

Meredith Herald

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1990-1991: Celebrating Meredith's Charter Centennial

Biological research testing is going to the dogs

by Kathleen Thomas

The animal rights and welfare movement is growing. What started as a few picketing radicals has turned into a mainstream topic that everyone has an opinion about. Animal rights issues get especially complicated when they involve medical research and education. Many people opposed to cosmetic testing on animals feel that animal testing is necessary for legitimate medical research. Animal use by educational institutes for teaching purposes, a long-time tradition, is being challenged.

According to some, instructors and researchers have taken animal usage for granted in the past. There were no official committees overseeing the experiments and laboratory procedures. Universities and research laboratories must now conform to laws regarding the treatment of research animals. Researchers receiving government grants must justify their animal usage and prove that the experiment has not been done before. Changes in the way animals are used has carried over to the educational system, as well.

Students opposed to vivisection (cutting into live animals) are speaking out all over the country. Some are even taking the matter to court.

Two University of Pennsylvania veterinary students, Gloria Binkowski and Eric Dunayer, refused to perform surgery on live dogs. The instructor insisted that they could not pass the course without performing the surgery. "We didn't want to take healthy animals and do surgery that they didn't need,"

Ms. Binkowski said.

Although the students suggested alternatives, such as terminally ill animals or animal cadavers, they were given incompletes for the course. They filed suit against the university and settled out of court. The students were allowed to operate on terminally ill dogs.

Neal Bernard, Chairman of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, says that computer models, films of operations, and life-like synthetic simulators should be used instead of actual animals. Already in use is a fabric stuffed frog called Ribbit. The stuffed animal is used in some high school biology classes in the place of dissecting a real frog.

Although alternatives can be used in some instances, there are many cases where instructors argue that there is no substitute to using animals.

"In some situations, such as Comparative Anatomy and in some medical research, there simply are no alternatives," states Dr. Larry Grimes, a biology professor here at Meredith.

"I think they [animal rights activists] have done some good, in that people are paying more attention," Dr. Grimes said. He feels that as an instructor, he has a responsibility to demonstrate to his students his respect for animal life. He believes in using the minimum number of animals possible and in treating them properly.

Dr. Grimes also stated that the source of the animals was important. "If the

continued on page 5

Gotta Dance!

Master classes and performance highlight upcoming dance weekend

Meredith College will hold its six annual Fall Dance Gathering for North Carolina dancers, educators, students and choreographers on Saturday and Sunday, November 17 and 18 at the Weatherspoon Gymnasium.

Guest artists and master teacher for the event will be Tim Conboy, a soloist with Can Wagoner and Dancers. An accomplished dancer, Mr. Conboy also has performed with the Lucinda Childs Dance Company and appeared in the Philip Glass/Robert Wilson production, "Einstein on the Beach" and the PBS Great Performances Series, "The Making of Einstein."

Other guest faculty members include Mayska Bigos, body therapy; Jan Van Dyke, modern dance; John Gamble, contact improvisation.

Fees are \$17 for one day (\$12 for NC Dance Alliance members), \$30 for two days (\$22 for NCDA members), \$7 for a single class. Classes are free for Meredith students.

A highlight of the weekend will be the "Dance Works '90" performance on Saturday, November 17 at 8:00 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. The concert includes works by Tim Conboy, Alyson Colwell, Jan Van Dyke, John Gamble, Aldo Melito, and Robin Harris Taylor. Tickets are \$6 (\$4 for students).

For further information, call the dance department at 829-8388.

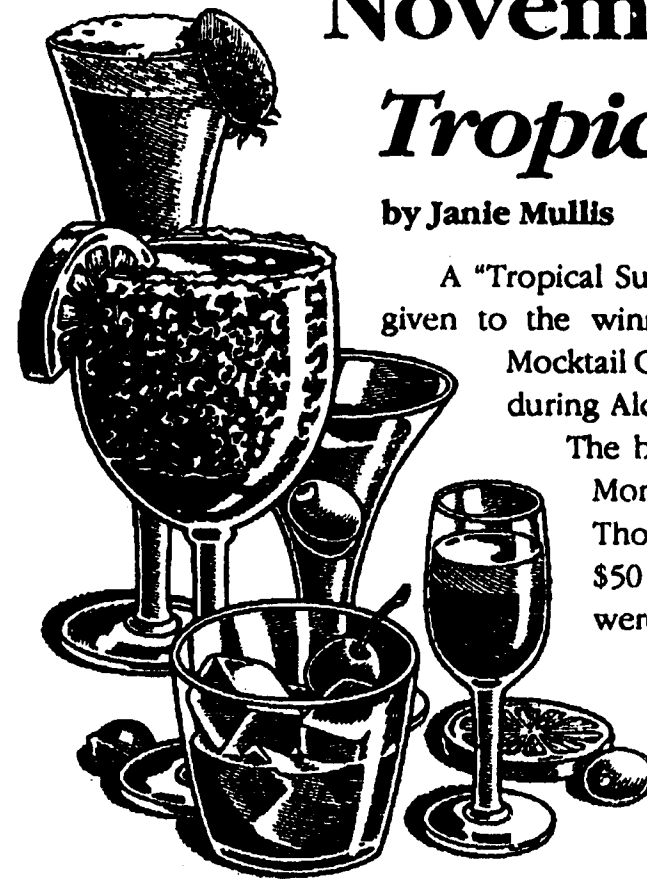
November's Tropical Summer

by Janie Mullis

A "Tropical Summer" in November? This is the title given to the winning non-alcoholic beverage in the Mocktail Competition on Thursday, November 8 during Alcohol Awareness Week.

The beverage was concocted by freshmen Monica Fields, Tricia Sumner, and Heather Thomasson. Their creativity resulted in a \$50 cash prize for the class of 1994. Judges were Cindy Edwards, Director of Student

Activities and Leadership Development; Madalyn Gaito, Programming Director; Susan Schrag of the Health Center and Dean Ailen Burris.



Inside:

3 Kicking the habit: Meredith student tries to beat addiction; Man's opinion of the weaker sex

4 Campus happenings and organization events
5 Student focus: Melissa Bryan; Chorale performs

6 Candidates thank supporters in election-night speeches

7 Election results; student poll
8 Cornhuskin 1990 photos