

University

Research monkeys may arrive by summer

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Associate Editor

Two to three macaque monkeys could be on campus as early as this summer for use in research on the mental processes and brain functions in humans.

Psychology professors Michael Posner and Richard Marrocco said in a press conference Friday that the only remaining obstacles to bringing the monkeys to campus are the approval of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, which oversees animal use on campus, and the completion of the new science buildings.

The research of brain activity in macaque monkeys is one part of a larger project sponsored by a \$720,000 grant from the James S. McDonnell Foundation of St. Louis and the Pew charitable trusts of Philadelphia.

With the grant, the University becomes one of eight national centers for cognitive neuroscience research.

"The research will go ahead, and we hope nothing will happen illegally to stop this from happening," Marrocco said, referring to a 1986 break-in of University facilities by animal rights advocates.

Marrocco's proposed protocol, which describes the research to be done on the monkeys, will be considered by the IACUC at its March 15 meeting.

Up to eight monkeys will be kept for each year of the three-year grant, with invasive research being done on monkeys kept during the first two years.

The monkeys will be trained to sit in a specially designed chair and to focus on a certain spot appearing on a television monitor.

Surgical implants will then be placed in the monkeys' brains to monitor activity. The monkeys will then be killed to determine and study the tissue areas where the implants were located.

"We hope the work with monkeys will help us understand more about the circuitry of the nervous system," Posner said.

The primates could be spared if new imaging technology can be utilized to locate the brain implant without the use of surgery, Marrocco said.

However, the possibility the technology could be used is slim, Marrocco said.

"The idea is not so much to see the electrode itself but the place the electrode was," he said.

The research on both primate

and human subjects could help in developing rehabilitation programs for victims of closed-head injuries such as those sustained in car accidents, Posner said.

Jill Freidberg, director of the Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and spokeswoman for the national group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said the research on primates is unnecessary.

Freidberg said she is not opposed to the McDonnell-Pew grant, but is against the part that calls for the use of primates.

"Our position isn't any different," Freidberg said. "In light of Marrocco's past misuse and abuse, primates should not return to the University to be used by Richard Marrocco."

Freidberg pointed to testimony from the 1986 break-in trial that claimed improperly placed brain implants led to the death of one of Marrocco's monkeys, and that several primates died due to drugs used during surgery.

"The charges that are often made against primate research often stem from this (testimony)," Marrocco said. "Now people are taking that testimony and saying 'here is this problem.'"

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publican Foundation already have contributed or raised approximately \$215,000 to aid Frohnmayer's campaign.

"I think Dave's race is second, third or fourth priority in the nation," he added. "And Oregon is getting more money than most states. That I know is true."

In fact, Frohnmayer has received at least 50 times the amount of money California's Republican candidate Pete Wilson has received from RGA "even though California is the number one targeted race in the nation," said Crawford.

"California has a new state law where an organization can only give \$1,000 to a candidate during a year," he said. "So, the candidate for governor in California is getting very little from RGA, while Frohnmayer is way ahead."

Foreign buyouts

McGuire said the national

party's generous financial contributions border on an outright buyout of the race.

"I think it's clear the Republicans are using their national ability to raise large sums of money from large corporations to influence our elections," McGuire said. "People outside Oregon are, in effect, buying the election."

But Leslie Goodman, press secretary to RNC chairman Lee Atwater, defended the Republican Party's involvement in the campaign.

"Oregon is a high priority race, and this gives us a chance to financially aid the campaign," she said. "(The complaints) sound like Democratic Party whining and carping."

Mitzi Scott, Goldschmidt's campaign director, cited three reasons for the Republican's desire to target the race.

"I think that the RNC was embarrassed that this state sent

for Dukakis instead of George Bush," she said. "They want to make sure that doesn't happen in '92."

RNC's West Coast campaign coordinator Steve Kinney admitted Oregon's Democratic vote in the 1988 election was a factor in the decision to target the state.

"We did pretty well over the rest of the country and we'd like to sew up the spots we missed," he said.

Goldschmidt's potential

In addition, the Republicans feared Goldschmidt might turn into a viable national candidate for the Democratic Party, Scott said.

"Goldschmidt is regarded as one of the more formidable, confident Democrats on the national scene," she said.

But Kinney denied that Goldschmidt's notoriety figured in the RNC's interest. "I bet if you

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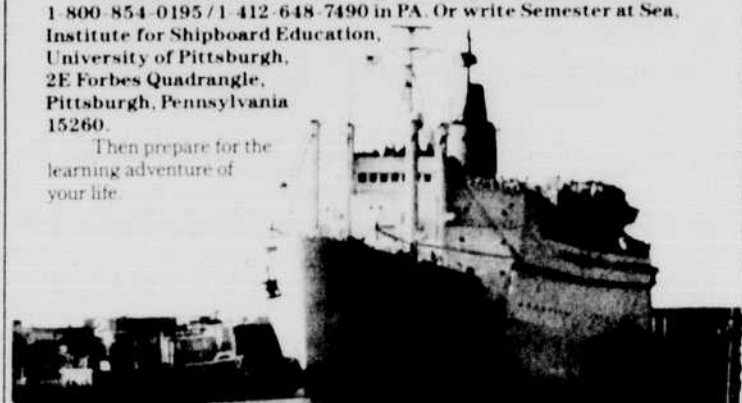
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