

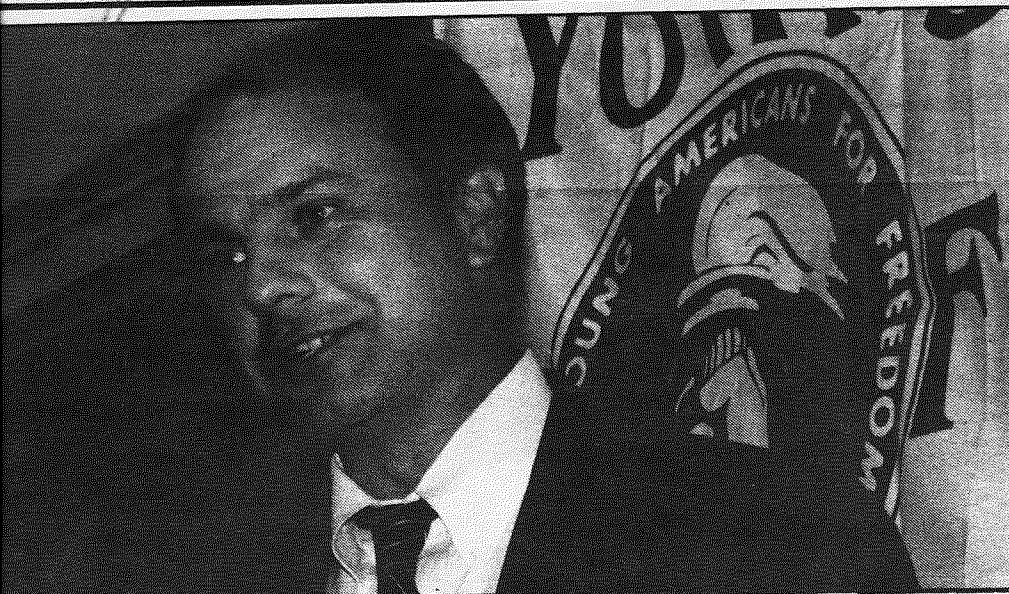
The GW HATCHER

Since 1904

The George Washington University

Washington, D.C.

Thursday



photos by Adam Sidel

NATIONAL LEGAL FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE JOHN SCULLY speaks in support of Clarence Thomas nomination to the Supreme Court. See p.8 for story.

Animal research done ethically avoids controversial experiments, cosmetic testing

by Mike Meagher

Hatcher Reporter

Never been to a fortress, one need only go as far as the entrance of Ross Hall. There one will find the Animal Research Facility secured by large steel gates. To enter, one must follow a sequence on a push-button pad or to an entrance signal sent to the facility's secretary after she authorizes clearances.

Never been broken into, but various laboratories at the nation have suffered more than \$70 million in damages inflicted by radical animal rights groups. Animal research facility director Bernard Zook said such groups attack laboratories that engage in product testing or controversial experiments that include pain and suffering," he said. A statement entitled *The Use of Laboratory Animals* by the George Washington University states, "conducting medical research at (GW) utilize appropriate methods available to study and to understand of human disease."

In the statement, the facility meets or surpasses the Health Service and Animal Welfare Act. The facility, its programs and its animals are regularly by the Institutional Committee, the Department of Agriculture and the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal

to Zook, the Institutional Committee is made up of 12 people who make the decision to grant or deny research proposals at GW. One member of the committee, who is not affiliated with the University, is appointed to ensure that all ethical standards are met, Zook said.

Very cautious in avoiding controversial experiments involving pain and suffering such as head

wounds and surgery without proper anesthesia. If the committee finds that such an experiment is occurring, it is suspended. I myself have halted experiments that I believed to have strayed from the guidelines. Most investigators must also have a Ph.D., M.D. or postdoctoral degree before they can use the facility," Zook said.

He said GW does not conduct commercial product testing, such as the effects of cosmetics or household cleaners on animals. The facility is testing the effects of new drugs, such as AIDS vaccines and medical devices, Zook said.

Last year's approved proposals at GW used 5,331 mice, 3,456 rats, 712 hamsters, 132 dogs, 131 gerbils, 54 rabbits, 38 pigs and 20 guinea pigs, he said, adding GW does not perform experiments on non-human primates like monkeys or apes.

Most of these animals were humanely euthanized at the termination of their experiments, after which an autopsy was usually performed in order to extract tissue and blood samples, Zook said.

Expenses involved in the research are billed to the investigators, he said. According to Zook, expenses include costs for the animal, animal care, technicians' wages, food, medicine and cages.

All animals are ordered through the Animal Research Facility, which only buys from USDA licensed vendors, Zook said. Most investigators are given grants — the majority of which come from different government agencies, he added.

National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine literature says, "Methods to combat infectious diseases have not been the only dividends of animal research. Surgical procedures, pain relievers, psychoactive drugs, medications for blood pressure, insulin, pacemakers, nutrition supplements, organ transplants, treatments for shock trauma and blood diseases — all have been developed and tested in animals before being used in humans."

Student remains stable in ICU