(LEMSIP) as a regional primate center. This move would provide LEMSIP with opportunities for consideration for core support and grants equal to those given to the other seven regional primate centers.

Unfortunately, the amendment caught most animal groups by surprise, because of its late introduction and the way in which it was tacked on to a piece of legislation wholly unrelated to animal research. Thus, it was passed by the Senate in late July. However, because there is no similar designation in the House version of the bill, it may not appear in the final version recommended by the House and Senate conferees who will determine the final form of this legislation.

In a last-ditch effort, 12 major animal protection organizations endorsed The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals letter of opposition to House and Senate conferees on S.B. 2444, the Humane Services Reauthorization Act. The letter outlined the following five major objections to the plan offered by Senator D'Amato:

1. *Much of LEMSIP research is commercially-oriented, not subject to peer-review or public scrutiny, and has no mission appropriate to NIH program needs. LEMSIP frequently performs research for foreign corporations, including pharmaceutical companies in Japan, Austria and France, rather than serving as a resource for the American scientific community.*
2. *The cost effectiveness of funding another primate research center is questionable. According to Andrew Rowan in* Of Mice, Models and Men, *"over 70% of the total laboratory animal resources budget is now spent on the primate centers." It is not clear that such a concentration of resources is desirable or valuable. The existing labs see an additional center as a threat to the economic stability and survival of their programs.*
3. *Government - sponsored studies in 1976 and 1979 show that the seven existing primate research centers often have been mismanaged or overmanaged, and research is not uniformly of the highest quality.*
4. *Primate center research results are often questionable and of limited application.*
5. *The vast sums of money needed to fund an eighth primate center would be better spent in developing alternatives to the use of primates in research. The continuing lack of funds and incentives to develop alternatives cannot be justified if new monies are found for yet another center.*

◆

ALLIANCE SEMINAR A BIG HIT

The second annual legislative seminar coordinated by the National Alliance for Animal Legislation (NAAL) was a great success. The increased attendance, close to triple that of the first conference one year earlier, reflects the great gains in political influence that the animal protection movement has realized in the past several years. Over 400 people from 40 states came to the campus of American University in Washington for the three-day gathering on the weekend of June 20-23.

The considerable energy expended by Syndee Brinkman of the NAAL, and others who assisted her, ensured that virtually no animal issue was without its advocates. Lobbyists and representatives from all of the major animal groups led seminars, and there was a wealth of expertise to draw on. Full advantage was taken of the opportunity to gather information, opinions, notes and broadsides.

The activists came to study the ins and outs of lobbying. They examined federal agencies whose policies have impact on animals. They discovered that political considerations completely unrelated to animal welfare may often dictate the quality and frequency of support which their own representatives can give to specific legislation.

Most importantly, they came to pore over the issues, to gather more information about the bills currently before Congress, to memorize their merits and learn how to argue for them in the presence of elected officials and their aides. It came as a surprise to almost all who attended that there are over 30 pieces of legislation before Congress which have direct impact on animals and their well-being.

An element of urgency permeated the atmosphere, owing to the uncertain status of the Silver Spring monkeys, themselves the subject of a Congressional resolution in need of sponsors and constituent support. This issue more than any other dominated conversation at the conference.

In addition to the federally-focused seminars, there were numerous sessions devoted to successful statewide campaigns for animals, led by some of the activists who had conducted them. There is a growing concensus within the movement that state-level legislation is the most effective means to achieve progress for animals in certain instances.

Monday's activities differed in that this was a lobbying day, with all discussions aimed at helping participants to make an impression in their meetings with elected officials and their legislative aides. The timing of this day couldn't have been any better, with the Silver Spring monkey resolution so lacking in support, and a number of other bills still in need of sponsors.

The end result of this ambitious event is a stronger political backbone for the movement, which has yet to achieve its full potential for political influence.

The years 1985 and 1986 have seen unprecedented growth for the animal protection community. The movement must develop greater political sophistication in order to enhance its credibility and to shatter the preconceived notions of many politicians and their aides. We are now entering a phase of development in which elected representatives will not be able to ignore the agenda for animals and their welfare. The Alliance seminar is a manifestation of our coming of age.

Bernard Unti, AA-VS

(Ed. Note: The AA-VS gave both moral and financial support as a sponsor of the NAAL conference.)

GLEANINGS

More on . . . FLORIDA POUND ANIMALS

The May issue of *The AV Magazine* recounted the discontinuance of two projected animal experiments at the University of Florida. You will remember them as dog near-drownings and a cat hanging study on calcium loss. The dogs would have come from the Jacksonville pound in Duval and also from Clay County. Such easy access to pound animals has been stopped. At first it was only tentative, but now one source has been eliminated and the other temporarily stopped.

In Clay County, an official temporarily cut off the University of Florida's last source of pound animals and said he would urge county commissioners to permanently stop sending animals to university laboratories for research. The county official, James Corbin, director of public safety, said the commissioners would be voting on the issue.*

The moratorium was the second such ban in four months and came two weeks after the Jacksonville City Council issued a permanent ban on pound seizure.

(*Ed. Note: Since* The AV Magazine *goes to press prior to the scheduled August 26 hearing and vote, we will continue this report next month.)

■

EDITORIALIZING ANIMAL TORTURE

For years, animal rights activists have been trying to convince the public that unnecessarily sadistic experiments are being conducted by researchers across America.

In sometimes melodramatic ways, these groups have sought media attention in the hope that the glare of publicity would curtail cruelty in research laboratories. But public reaction has tended to be skeptical.

Many people have been reluctant to believe that a group so revered in our popular folklore as scientists could indulge in wanton sadism for the sake of obtaining grant money.

But, as more incidents come to light, the popular vision of the dedicated, selfless scientist is being eroded.

A memorable example was the scandal about a year ago involving a program to machine gun dogs and other animals merely to examine the kinds of wounds they would receive.

Now, there is the cold-blooded announcement that a University of Florida committee has unanimously approved a researcher's plan to "place water in the lungs and stomachs" of hapless dogs purchased from an animal control pound.

The justification is that experiments on the dogs would show whether the Heimlich Maneuver should be used on human drowning victims.

We grieve for the dogs to be subjected to this brutal torture. And we are equally sorry for the people who condone such experiments. How dehumanized they must have become, how devoid of compassion.

In this age of sophisticated electronic technology, there must be some way in which a computer model could be devised to make such brutality unnecessary.

But, even if that assumption proves unfounded, we submit that the knowledge to be gained from the experiments does not justify the sadistic methods that would be employed.

Research is vital in the continuing search for information to benefit mankind, but this does not give mankind the right to inflict torture on other species.

(Ed. Note: We think it appropriate to share with our readers the above "Editorial of the Sun" as it was published in the February 14 edition of the* Clearwater Sun. *It is another example of increased public-press awareness of experimental sadism inflicted upon animals.* The AV Magazine *reported on the proposed and approved experiments involving dog near-drownings and cat hangings at the University of Florida, which were abandoned before they started because of public outrage.)

■

RATS PROVIDE MODEL FOR BHOPAL POISONING

Readers will recall the Bhopal disaster when a cloud of Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) enveloped the Indian town in December 1984.

Astonishingly, the tragedy has provided the basis for more animal research. Two groups of researchers have used rats to try to study the toxic effects of MIC on people. Though we might argue that toxic effects on people were all too clear, scientific curiosity is obviously fascinated by the fact that no one knew much about MIC's mechanism of toxicity.

At the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, research by E. G. Salmon, N. Anderson and M. Kerr-Muir, respectively, has shown that MIC acts at three sites in rats: the central nervous system, the eye and the lungs. Toxicity tests have shown that when the dose reaches a certain level there are disturbances in the central nervous system, the corneal epithelium becomes worn away at the surface, and death results from damage to the lungs. No doubt the scientific imagination is proud of the fact that these findings in rats are similar to the effect found by the authors on the people of Bhopal.

(Outrage)

■

(more GLEANINGS on next page)