



Animal activists marched from the EMU breezeway to Johnson Hall Wednesday to protest animal research at the University. Photo by Brian Bloch

'Funeral' mourns animal research

By Brian Bloch
Emerald Reporter

A small group of students braved the rain Wednesday afternoon to protest the use of animals in biomedical research and to celebrate World Laboratory Animal Liberation Day.

About 20 people from the Survival Center, Student Campaign for Disarmament and Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals gathered in the EMU breezeway for an open-mike session on the animal research debate before marching to Johnson Hall.

Animal rights supporters were offset by a group of about 50 students and professors advocating the use of animals in

scientific and medical research. The protesters placed mock tombstones and a cardboard casket in front of Johnson Hall to symbolize the animal lives lost in biomedical research.

"We wanted to do something symbolic and make people aware of the issue, and I think we did that even with a small group of people," said SETA member Todd Hausman.

The key issue in the animal research debate revolves around the ethical and moral implications of exploiting animals for human interests, Hausman said.

In response to animal research supporter's claims that the research is necessary to save human lives, Hausman

called for alternatives ranging from voluntary human research to computer experiment simulation.

However, animal research supporters at the protest were quick to point out the medical and scientific advancements that have come from past animal experiments.

Tracie Bork, a spokeswoman for the Coalition for Animals and Animal Research, said medical advancements like the polio vaccine and the iron lung are products of animal research.

The supporters also said they differ with animal research opponents on the moral and ethical considerations of using animals for invasive research.



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