Student group to support animal research

Students trying to officially register as an organization; to inform public

By Monica Ch'ng
Lantern staff writer

A new student group, Concerned Students for Animal Research, has been formed in an attempt to counter the efforts of animal rights activists.

The group's application to be an official student group at Ohio State is pending a decision by the Office of Student Organizations and Activities.

JOHN GRIFFIN, the acting president for the group, said the purpose of the group is to increase awareness of what the biomedical researchers or students are doing in animal research and to inform the public of their opinion.

"We are not hiding anything from the public," he said. "We are not pulling wool over people's eyes. We are going to show that research benefits the public."

Robin Russell, director for Protect Our Earth's Treasures, said the purpose of the group is self-centered.

"THEY ARE not concerned about people's health," Russell said.

"They are more interested about not having animals to chop up after graduation. If there is no alternative, the researchers must explain their position."

where physicians, doctors and veterinarians will explain the benefits their research will bring to society.

Griffin said there would be no transplant operations if there was no biomedical research. The research has helped to extend lives, he said.

THE IDEA to form the association started in May, Griffin said. Currently, there are about 50 members, mainly students from biomedical and physiology majors.

Jackie Wood, chairperson for the physiology department and adviser of the group, said for a long time, researchers did not understand the threat from the animal rights activities.

To achieve its aim, the organization is planning several activities to communicate with the public. Griffin said an autumn lecture is scheduled to take place.

"The scientists were too busy and not politically active," Wood said. "However, in the past years, they are responding to this threat by forming professional organizations such as National Association for Medical Research. Now, the students are awakening to this threat."

WOOD SAID the animal rights movement likes to give the impression that behind closed doors, the animals are being tortured and cut up.

"This is not right," Wood said. "In most studies, the animals are anesthetized before any part of their tissue is removed. "It is like bringing your pet to the vet and putting it to sleep."
Meeting sparks POET protests

By Megan Markey
Lantern campus reporter

An animal rights organization protested the meeting of the Concerned Students for Animal Research Tuesday night. The topic was the use of animals in surgical experiments.

Robert J. White, professor of neurosurgery at Case Western Reserve University and Director of Neurosurgery at the Brain Laboratory at the Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, was the main speaker at the meeting.

"I come before you tonight to admit the success of animal rights activists in bringing some inertia to animal research. Because of this, there are many dangers that we all need to be aware of," White said.

Several members of Protect Our Earth's Treasures, an animal rights group, protested outside before the meeting.

Jon Potter, president of POET, said the motivating factor of the group's protest is members' concern of the destruction of White's research.

"He is doing animal head transplantations and is keeping monkey heads alive. Someday there could be a human head transplant. It's like something out of a horror film," Potter said.

White said people have to realize that each year 5 billion animals are sacrificed for clothing and restaurant chains, 12 million dogs and cats are put to death in our city and state facilities, and 300,000 dogs and cats are collected per week in the pounds.

"Only a fraction of the 20 million animals used for research are dogs, cats and subhumans," White said.

Dani Morrison, a member of POET, said "The things that Dr. White is doing reminds me of something from a Frankenstein movie. He is transplanting heads of dogs and Rhesus monkeys, which, to me, is benefiting no one."

White said he has not done head transplants on dogs but he was the first to do brain transplants on dogs and monkeys.

"The purpose of the brain transplants is to study immunology, tissue rejection, circulation of the brain and to develop brain-cooling techniques, which furthers our knowledge of multiple sclerosis, strokes and head injuries," White said.

He said heart surgery, heart transplants and kidney transplants were all made possible because of animal research.

At the turn of the century, doctors were told not to operate on hearts. Today it is done throughout the country and people can survive open heart surgery thanks to animal research on dogs, he said.

Animal research helped to completely wipe out polio, diphtheria and smallpox, he said.

"About 10,000 Rhesus monkeys were sacrificed in order to develop the first polio vaccine. I think that is acceptable. There needs to be a distinction between man and animals," White said.

"Animal rights activists tell me that a mouse is equal to a human being. I am being told that I have no right to take the life of a mouse or rat even if it cures humans," White said. "Do you want someone operating on your child's brain with no experience? A surgeon has to get experience from somewhere and this experience can be found through cats and subhuman primates."

He asked if scientists and doctors are going to deny people a cure for AIDS because they have to help animals. "We need to make a judgment," he said.

Potter said animals don't have human rights, but they have the right to be free from pain. They are not willingly being tested on, it is completely being forced upon them.

"I'm not ignorant to science and research or anti-science and research," Potter said. "Some of these procedures are absolutely unnecessary."

The animals feel pain. They aren't laboratory tools. There is just no reverence for these animals, Potter said.

See ANIMALS: page 2
## CORRECTION

In the Oct. 5 *Lantern* article, "Meeting sparks POET protests," it was reported that the topic of a Concerned Students for Animal Research meeting was the use of animals in surgical experiments. The actual topic was the destruction of medical research by the animal rights organizations. It was also implied that the focus of the article was that POET members protested this meeting; this is also incorrect.
Animal research benefits everyone, zoo director says

By Jody Hedrick
Lantern staff writer

Jack Hanna, Director of the Columbus Zoo, addressed the issue of using animals in research at a presentation sponsored by the Concerned Students for Animal Research Thursday afternoon.

"I do not have a problem with using animals in humane research. Many of you sitting out there today are sitting there thanks to animal research, and there are a lot of animals we have here today, thanks to animal research," Hanna said.

Hanna told of how his youngest daughter had leukemia in 1973 and survived because of animal research.

"One of the things that disturbs me a lot is when I see the animal rights people carrying signs, screaming, and yelling anti-this, anti-that. I wonder how many of those people have raised an animal or stayed up 48 hours nursing that animal back to health. When one of those people have done that kind of work then I'll talk to them," Hanna said.

Hanna said he has dedicated his life to animals since he was 12 years old.

Hanna began his presentation by showing some animals from the zoo and telling something about each one. For example, he presented the baby Siberian tiger cub, who will grow to be one of the largest cats in the world. Other animals included a lemur, a parrot, a boa constrictor, and cockroaches.

"The purpose of a zoo is to learn, research and educate about animals in the wild and our natural resources," Hanna said.

Hanna spoke of the controversy over killer whales in captivity which developed after the recent death of a whale at Sea World.

"Sea World has done more research and more good in marine wildlife than anybody I can ever imagine. Yes, they have 8 to 12 killer whales in captivity but what they have done with these killer whales is teach people that they are intelligent and teach appreciation. You can't measure that," Hanna said.

Concerned Students for Animal Research was organized last spring and became an OSU group this past fall, said John D. Griffin, president of CSPA Fr.

"Our goal is to educate the public on what animal research is," Griffin said.

CSPA is made up of 30 to 40 students (most are of graduate level or medical students) and about 200 people are on the mailing list, Griffin said.

"Sometimes what our group is about is misunderstood. We focus on animal research only. Anyone is welcome to join; you do not have to be a medical student," Carl Bates, a medical student and treasurer of CSPA, said.

Hanna ended his presentation by saying, "Animals in captivity are ambassadors to their cousins in the wild."