

NEWS

Animal awareness '88 coming to MSU

by roy theiss

staff writer

Animal awareness '88 will give the student an opportunity to become informed about animal experimentation, Linda Levine, co-organizer of the event said. Beginning March 30 at 7:30 in the Moyer Student Union, the three-day event will discuss vivisection, dissection and experimentation with drugs on animals.

Students For the Ethical Treatment of Animals has requested the Biology Department to issue a clear policy statement to the science and medical students that they are not required to perform dissections or vivisections. Robert Guebard, undeclared major and member of SETA said "the rights of students to follow their conscience and not harm" individuals of another species should be protected.

Dr. Robert Winokur, Biology Department, said

if a student taking a one hundred level class has a problem with dissection they can talk with the faculty and "work something out." Upper division students, however, can't take anatomy without dissecting animals, he said.

Levine said "dissection is very stressful and the level of comprehension isn't high for ethical questions during the cutting. Besides dissecting causes the animals untimely death and the students get the impression that the animals are a renewable resource."

Guebard added that the dissections have been done a thousand times before and now they are rehashing what they learned years ago. The hands on experience, he believes, isn't necessary at this level of education; books, graphs and computers are more effective.

Winokur said "it's nonsense to use computers at a university level of understanding. Com-

puters are good for a fifth grade level, not here.

Computers are a simulation and not the real thing. They can not be a substitute for dissection for upper division students who need hands-on experience." In addition to learning the techniques of dissection the student needs to learn about organic form Winokur said.

Levine said there other alternatives to cutting on animal tissue. "Harvey" a robot computer used at the University of Miami School of Cardiology Dept. of Medicine, has a heart that beats and can simulate cardiovascular diseases. There are other dummies that can bleed, breathe, cough and vomit that are being used at some California schools of medicine.

"It's the arrogance of the research community to avoid addressing the availability of replacements to the use of animals in experimentation that keeps them in the

dark ages of medical science" Levine said.

Besides teaching, animals are used to increase the understanding of living systems Winokur said. Guebard said the results from the animals are not applicable to humans and medical students need to re-learn everything.

Winokur said the laboratory results are extremely helpful to mankind. There are many different understandings that must come together, he added.

Dissection will be only one of the many areas debated Mar. 31 between Dr. Donald Barnes, member of the National Anti-Vivisection Society and a member from the Biology Department. It will be held at 7:00 in room 203 of the MSU.

Calendar of Events

March 29

LECTURE: "Cousteau Lecture and Slide Show." \$3; call 739-3575 for time and location.

March 30

MOVIES: "Less Than Zero" 1 and 7 P.M. "Like Father, Like Son," 3 and 9 P.M. MSU Ballroom.

March 30 and 31

CLASS: Janet Perkins, dancer, choreographer and teacher. Ham Fine Arts 110, 11:30 to 12:50 P.M.

March 30 through April 3

CSUN SPRINGFEST '88. Call for times and locations.;739-3477. Free.

April 1

STUNT SHOW: Hollywood Stuntman Show. Sam Boyd Silver Bowl;7:30 P.M. Call for prices. 739-3900.

April 2

ROCK CONCERT: Kiss and Anthrax;8 P.M. Thomas and Mack Center. \$16.50;739-3900

April 2 and 3

RECREATION CLASS: "Intermediate I Rockclimbing." \$70. Reservations required. 739-3575.

Suicide a preventable tragedy

by nellie bly

guest writer

Words like "lethality" and "disarm" drop readily into the conversation, together with "loss of love."

Susan Stuver, sophomore in Psychology, is a crisis intervention counselor for the Suicide Prevention Hotline, and she tells what it's like when the person on the other end of the telephone line is threatening to take his or her own life.

"Everything is horrible; I don't want to live," begins a typical call that has been transferred to Stuver's home by the answering service that staffs the hotline.

"We try to establish a relationship with the person -- let him or her know

we care -- while we determine the lethality," Stuver explained.

"Lethality" is the likelihood that the individual can and will carry out the threat to kill himself. A young woman who is upset by something is usually the least lethal, Stuver said, because she picked up the phone on impulse and hasn't thought the situation through.

More dangerous to himself is the man sitting on the bed with a gun in his hands.

Regardless of the level of lethality, the counselor's job is to defuse the situation and try to get the individual to seek professional counseling.

"We try to steer them to the correct resources,"

Stuver said. "We try to get them to promise to call an agency that can help them -- or to let us call."

The hotline operates confidentially. Although the counselors try to get the name and phone number of the person calling so that they can call back on another telephone, freeing the hotline for another call, only first names are used. Stuver does not use her own name when she answers a call.

Counselors don't report their calls to the police or other agencies, unless others' lives are clearly endangered.

Stuver has been a crisis intervention counselor for about three months. She responded to a notice in the Tuesday Review-
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