

RESEARCH on hold while U of A upgrades animal lab



EDMONTON (CUP) — Diabetes and cardiovascular research has been on hold for nine months while the University of Alberta awaits financial aid to repair its lab animal holding area.

The holding area was closed down last July by the Canadian Council on Animal Care because it no longer met required standards, said David Neil, director of animal care services for Health Sciences.

The CCAC is a national organization which sends a panel of experts to assess animal care in research environments.

"We have been trying for nine months to resolve the problem," said Brian Dunford, chair of animal policy and welfare. "The university has no money, and we couldn't get money from the Alberta Heritage Foundation."

The required renovations to the holding area will run around \$300,000, according to Dunford.

The holding facilities fell into disrepair through constant use over the last twenty years. An estimated 800 animals, mainly dogs and pigs, are used each year for experiments, said Neil.

"The animals are well cared for but the facilities

are not easily sanitized. We had the situation where it got increasingly more difficult to control wound infections," he said.

Lack of adequate sized dog cages and a poor air cleansing system contributed to difficulties with cleanliness.

Most of the animals used for long term experiments

have been moved to other university facilities.

Alberta SPCA president Joy Ripley felt the animals are not suffering undue hardship.

"I am very confident that everything that can be done is being done to protect animals at the University of Alberta," said Ripley. "The people there are very conscientious."

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tion and celebration of each other's accomplishments.

In closing, I'd like to leave you with the refrain from a song I learned this past week; the song itself is silly and giddy and inspiring all at once. I hope that each of us will take some of its

spirit with us wherever we go. Every best wish.

"We're shameless hussies and we don't give a damn,

We're loud, we're raucous, and

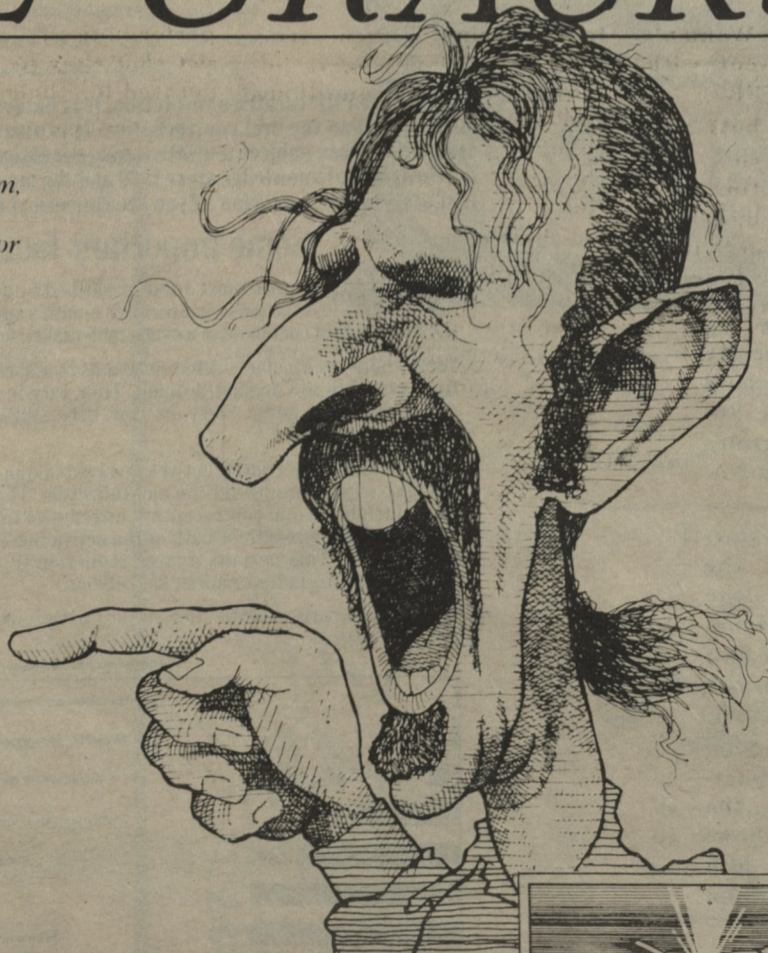
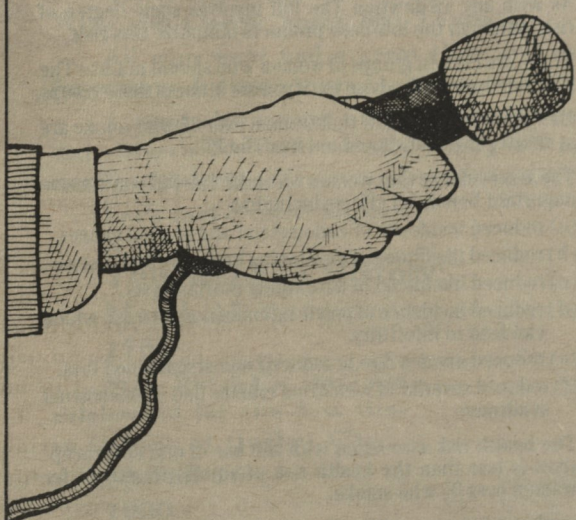
we're fighting for our rights

- and our sex

- and our need to be free.

CHOICE · CRACKS

On being asked for his opinion of rock journalism, Frank Zappa replied that it was people who can't write, interviewing people who can't talk, for people who can't read.



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