

Letters

Test animals suffer too

Dear Sir:

Every year in Canada thousands of animals used in research are subjected to pain and distress. At the very least, they suffer mental distress; at worst, they endure agony and slow death.

The common justification for inflicting such suffering on animals is that the experiments will eventually result in "benefits to mankind."

But how on earth can exposing dogs to massive doses of nuclear radiation, an experiment recently announced by Canada's Department of National Defence (DND), ever benefit mankind? Surely, under the circumstances which would exist after a nuclear holocaust, there would be no one left to benefit!

For the most part, the medical and scientific communities in Canada have tightened up considerably in recent years on experiments which subject animals to unnecessary pain and suffering.

Twenty years ago there was very little formal restriction on the use of animals in research. Today, although we have by no means reached a desirable level, most of Canada's universities have animal care committees to review and monitor experiments using animals.

In Ontario, such experimentation must meet the requirements of the Animals for Research Act. The DND, however, has always assumed the right to do whatever it chooses in the interest of "national security." Thus we have the dog irradiation experiments.

Surely this kind of "idiot test" demonstrates the need for an independent National Review Board for Animal Experimentation. It should comprise representatives of the legitimate humane movement (excluding, of course, the lunatic fringe), health organizations, and other bodies

with an interest in the overall problem.

Such an independent review board would be required to review all experiments which propose to involve animals, and would have final say on whether such research would be allowed to proceed.

The DND would be required to submit its proposals to this review board in just the same way as any other research facility or establishment in Canada.

I appreciate the dilemma such a board would face trying to "play God" in this controversial and highly emotional field. It would require a very brave group of people to block experiments which might possibly produce a cure for cancer or some other dreadful disease.

But at least a review board would be able to eliminate stupid, frivolous and unnecessary animal experiments, some of which are funded and conducted in Canada under the existing system.

For example, do we really need to use animals to know that lead, when injected into humans, may effect the libido of the male? And how far can we go in trying to duplicate human disease and injury when we are not at all sure the results can be properly applied back to humans?

I could provide a long list of the sort of experiments I believe would keep a National Review Board for Animal Experimentation very busy. Certainly it would not have any difficulty justifying its existence.

After a few years of operation, I suspect we would all wonder how on earth we got along with the board in the "bad old days."

Yours truly,
—T.I. Hughes,
Executive Vice-President,
Ontario Humane Society.

Wants ramp for Queen's Park

Dear Sir:

I am disappointed that the Honourable Doug Wiseman Minister of Government Services was not able to give me assurance today that a ramp would be constructed at the front entrance of the Parliament Building so that many disabled people can enter the front door of this building.

In raising the question I pointed out to the Minister that many disabled people would be in front of the Parliament Building on July 1 and that it was appropriate in the year dedicated to the disabled that they should be able to enter by the front door and not be forced to have to enter through the rear of the building.

The Minister's response was that while he would possibly look into what could be done by the front entrance, he had been told that in a building similar to this it had been tried and was not feasible.

I cannot believe that with the architectural talents available to the Legislature someone cannot design a ramp that would allow entry for disabled persons into the Legislature and at same time be in harmony with the architecture of this building.

Red Shield official says thanks

Dear Editor:

The 1981 Red Shield Appeal is now history in Midland with a final figure of \$22,000.

No doubt there will be some donations after this date but I now consider the function of the com-

mittees completed.

As campaign chairman, I want to thank you all for the excellent work you did.

The final results did not just happen but are a direct result of your combined efforts.

Once again thank you all.

Sincerely,
—Nancy Keefe (Mrs. W.N.),
Campaign Chairman.

P.S. You did a great job!



Florence Ann Holden

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Eichler of Wyevalle are pleased to announce the graduation of their daughter, Florence Anne Holden, from Osgoode Hall Law School.

Mrs. Holden will commence articles with the Toronto firm of Harris, Keachie, Garrow, Davies and Hunter.



Lorna Wood

has graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute with a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Food, Nutrition, Consumer and Family Studies, majoring in Consumer Studies. She is presently supervising a nutrition program in Toronto. Lorna is a former student from Midland Secondary School and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Wood, RR 1, Wyebridge

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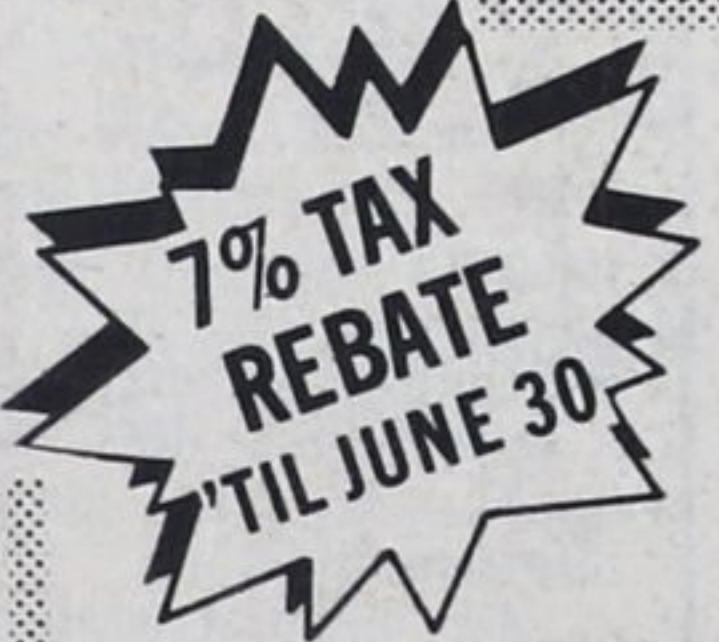
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