

Group works to educate public about violations of animal rights

By CRAIG ALLEN
Staff Writer

Alerting the community to the unethical and unnecessary killing or harming of animals is the purpose of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. SETA received student government recognition last May, according to Christopher Smith, a graduate student in the School of Social Work from Pittsburgh. The group questions the assumption that animals have no rights and tries to educate students about the lack of animal rights.

Campus Group Focus

Society infringes upon animal rights in areas including entertainment, experimentation, the clothing industry and even farming, Smith said. The group tries to involve the entire community, not just students, said Marian Workman, a lawyer who graduated last year and helped found the group. The group focuses on UNC and its animal research. The best way to alert students to

the group's purpose is through education, Workman said. After the students know, they can make their own decisions. "Students should at least be aware of what's going on," she said. The group's material is somewhat graphic, but she said the pictures served to "sober people up." If students become aware of the problems in animal rights at the University, they will change their minds about the subject, Workman said. But to make a difference, the group must get people involved. "I honestly think if every student

on the UNC campus took five minutes to look and see what's going on, they would want it to stop," Workman said. "The only way to do it is to get people to cry out and say this is wrong." Some of SETA's educational efforts include meetings and information tables in the Pit. The group holds meetings once a month, usually featuring a film and discussion about animal rights. SETA is also trying to get the cafeterias on campus to serve at

least one vegetarian meal a day. Many students would eat these meals instead of meat now served because of current health concerns about cholesterol, Smith said. Trying to establish a course concerning the philosophical aspects of animal rights in the University's curriculum is another attempt to educate. Smith said one of the group's main objectives is to have the University become more accountable about experimentation. With the availability of computers

to simulate experiments, the use of animals could be reduced or even eliminated, Smith said. "There are a lot of reasons for people not to want to move into alternatives," Smith said. The main reason is economics — many consider the necessary computer equipment to be too expensive to justify the cost, he said. Because SETA meeting times are not fixed, students interested in joining its cause should be alert for its next announcement.

U.S. urged to keep hands off 3rd World

By KAREN DUNN
Staff Writer

The United States should do absolutely nothing to improve human rights in Third World countries, UNC political science professor Jack Donnelly said in a Human Rights Week lecture Wednesday. "Almost all the most important things that can be done for human rights need to be done nationally, not internationally," he said. "At the very best, international action can be a minor supplement to national action in terms of realizing human rights. I'll also argue that international action can screw things up pretty easily." The United States has limited influence, Donnelly said. "I think that it is empirically the case that it is extremely difficult to find any country that widely respects human rights as a result of international action," he said. Countries with good human rights records have them

Human Rights Week

because their citizens forced the government to respect human rights. Citizens take action when their rights are at stake, Donnelly said. Foreign aid from the American government can be used as a bribe for Third World governments not to mistreat its citizens. But a Third World leader who gets his power from the people would be out of a job or in jail for respecting human rights. The governments would use a small portion of foreign aid, if any, to improve human rights, Donnelly said. "Repressive regimes have a strong incentive to maintain the repression. The incentive is that if they don't maintain their repression they're out of a job," he said, "so that even if you have a foreign power that is deeply committed to doing something



Jack Donnelly

about human rights and is willing to use its prestige and even use some

of its money... there is very little that can be done with respect to a seriously repressive regime simply because those in power don't have the incentive to reform." Americans can have more of an impact when the foreign government in control is not extremely repressive or when a new regime takes over, Donnelly said. But even when new regimes take over and make positive changes, corruption can trickle into the system that the government can't remove. The U.S. government should give international legitimacy to opposition movements that otherwise might be dismissed as Communist, he said. The United States should support domestic opposition groups and governments that are doing a decent job. "The best thing the U.S. can do for human rights in the world today and in the next several years is do nothing. Don't muck around in Third World politics anywhere," he said. The U.S. government's record proves that involvement in human rights usually results in a repressive regime, he said. "The world would be a lot better off if the U.S. had just kept its hands off in the last 20 years."

Congress

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to provide an opportunity to hear him, he said. In other business, congress passed a bill to establish a student committee to decide what criteria should be used to determine which students should receive parking permits. The committee would not handle distribution of permits, Student Body President Kevin Martin said. Student government must come up with a viable allocation process before the committee could be formed, Martin said. Any process would have to be approved by the chancellor. The committee would include Student Congress representatives and members of the executive branch of student government, Martin said. Also, he said, any interested students would be welcome on the committee. Allocation of permits is now the responsibility of the Traffic and Parking Advisory Committee. Congress members sent an act that would limit the use of campaign signs until 30 days prior to student elections back to the Rules and Judiciary Committee. Congress favorably passed a measure to create an optional candidates' meeting to be held the first Tuesday in December. Members also voted to table an act that would change voting districts and passed an act to unfreeze the funds of the Carolina Forensics Union.

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