

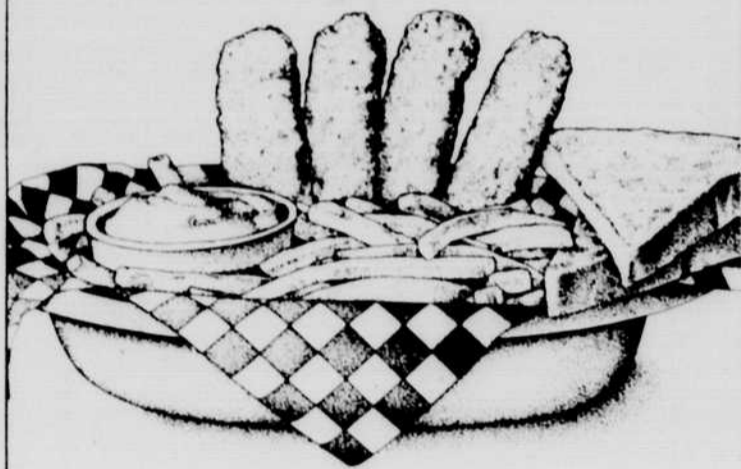
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## University



Photo by Martin Thiel

As part of World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week, members of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals staged a rally in the EMU Courtyard Tuesday.

## Animals' rights 'synonymous' with rights granted to humans

By Peter Cogswell  
Emerald Reporter

Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals had a larger and more diverse audience than they expected at a Tuesday rally held as part of World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week.

After songs were played, SETA co-director Jill Freidberg took the microphone and addressed some fallacies people have about SETA.

"Calling for a halt to animal research does not mean we want to substitute humans," Freidberg said. "Animal and human rights are synonymous; there is no difference."

"We do not want to exploit animals for our own benefit," she said. "We want to work toward a more compassionate society and stress this point."

Freidberg said animals as nature are at the bottom, with nothing below them. They can't step on anybody, but people can step on them, she said.

"What is really happening is the point is being missed," she said. "That we can't work toward a healthy planet if our means are exploited. Sometimes when something is so immoral you just have to stop it when there is no other alternative."

Freidberg said money spent on research in preventative medicine should instead be spent educating people on diseases. Society causes itself to have diseases because people are not educated, she said.

Freidberg said she was happy with the turnout, especially considering it was the first rally ever held in support of animal rights.

Members of the Coalition for Animals and

Animal Research, a group that supports animal research, were on hand to pass out information on the benefits of animal research.

Freidberg said SETA members were not surprised by the unscheduled appearance of CFAAR.

"We weren't surprised," she said. "I feel like the animal rights movement has numerous moral and ethical reasons supporting it and they have one, humans."

"They are not threatening because they have no surprises. They can't answer to our questions," she said.

CFAAR made its appearance just before the rally began. The group marched down into the courtyard behind a sign that said, "Thanks to animal research, they'll be able to protest for 20.8 years longer."

CFAAR moved to the rear of the courtyard and stayed there peacefully for about an hour before marching back out of the courtyard. The group passed out brochures supporting animal research.

Tracie Bork, secretary and treasurer for CFAAR, said the group's objective was to educate the public on the nature of animal research.

"All of us have been vaccinated against polio, and the polio vaccination came from animals," she said. "It is immoral not to do animal research when we know it can benefit humans."

Bork accused SETA of making its own caste system in which all that has been done in animal research until now is acceptable, but from here on out it should be stopped.

"Most (SETA members) continue and go to the doctor and reap the benefits of animal research," she said.

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