is not Beckham's only goal for Utah. "Since that [September] hearing, the campaign has started to take a slightly more confrontational approach," said Beckham, an avid supporter of the Animal Liberation Front.

The private home of U researcher, Alessandra Angelucci, was the scene of the last protest by Beckham and followers of the project. "Escalation is the key to any successful grassroots social justice campaigning," he said. "We've been on the doorsteps at the homes of some primate researchers, and these home protests will continue until they find work that doesn't involve torture."

Angelucci said that most of the project's accusations leveled against her and other researchers are false and misleading. Angelucci and the U scientific community are currently searching for the best way to respond to the project's accusations. This will be welcome news to Beckham, who said he feels the U is hiding something behind its long-standing silence regarding primate research issues.

(The Daily Utah Chronicle, 3/2/05)

### **Animal Treatment Claims Against UI Lab Examined** By Tom Owen

After it broke into the University of Iowa's Spence Laboratories on Nov. 14, the Animal Liberation Front sent a message to Iowa media, calling the labs, run by UI psychology researchers, "a chamber of hell." The message, which also appeared on an ALF Web site, singled out researchers for procedures the ALF deemed inhumane.

But a Gazette examination of the research being done at Spence shows that while some of ALF's allegations may be factually correct, others are exaggerated or false. The Gazette obtained the research protocols in a Freedom of Information Act request.

Some examples:

UI psychology professor John Freeman in September began a research project, funded at \$147,500 by the National Institutes of Health, that aims to identify changes in brain function that underlie motor learning in infants. Freeman and his team use rats in their research, drilling holes into the rats' skulls to implant electrodes to record brain activity. Then, using mild shocks, which, according to Freeman, the rats can barely feel, they teach the rat to blink its eyes whenever a tone or light is activated.

According to his research proposal, the study "may lead to better understanding of the functional pathology associated with various developmental disorders that affect the nervous system," including fetal alcohol syndrome, exposure to environmental neurotoxins, infantile autism and Down syndrome." The message ALF sent to the media noted the holes in rats' skulls and added that rats Freeman used in his experiments were found "grossly disfigured," though the alleged disfigurement was not specified.

In an interview, Freeman said he drills holes in rat skulls, but only after putting the animals under "deep anesthesia." He said ALF's claim that the rats are disfigured apparently refers to dental acrylic he uses to hold the electrodes in place. "The cement can be seen on the head after surgery, but it doesn't cause any pain to the animal or any risk of infection," he said.

UI psychology professor Mark Blumberg has a \$110,895 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study homeostasis — the ways in which animals use physiology and behavioral mechanisms to regulate their internal environment. In his past research, Blumberg has taken infant rats out of their nests, which are normally about 94 degrees, and placed them in temperatures of around 68 degrees. He then studies how the animals are able to adjust — both through changes within their bodies, and in their behavior — to boost their body temperatures back to a normal range.

ALF faulted Blumberg for exposing the animals to cold and has said the cries of rats in research labs are an automatic response, not indicative the animal is in distress. In an interview, Blumberg said the temperature change does not harm the animals and that ALF is "preying on the public's ignorance" about scientific research methods.

His research is trying to ascertain why the rats make squeaking sounds. "It may be that these are comparable to human vocalization called grunts," he said, noting that humans make the sounds when they are trying to increase their oxygen intake. "They are like sneezes in the sense that they serve a physiological function; they just happen to make a sound," he said of the grunts.

Joshua Rodefer, an adjunct assistant professor of psychology, has a \$79,101 grant from Memory Pharmaceuticals Corp., based in New Jersey. He is dosing rats with drugs, including PCP, also known as "angel dust," to reduce their ability to make decisions and control impulses. He hopes to find out which brain structures are most important in limiting those abilities. According to Rodefer's research proposal, "this research

will lead to further understanding of the underlying mechanism of schizophrenia and cognitive disorganization in the disease, as well as advance research on new and potentially more effective treatments for learning impairments.” Rodefer said ALF’s claim that he was using cocaine and methamphetamine on the rats was inaccurate. He has planned such experiments, but they have never been funded.

ALF’s message also alleged professor Amy Poremba was doing research on eight rhesus monkeys kept on the fourth floor of Spence Labs. Her research proposal says the only animal she is using in research is the Norwegian rat. Poremba declined to comment for this article, but UI spokesman Steve Parrott said no primate research was going on at Spence Labs when the ALF break-in happened.

(The Gazette online, 2/2/05)

### **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?**

- 1) Your website can be linked through our actively viewed webpage.
- 2) Satisfaction of contributing to the education of promoting biomedical research.
- 3) 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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