

Animal Rights activists demonstrate at UNLV

by gary manz

staff writer

A group of about 25 animal protectionists, organized by Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, demonstrated at UNLV last Sunday, as part of World Day for Laboratory Animals.

The protesters, several with pets alongside, assembled in opposition to the widespread use of animals in experimental biological and biomedical research, also called vivisection when surgery is involved.

"We want to educate people, let them know that there is unnecessary suffering of animals in laboratories," said SETA spokesperson Nadine Prescia. "We want to let them know that there are

alternatives to such testing."

Opponents of animal experimentation have for years proposed computer simulations as a chief means of replacing animals in research labs, thus eliminating the pain and death associated with procedures like vivisection, or certain forms of product testing.

Referring to practices common in product research, Prescia noted that animals are forced to consume toxins, or are injected with them through the eye or stomach.

"One (research technique) is called LD-50," she said, indicating that this stands for the requirement that 50 percent of tested animals must die in experiments to determine lethal dosage of some

chemicals. In such research, Prescia said, "They use hundreds and thousands of animals."

Of UNLV in particular, the spokesperson said, "UNLV is working with us. They are finding alternatives." She mentioned having heard of research on campus working with cats, an unsubstantiated claim that culminated in a rumor that computer simulations were substituted for animal dissection. Prescia was unable to say how many cats, in what condition, were delivered to the unspecified lab.

"We don't know anything about it," she said. "We would like to find out more on the procedures, and what kind of computers they are using.

If they are using it, fantastic."

Dr. Stanley Hillyard of the Biological Sciences Department denied any such research was being done.

"In my 12 years at UNLV, we have never used dogs and cats in research," he said. The professor also said the school has to his knowledge never used live primates, either.

Hillyard added that he knows of one project being done with rats, but emphasized, "We don't torture animals. We follow the protocols for humane treatment as published in guidelines by the Public Health Service."

As for computer simulation, the scholar noted their usefulness in teaching applications, but

stated they are weak substitutes for animals when basic research is needed.

"There is a lack of basic knowledge about how living systems function," he said. "Computers do not generate new information. They process existing information." Hillyard cited experiments on mice that have provided much of the current knowledge about the human immune system as indicative of the need for animal research.

Representatives from various animal issue groups in Clark County joined the protest. One notable exception was People Against Vivisection Experiments. PAVE President Veronica McPhelan took SETA to task in a telephone interview, claiming the student

group seeks regulation, not abolition of vivisection.

"They told me I'm unrealistic because I want abolition of vivisection", she said, stipulating afterward that an individual member had said that. But, she added, "these students don't know the harm they are doing", by not demanding abolition, which would leave research industries no choice but to seek alternative methodologies.

SETA's Nadine Prescia said the demonstration was targeted at "all aspects of laboratory testing." One placard read: UNLV STOP USING ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS. McPhelan also objected to pets on the premises of such demonstrations, "it makes them look like animal nuts."

Electrical engineers sponsor awareness conference

The Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEEE) will be sponsoring a Student Professional Awareness Conference to be held on

Wednesday April 27, 1988.

The conference is going to be held at Ham Hall from 1:00-5:00pm, with a dinner following at 6:00pm in Moyer Student Union 201.

The following topics will be discussed at the conference:

1. How to find a job.
2. Engineering as a profession
3. The role of a technical professional society

4. code of ethics.

The conference and dinner are open to all persons in the Science and Engineering Disciplines. Faculty are urged to attend.

Tickets are on sale at the Computer Science and Engineering office, third floor of the Education building and TEC 112. Tickets are priced as follows:

1. Non-members- \$15

2. Student Engineering Society members- \$6

3. New IEEE student members- free

Ticket price includes the conference and the dinner. For any further information leave the message in the IEEE mail box in the CSE office.

Rape

"If faculty or staff call me, I will work my schedule around to lecture and show the film in class or at meetings," she

said. Sax also shows *Not Always a Stranger* to groups of students by appointment.

Phone number for

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University Police is 739-3668. Consolidated Students of University of Nevada has more information about the seminar.

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