

Fur protesters march the streets of Las Vegas

by Kimberley McGee

Defenders of the Environment and Animal Rights, DEAR, protested the exploitation of animals with their Fur Free Friday, in front of the Fashion Show Mall. Carrying signs that portrayed dead and dying animals with slogans such as "Your coat is almost ready" and "Fur is dead," DEAR attempted to enlighten the public of the inhumane practices of the fur industry.

The fur industry believes that fur trapping and ranching comes down to a freedom of choice. It is the consumers decision to wear fur and as long as their is a demand they will supply. An old argument goes so far as to say that trapping is a means to control animal population and disease. However, that is absurd when you consider that trapping does not target a specific species and therefore cannot control a specific population. Diseased animals do not have luxurious, lustrous coats and are usually thrown away because they will not do for the market's standards.

There were fur advocates protesting right along with DEAR, shouting the miracle of animal testing and "We need to support people not animals." Although animal testing is a problem, it was not an issue there, and as people, the most intelligent species on the planet, we need to support the earth instead of abuse its inhabitants. Organizations such as DEAR aim at a more peaceful, all-life sustaining world instead of that comparable to a marketplace.



Death walks the streets of Las Vegas.

photo by Rene Singer

DEAR believes the selling of fur is a cruel and barbaric practice. While some fur advocates believe that the wearing of fur is justified due to the warmth it gives, anti-fur groups feel that "the wearing of fur is no longer needed. They make synthetic materials such as polymer filling for jackets made of recycled materials to keep people warm," said Peter West of DEAR. Fake furs are available for those that feel the wearing of fur is a glamorous fashion statement, therefore real fur is not needed.

DEAR spoke out Friday about the horrible way that animals are caught, carrying posters which displayed such scenes as a black labrador with his paw severed in a steel trap, an oil drum filled with carcasses of skinned animals.

"Animals that are trapped are bludgeoned to death. Their hearts are

stomped on and usually their necks are broken," West said, "while those that are ranched are kept in one foot by one foot cages for their entire lives before they are killed by anal electrocution or gas."

West argues that the trapping of animals in steel jaw leg hold traps is the most inhumane of the fur trapping practice and has been outlawed in 65 countries because of its cruelty. An estimated 35 percent of the animals caught this way in the United States are the targeted animals, the other 65 percent consists of dogs, cats, children and other "trash" animals.

"These animals that are caught, are killed and thrown away," West said. "Five million non-target animals are needlessly killed each year because of these steel traps."

Marcella Gallaway, a freshman at UNLV, at-

tended the protest and was disappointed more students did not. "The reason we were out there was to fight against trapping. It is so extremely cruel," she said.

She said she was surprised at how many people "were misinformed and talking about vegetarianism or pro-life" and not realizing that DEAR was protesting the selling and harvesting of fur.

DEAR's goals and objectives are to stop consumers from buying fur, to educate the public about the cruel reality of fur ranching and trapping and to oppose the fur industry and their exploitation of animals for fur only. The organization consists of 29 members and is always looking for new people who believe in the humane treatment of animals and are committed to doing something to better animal rights.



photo by Rene Singer

Mehta strives to help others with early retirement.

Professor assists students for future investment

by Kimberley McGee

Jagdish Mehta, associate professor of finance, has invested in the future of his students. Using his time and skill, he gives free advice in stocks, bonds and investments for the students to benefit from either their savings, retirement funds or other business ventures.

Mehta wants "to teach students how to make enough money," so that students may be able to retire early, "45 or 55-years-old." Mehta stresses that with his class, Introduction to Investment FIN115, students learn the fundamentals of investing such as the difference between investing in a CD and a mutual fund.

"If a student were to invest in a CD at \$50 a month for 20 years he would make about \$26,000 compared to \$50 a month invested in a mutual fund for 20 years which would come to \$66,000," Mehta said.

Mehta has made a significant amount of money using his knowledge as a certified financial planner, which he practiced in Louisiana before moving to Las Vegas in 1990, and has used this knowledge to help those students that come to him willing to invest. George Mulopulos and Adam Friedman have made a large amount of money with their different ventures with Mehta and Lisa Dry has made a few thousand dollars.

Students have been motivated from the finance class to get personally involved in the "business." "Adam Friedman was so excited from the class that he went and worked at a brokerage house in Los Angeles," Mehta said. He said he likes to keep up with his students. "We exchange ideas" sometimes trading investment tips, sharing new business ventures and "making lifelong friends."

Students will leave his class with a knowledge of stocks, bonds, mutual funds and a lifelong habit of savings and investment.

Nail Patch

356 S. Decatur
Decatur Meadows Shopping Center
258-0076

FULL SET SPECIAL - \$25
FREE BOTTLE OF POLISH WITH FULL SET AND THIS AD.

Have something to sell,
something to buy,
something to say?

Advertise in
The Yellin' Rebel
classified section.

NOW SELLING
PERSONALS!



**Yellin' Rebel
Advertising**

739-3889