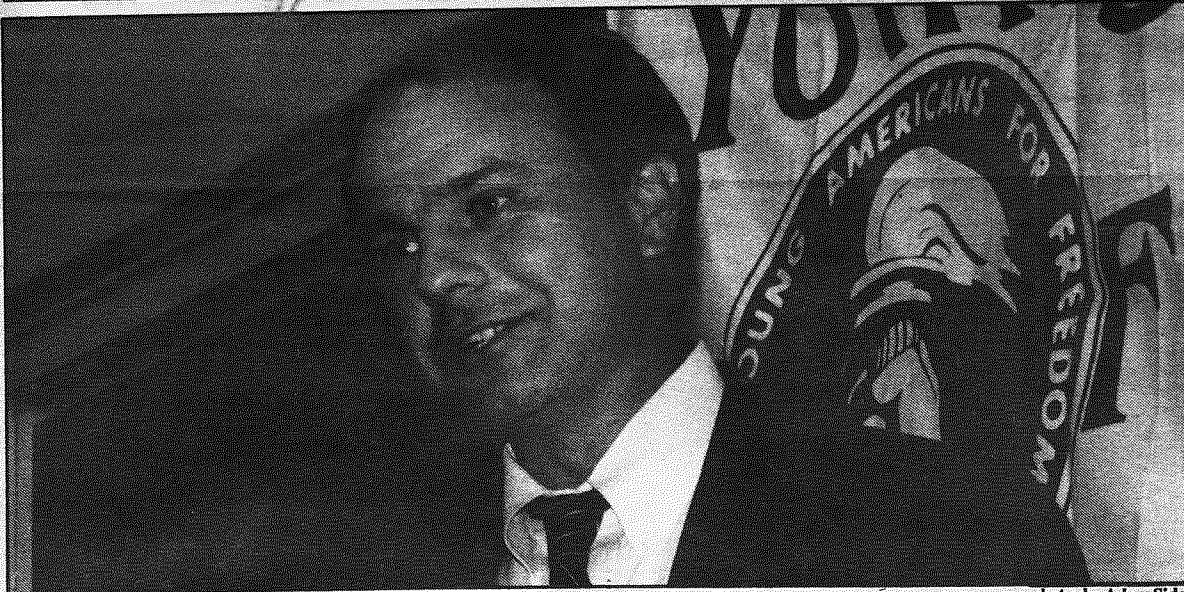




photos by Adam Sidel

WASHINGTON 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

Facility avoids controversial experiments, cosmetic testing

by Mike Meagher
Hatchet Reporter

If one has never been to a fortress, one need only go as far as the basement of Ross Hall. There one will find the GW Animal Research Facility secured by large steel doors that open only to the proper pattern sequence on a numberless push-button pad or to an entrance signal sent by the department's secretary after she authorizes clearance over an intercom.

"We have never been broken into, but various laboratories throughout the nation have suffered more than \$70 million in damages inflicted by radical animal rights groups," animal research facility director Bernard Zook said. "Usually such groups attack laboratories that engage in commercial product testing or controversial experiments that include pain and suffering," he said.

A facility statement entitled *The Use of Laboratory Animals at The George Washington University* states, "Scientists conducting medical research at (GW) utilize the most appropriate methods available to study and to further our understanding of human disease."

According to the statement, the facility meets or surpasses all Public Health Service and Animal Welfare Act requirements. The facility, its programs and its animals are inspected regularly by the Institutional Committee, the United States Department of Agriculture and the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care.

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

"We are very cautious in avoiding controversial experiments, those 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

by Deborah Solomon
News Editor

A male Thurston Hall resident who fell seven stories from his bathroom window remains in GW Hospital's Intensive Care Unit in critical but stable condition.

The student's mother said her son has shown marked improvement but cannot

be moved from the ICU yet. "Merely the fact that he's still here is a step in the right direction," she said.

University Police director Curtis Goode said the incident is being classified as an attempted suicide and an investigation is pending.

When asked if the use of illegal substances was involved, Goode said he

"has no comment."

Dean of Students Linda Donnels said she cannot confirm whether the student had taken drugs, and said the University is letting the Metropolitan Police Department handle the case. "We want to know answers to the events and incidents surrounding the events," she said.