

## Committee refuses animal traps

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Experiments that would trap and kill otters and other fur-bearing animals have failed to gain approval from a Washington State University committee.

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee voted 3-3 Tuesday on an \$80,000 project by Frederick Gilbert to use as many as a dozen otters to test the killing efficiency of a new trap design.

Gilbert's proposal will be reconsidered because the tie-breaking seventh member of the committee did not attend the meeting.

Some members of the committee contended the university should not be involved in research that might help the fur industry.

"My problem with this project is the design of the experi-

ment is to produce a new trap, which will humanely kill beavers, and the people that are really interested in this are the fur people," committee member Harriet Dodgen said.

But Gilbert, whose research is funded in part by Canadian trapper and fur trade groups, said the experiments are aimed at establishing international standards to ensure trapping is as humane as possible.

"I'm involved in this because I can see the potential benefit to wild creatures," said Gilbert, chairman of the university's Department of Natural Resource Sciences.

"If the only function of my research were simply to protect the interests of the fur industry, I would not be doing it," he said.

Gilbert's research is funded

by the Fur Institute of Canada — comprised of government agencies, trapper organizations and industry representatives — and the International Fur Trade Federation, a trade group.

Committee Chairman Boon Chew, a professor of animal sciences, said the trap issue is the most hotly debated one in his five years on the animal research panel.

"This is not a straightforward issue," Chew said. "It's kind of an emotional issue in that we do have to sacrifice a few animals to do that work."

"It's not up to the committee to get into the emotional issues of fur and its use," Chew said. "It's up to the committee to look at the proper treatment and care of animals in experiments and alternatives to their use."

## Seattle gains sister city

SEATTLE (AP) — Mayor Norm Rice signed a sister-city resolution with Kaohsiung, Taiwan, despite opposition from city offices and those who do business with mainland China.

The resolution was passed unanimously by the Seattle City Council against the advice of the mayor's office and the city Office of International Affairs. Rice, despite original opposition, signed it over the weekend.

"Our preference was that there be greater consultation and the resolution was more carefully worded so it didn't raise flags," mayoral spokesman Mark Murray said.

"But once the council made its decision it showed no inclination to go back

and change it." One objection to the resolution was a passage naming Taiwan as the "Republic of China." Taiwan refers to itself in that manner, but the U.S. government does not.

"I have no problems at all about improving cultural relations with Kaohsiung. But this was done in such a way as to promote ill feelings," said Bill Abnett, executive director of the Washington State China Relations Council.

Murray said the mayor plans to work with the council to ensure the mayor's office and Office of International Affairs have input in establishing future sister cities.



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