

# Animal research ethics debated

By JIM ADAMS  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

What is more valuable: the life of an animal or the possible medical advances animal research can result in?

Two professors discussed the value of animal research and the ethics of animal rights in a two-hour forum Friday held in Brendle Recital Hall in Scales Fine Arts Center. Dr. Fred Goodwin, the director of the Neuropsychology Division at George Washington University and a 30-year physician, argued in favor of research. Dr. Tom Regan of North Carolina State University, author of multiple books dealing with ethics issues (including animal rights), argued in favor of animal rights.

Goodwin began by stating that the real question is not if animal research is important, but whether it is morally correct.

His philosophical premise was that animal rights activists place animals on the same plane as humans. He argued that responsible human stewardship of animals involves humane care, but that this care is not the same as rights.

As a part of his slide presentation, Goodwin showed a picture of a lion eating a gazelle. "Every animal is

some other animal's dinner," Goodwin said. "They have no respect for each other's rights."

He said that animal rights activists are giving animals rights that don't exist in nature.

Goodwin also stressed how responsibly the animals are used. Ninety percent of all research animals are rodents. One and a half percent are dogs and cats. Only six percent of animal experiments involve non-alleviated pain (in all others, no pain is involved, or pain is alleviated via an anesthetic.)

Medical progress achieved through animal research was another of Goodwin's key points. Specifically, the polio vaccine, antihypertensives, kidney transplants, and heart surgery techniques have all been developed with the help of animal research.

"When I see a manic depressive, I thank those guinea pigs every day," Goodwin said.

Goodwin said he believes primate research is key to determining why cocaine and other drugs are so addictive in humans.

Regan started out his argument by pointing out that the drugs developed on the basis of animal models often have damaging effects on humans.

He said that there is a five to 25 percent correlation between what is

harmful to animals and what is harmful to human beings. He said animal research has contributed very little to human longevity and quality of life.

The ideas that animal rights supporters are fanatics and un-intellectual are invalid stereotypes, Regan said. He acknowledged the existence of animal rights terrorists, but he claimed that there are only about 100 in the entire United States.

Regan said he believes that the mental life of animals differs in degree, not in kind, from human beings. "We have an obligation to treat one another with respect ... we cannot reduce one another to his or her instrumental value," he said.

Since this obligation applies to human compassion, Regan rationalized that our compassion should necessarily extend beyond the boundaries of the human species.

Regan did not deny that there were significant medical advances made possible by animal research, but questioned the morality of using animals in the process.

"However good the end, that would not justify the means ... I'm not anti-science," Regan said.

This debate on animal research versus animal rights was the third of a four-part lecture series on ethics at the university.

# Chambers

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positions solely because of their race," Chambers said.

He said this fear results from the state government's refusal to realign voting districts despite black appeals. He added that if present districts are rejected by the Supreme Court, it is not clear what will happen to North Carolina in the areas of local and state representative districting.

Chambers then moved onto the bigger picture by applying this question to the United States as a whole. He said, "The 'Contract with America' (was) more to restore the disadvantaged to positions they held before the civil

rights movement." He spoke out against the suggestion to cut welfare, saying it would affect many minorities. "But a frightening question — who in America cares?" he asked.

Chambers made several suggestions about what could help the race relations situation. First, Chambers suggested making a commitment to allow all races a chance. Second, he said that declaring prejudiced behavior no longer exists will not help. Affirmative action and desegregation did not come from a vacuum. "We can't escape history, certainly not our history," he said.

Next, he said providing help for disadvantaged people does not make them into charity cases. "Insuring opportunities for all people benefits all Americans," he said. Finally, Chambers said people cannot ignore present day practices that harm the poor. He said, "I happen to believe, contrary to a lot of friends of mine, that most Americans want to see people have an equal chance in life."



Julius Chambers, chancellor of North Carolina Central University, speaks on race relations in modern society at Convocation Thursday.

# Lilly

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The report details 14 recommendations to improve the intellectual climate, many of which would have a direct impact on student life. It recommends that:

■ The university devote more time and funds to address the needs of independent students.

■ Fraternities and sororities "be advised that their continued existence at Wake Forest depends upon their recognition of their responsibilities to the academic community."

Maine said the authors' primary concern about Greek groups is that they take up too much of their members' free time in non-intellectual pursuits. "Social life on campus is dominated by Greek groups to the extent that it may be unhealthy for the institution," said Maine.

■ The administration reconsider the policy of mandated community service as punishment for judicial and honor infractions.

Though "The Lilly Report" could have serious repercussions for Greek life on campus, seniors Emily Graham and Roger Young, the presidents of the Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils, said they were not aware of the report until they heard about it in a SLC meeting.

"I think that there was a reason we weren't made aware ... I don't know what they were trying to do. They just left us in the dark," said Young.

"The Lilly Report" states that the final draft was intended to be released last spring to the entire campus community in order to stimulate campus-wide discussion about the university's intellectual climate.

Thus far, copies have been given to at least seven administration officials, the board of visitors, department chairs and various heads of faculty committees, but there has been no formal effort to make the student body aware of the report or its recommendations.

"Everybody can have access to a copy. I'm not sure about a systematic distribution policy," Radomski said. Both she and Maine said that Mullen, who is at the Worrell House in London for the semester, is responsible for distributing the report. Heidi Curtis, the assistant to the dean of the college, said her office had no instructions on distributing or publicizing the report. She said students could obtain a copy at the office of the dean of the college.

"My feeling is that it hasn't been presented to the student body at all," Peverley said.

Maine said the authors of "The Lilly Report" obtained most of their information from meeting with Student Life officials, talking to students and attending forums on student life, and specifically Greek life, on campus.

Jennifer Fort, a contributing reporter, assisted with this article.

# Grades

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Several students also said that they thought grade inflation is more of a problem at other universities than on this campus. "I think that compared to schools like Duke, our grades are deflated," senior Greg Bayer said.

Other private schools in the state do have higher average grade point averages. Harry Demik, a deputy registrar at Duke University, said that although that statistic is not routinely tabulated for official release, the average GPA for 1995 graduates was

about 3.1. Wake Forest's average GPA for 1994 graduates was 2.96.

Escott allowed that Wake Forest graduates could be at a disadvantage competing for jobs and graduate school places against graduates from schools that inflate grades.

"If we are not as well-known as other universities, that could be a problem," Escott said. He said that as the school becomes more recognized, the reputation of the university may compensate for lower grades.

Both Escott and Byron Wells, the chairman of the romance languages department, said that there is no blanket policy, university-wide or departmental, regarding the distribution of grades.

However, last year Shelley Olson,

a visiting assistant professor for Spanish, said she was not rehired because she gave too many high grades. Olson cited the handbook given to all Intermediate Spanish instructors, which said that grades should cluster around the C to C+ range.

Wells, however, said that this statement was not a policy, although certain patterns have developed from the way grades have been distributed in the past.

Escott and Wells suggested that other solutions, besides harsher grading, exist for decreasing the number of students who graduate with honors. Both agree that increasing the standards for honors and adding pluses or minuses to the grading system should be considered.



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