

Some animal research 'crucial' say supporters

By Caroline Smith
Emerald Contributor

Acting associate provost Pamela Daener sips tea in her kitchen as her four-year-old son, Chris, peers around the corner.

He is sick, and Daener sends him back to bed. As Chris slips out of the kitchen, Daener warns him not to walk on his toes. He suffers from muscular dystrophy, and the muscles along the back of his legs are shortening.

According to Daener, the doctors, who diagnosed Chris' condition two years ago, say unless a cure is found Chris will die before he reaches the age of 20.

Both parents are active in helping make that cure possible.

Daener's husband, Neil, a junior biology major, plans to conduct research on muscular dystrophy, and Daener supports the animal research she hopes will save her son.

Daener is coordinating committee co-chair of a campus group called the Coalition for Animals and Animal Research (CFARR), formed last year in response to effects of the "radical animal rights movement."

The group's goals are to educate the public about the "true nature" of animal research and animal researchers, support the "responsible and humane" use of animals in biomedical research, and promote development and use of alternatives to animals in research.

According to Daener, the animal rights groups have succeeded in passing legislation that has slowed progress in medical research in areas such

as AIDS and organ transplantation.

"The cost of laboratory animals has skyrocketed," Daener said. She cited a statewide referendum passed in 1983 in Massachusetts as an example of the effects of restrictions.

Daener said this legislation has banned researchers from using cats and dogs taken from the pound. According to Daener, the law states that animals used by researchers must have been bred for research purposes.

The result has been an increase in the price of a laboratory dog from \$50 to \$600 in 15 years, she said.

The increase in costs for lab animals has slowed animal research Daener believes to be crucial. She said radical animal rights activists want all animal research stopped or to take place "in test tubes and lab cultures."

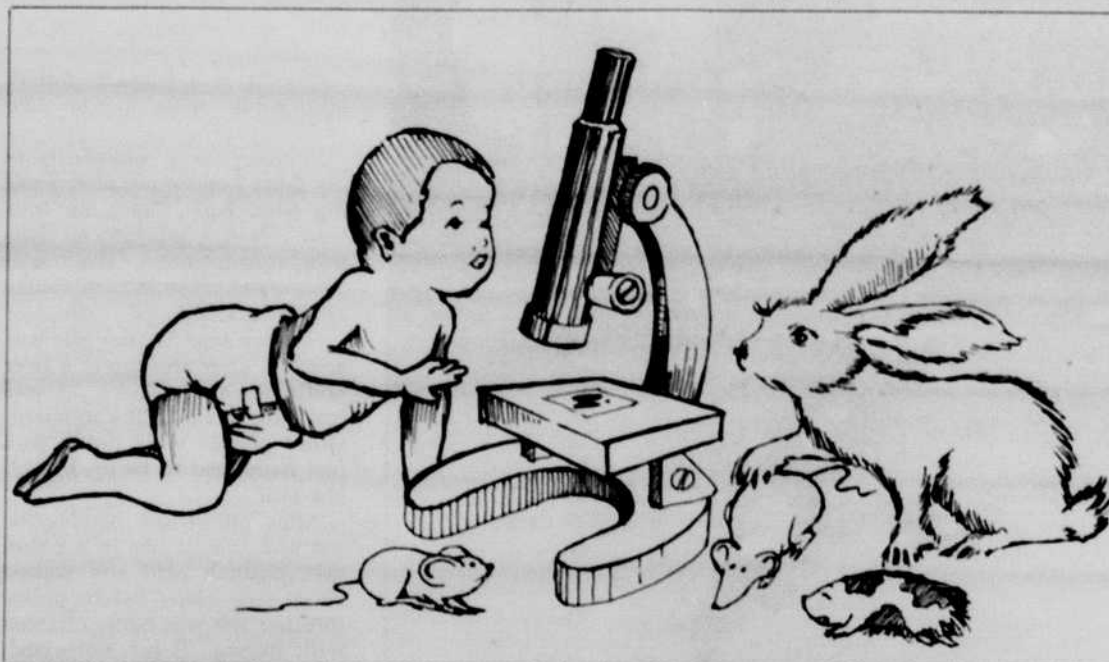
However, she agreed with some of the points made by animal rights activists.

"Animals deserve humane and decent treatment," Daener said. "But I don't believe putting an animal in a cage is inhumane treatment."

"I know that lab animals are messy, expensive and hard to care for," she added. "If you can do the research without animals then, by God, do it without them. I don't want any research that may affect my son to be done in a sloppy way," Daener said.

Daener does not believe laboratory animal research testing mascara and other makeup is crucial and supports alternative ways of testing household products.

But, while she may agree



Graphic by Jarrett Jester

with animal rights activists on a few of these issues, Daener points out that their philosophies are fundamentally different.

Because she "has a lot at stake" in animal research, Daener maintains that some research on animals is critical for medical purposes but does not

believe she is a moderate.

She criticizes the radical animal rights groups for misinforming the public.

"I know a lot of moderate people out there are concerned about animal welfare," Daener said. But "they are being manipulated and lied to by animal

rights people."

While she conceded that two cases of animal abuse have been proven in the last 10 years, Daener claimed that materials, including photos, distributed by animal rights groups are dated so they present an inaccurate picture of what happens in animal research laboratories.

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