

## UNIVERSITY

# SETA requests view of facilities

Unhappy with prior decision

By Peter Cogswell  
Emerald Associate Editor

Members of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals are not pleased that they are unable to view animal holding facilities in Streisinger Hall.

A decision by University officials last week to allow only press members a view of the facility, specifically the room where two Rhesus monkeys are preparing for research, has left SETA members wondering whether something is being covered up.

"The University is claiming the facility is in top shape, and our concern is if this is the case, then why are we not able to go and see it," said Todd Hausman, SETA co-director.

"I don't have a burning desire to go in there, but it would be much more credible (for the University), and I do have an interest in the monkeys' well being," he said.

Hausman said following a recent discussion with Dr. Jack Vanderlip, director of the University's veterinary services, he is hopeful that a small group from SETA will be allowed to view the facility in the near future.

Monica Semeria, SETA co-director, is currently writing a letter to Vanderlip in an attempt to allow SETA members to view the facility.

"It's wonderful the University is opening up to us," Semeria said. "When we first asked they said no, then they said to write a letter Dr. Vanderlip."

Semeria said she did not expect much from the University because of its past record. She said she was surprised the University has even said it may be possible to view the facility.

Both Hausman and Semeria said they visited the facility last spring term during an open



File photo

Members of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals are upset that they were excluded from a recent tour of the University's animal research facilities.

house hosted by the University, but the animal's rooms were virtually unoccupied.

Hausman said the issue is not just the well being of the monkeys, but of all the animals housed in Streisinger. "The primates have been the focus," he said.

"The concern right now is that the facility be accessible to the public, that the student body and the public have input into how the research is conducted," Hausman said. "Up until this point the public has been excluded from the proceedings."

"For them to simply exclude a group (from viewing the mon-

keys) hurts the legitimacy of the research," he said.

Hausman said he is not content with current legislation governing animal care because such protections do not do justice to the animals' welfare.

So while the University may be meeting or exceeding the standards of the Animal Welfare Act, the standards are not very stringent, Hausman said.

Semeria added that everyone involved has focused on the legal question involved and not, as usual, with the ethical question of whether one animal has the right to use another.

University officials were unavailable for comment.

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