

Pickers decry animal experimentation

By Diana Elliott
Of the Emerald

About 15 people hoping for an eventual end to the "torture and slaughter" of animals picketed Science III on Wednesday. Pointing specifically to the experiments of two University professors, the group proclaimed that the use of animals for research must stop.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals — Eugene sponsored the demonstration that provoked both stares and questions from passersby.

"Animals are being tortured for absolutely no reason on earth," said Shoshanah Thielle, one of the organizers of the 3-year-old group based in Washington, D.C.

The local PETA group is targeting the work of two professors in the psychology department: Barbara Gordon-Lickey, who uses kittens for her experiments, and Richard Marrocco, who uses monkeys.

Both professors disagree with assertions that they torture animals.

Marrocco, who is researching vision in primates, said that the animals are heavily anesthetized and are hooked up to physiological monitors.

"It does no good to collect data on animals that are experiencing pain," he said. "So we have to make sure that they are under no stress."

Marrocco also said that the point of the experiments on animals is to learn about the human system, which eventually will alleviate a lot of pain and discomfort to people.

But Thielle, one coordinator of PETA, insisted that

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About 15 people picketed the Science III building Wednesday, protesting two University professors' use of animals in scientific research. Photo by Karen Stallwood

Senate's power to increase next year

By Jolayne Houtz
Of the Emerald

The University Senate will receive new decision-making powers next year under legislation passed by the University Assembly Wednesday.

Assembly faculty members voted 33-12 to have all motions and motion discussions originate in the Senate by any faculty or Student Senate member. In addition, any Assembly member may go to the Senate to discuss a pending motion.

Student Senate members were not allowed to vote on the motion because of legislation stating that only faculty members can vote to change or amend the two-faculty/student governing bodies, the Senate and the Assembly.

The new Senate will discuss and act on all motions except when the motion passes by less than a two-thirds majority or fails with more than one-third of the vote.

In this case, the motion automatically will go to the all-faculty Assembly for discussion and a vote.

Also, the Senate itself or University President Paul Olum can request referral of a motion to the Assembly, as can a group of 15 or more faculty members.

Curricular matters automatically will go to the Assembly after a vote in the Senate.

The Senate's new powers will eliminate the current system, in which motions are raised in the Assembly, sent to the Senate for discussion and a vote, and returned to the Assembly for a final vote.

"Senate X," which will meet twice monthly instead of once, will retain its current 54-member structure, with a ratio of 36 faculty members to 18 students.

This part of the motion almost was defeated when several faculty members proposed that only two students be allowed on the new Senate, fearing that if student members voted in a block, they could have too much power to sway legislation if not enough faculty members attended the meeting.

Senate X will also have new duties in studying issues and making recommendations and innovations.

The body will receive administrative and annual committee reports, establishing a communication link with the faculty through a newsletter or some other mechanism.

Kappy Eaton, the current Senate president, said the new Senate will deal with motions in a more direct way, although the Assembly can address the motions in which it wants to play a part.

Society's biggest problem is child abuse, officer says

By Cynthia Whitfield
Of the Emerald

Editor's Note: This is the second article in a three-part series on child abuse in Oregon.

Sgt. Steve Egeter of the Springfield Police Department says he used to think the greatest problem facing society was drug abuse. "I was wrong, child abuse is," he said.

Egeter says he is deeply involved in his work in spite of its frustrations. One of the biggest obstacles to child abuse intervention is the fear or simple inability of young children to articulate what is happening to them.

The nature of sexual abuse varies as well as the amount of trauma the abuse causes. Sexual abuse is a term that includes "anything from leg petting to forcible rape," says Beverly Fagot, associate psychology professor. Police and Children's Services Division reports show that babies six months and younger are victims of many forms of sexual abuse — including rape.

"Right now I'm going to the grand jury on the rape case of a little girl about four years old," Egeter says. "A friend of the family put his hand on the girl's crotch one day, she slapped it away, but he did it again." Later, Egeter says the girl told her mother she didn't like it when the friend "tickled" her. The mother asked the man to stop tickling the girl, not realizing what was going on. Eventually the man raped the girl.

Although much sexual abuse is termed "non-violent" abuse, it may still cause physical pain to the victim. One woman said she found her grandfather's penetration of her vagina with his fingers very painful, and so was surprised to learn that the abuse she suffered was considered non-violent.

Egeter says one small child had been the victim of ongoing sexual abuse that always stopped short of intercourse. The girl was brought into the emergency room by her mother after she discovered her daughter's bloody underwear in the garbage. She inspected the child and found that she was bleeding rectally and vaginally. It was determined that the mother's boyfriend had raped the child.

Although the child suffered painful injuries, she was afraid something even worse would happen if she told her mother, Egeter says.

"The mother was upset, thinking she should have figured out what was happening earlier. She began to remember things: the little girl had often told her she didn't like being alone with the boyfriend, and was upset when the mother would leave her with the boyfriend while she went to work," says Egeter.

In addition, some abusers are "well-known members of the community" (such as) school teachers and babysitters. Some are policemen," says Egeter. Also, many children remain silent because the perpetrator has told them to. Other abusers manipulate children by telling them their mothers will no longer love them if they tell, that the abuser will be put in jail, or that the family will suffer from poverty and unhappiness, says Faye Lindemann-Taylor, manager of sexual abuse programs in Salem.

Even now, few reports of child abuse are initiated by abused children themselves. Instead, suspicious teachers, relatives or neighbors are often responsible for prompting an investigation.

In one instance, a special education teacher noticed one of her eight-year-old students squirming in his seat more than usual. While changing the boy's diaper — he didn't have bowel control — she noticed that his rectal muscle was enlarged and bruised.

The teacher asked the boy about it, and he drew a picture of himself in bed with two grown men. Later, the boy's uncle and his uncle's lover were charged with sexually abusing the boy.

Many adult survivors of child abuse say the selfishness of the abusers is particularly disturbing to them in retrospect. In a recent KEZI series on child sexual abuse, one former victim said the worst part of the abuse was the sense that her father didn't seem to care about her, even when she told him he was hurting her. He continued to abuse her, and she said she felt as if "she didn't matter."