



Photo by Bob Pearson

Being a rat may be hazardous to your health.

The herbivorous v. the carnivorous

American Vegetarians, a 3,000-member national group protesting the killing of laboratory animals, also opposes the livestock industry, according to a group spokesman.

Nellie Shriver, in a telephone interview at the group's Washington, D.C., headquarters, said the group opposes all animal death.

"We advocate the abolition of all human-caused death to animals, including those used for food, fur and medical research," she said.

The group does not concentrate on human suffering because it is a result of animal suffering, Shriver said.

"The eating of animals causes the starving of humans," she said. "Feeding grain to animals takes food from the mouths of people."

"We would rather help those who can't help themselves. Humans can defend themselves, but animals are voiceless."

Shriver recommended that no grain be fed to animals and that all land be used for human food production. When informed that more than one-half of Nebraska is grassland unsuitable for anything but livestock grazing, Shriver said such areas should be planted to fruit trees and irrigated by pipelines built by persons now unemployed.

The water would come from "somewhere," she said.

The large contribution of the livestock industry to Nebraska's economy could be compensated for by the federal government, she said, which would have to buy the enormous crops of fruit produced.

Veterinarian claims rat death essential for research

By John Ortmann

"Rats have rights!"

And another equal rights movement is born. The message is that of a national humane group, based in Washington, D.C., that has been mailing brochures protesting research mistreatment of animals.

The American Vegetarians, which coordinator Nellie Shriver said has 3,000 members, charges that animals are needlessly being subjected to pain and death.

The group claims that alternate methods such as tissue culture, computer modeling

and dissection of cadavers could provide the same information without animal suffering.

However, Norman Underdahl, a UNL veterinary science professor, disagreed.

"They don't know what they are talking about," he said. "Most of this research has benefit for humans."

Underdahl explained that the veterinary science department uses germ-free pigs and calves obtained by Caesarean section for use in disease research. The animals are infected with a disease organism and later

killed and autopsied to determine disease effects.

The animals are killed at one to three weeks of age, Underdahl said, by being chloroformed and bled to death while unconscious. UNL has a Laboratory Animal Committee which oversees animal care, Underdahl said.

The committee uses guidelines of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, said animal manager Ron Jones. Jones is responsible for the care and feeding of the approximately 1,400 animals kept by the UNL School of Life Sciences.

Jones said that although most of the rodents, chickens and rabbits in his care are eventually killed, they are well treated in the meantime. He said animals receive sterile bedding, and cages and have food and water available continuously.

Most animals are used in genetic, hematology and parasitology research, he said. A typical experiment involves feeding chickens an iron-poor diet, he said, then killing them to study the effects.

Jones said the school kills most of its animals by an overdose of ether. Some rats and mice are killed by a sharp blow to the

base of the skull because it is quicker and cheaper he said. Jones admitted the method does not always cause instant death, but added that rabbits and other large animals never are killed this way because they take too long to die.

Use of laboratory animals is beneficial, he said.

"If they didn't use animals," he said, "they would have to use human beings instead."

John Berssett, a veterinary assistant at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, agreed the animals' deaths are necessary.

"It is impossible to define 'unnecessary' in medical research," he said. Medical history is full of cases solved by work on something else. We consider that no addition to scientific knowledge is unnecessary."

Berssett said no unnecessary pain is inflicted on animals at the medical center. Pain research is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The FDA must be informed why pain is being inflicted, he said, adding that animals are used only when there is no experimental alternative.

State official opposes transfer of computers to Elks building

By Tam Lee

The director of the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services, Stan Matzke, said he does not want the state's computers moved to the Elks building.

But, Appropriations Committee member Glenn Goodrich of Omaha would like to move them there anyway. The state's Data Processing Service Division is under DAS.

Matzke said the distance between the Elks Lodge and the state Capitol (six blocks) would create electronic problems and would be inconvenient.

"If we can't find space adjacent to the Capitol, we will wait until other options open up," Matzke said. The department is "not anticipating asking for an appropriation" to purchase the Elks Lodge, he said.

The Appropriations Committee and administrative services both were considering buying the Midwest Life Nebraska insurance building across from the capitol for the computer center, but Goodrich said, the committee rejected the building because it cost too much.

Goodrich said the building and land are worth \$900,000, but the insurance company is asking for \$2.5 million for it.

The state's computers must move out of the capitol to make room for expanding the attorney general's office, Goodrich said. The committee allocated \$35,000 for the attorney general to rent space outside the building for the next year.

"Goodrich said he would like to begin making payments on and moving into the Elks building as soon as possible so the attorney general's staff can move back into the Capitol.

The committee will have to adjust the proposed capital construction budget to buy the building because all available state funds are appropriated, he said.

The committee does not need a request or authorization from the administrative services department to recommend the appropriation, Goodrich said. He probably will ask the committee to recommend about \$600,000 to begin the project, he said.

The NU administration also has been eyeing the Elks Lodge as a possible site to move its computer operations.

The Appropriations Committee thus far has refused to recommend that the university get the estimated \$2.4 million needed to purchase and renovate the building.

However, Goodrich and NU administrators have mentioned the possibility of the state and university sharing a computer center.

inside
friday

Looking at lizard gizzards: UNL professor gets \$60,000 to study reproductive development of lizards page 6

UNL's answer to the Carter-Ford debates: The Daily Nebraskan and Innocents Society give ASUN presidential candidates a chance to speak out. page 7

Back to gory basics: Even without pea-green soup, *Coma* mesmerizes movie reviewer J. Marc Mushkin page 8

Karen Rosendahl and Tim Creger, alias Sugar Beet and Alfonzo Rho Conehead, vice presidential candidates for the A Real Farce (ARF) party were among the spectators at the Student Alumni Board's Candidate Fireside Thursday afternoon. For more on the fireside, see page 7.



Photo by Mark Billingsley