THE DAILY CLIPS

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Our Views

Animals out
Med school adopts more humane approach

Since its founding in the 1970s, East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine has served as a leader in regional health care and in the education of medical professionals so needed in North Carolina. Unfortunately, the school’s policy lagged behind in one key area, as Brody used live animals in the course of instruction.

Recently, the school elected to end that ignoble distinction, announcing it would cease using animals after July 1. That decision, reflecting a more ethical, moral approach to medical education, is overdue but welcome nonetheless.

Indian leader Mohandas Gandhi famously said, “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way in which its animals are treated.” In doing so, he espoused a humane philosophy for the protection and care of all species, a goal certainly worthy of pursuit and one relentlessly sought by animal activists.

Medical testing, to those activists, represents cruel and inhumane behavior, and they contend that animals are needlessly harmed and killed as a result. The British Royal Society and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences disagree, arguing that medical advancement in the past century are owed to testing on animals, a practice that cannot be replicated through computer modeling.

America’s medical schools have become a key battleground between these two camps, though trends have moved decidedly against live animal testing. The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, a nonprofit interest group seeking to promote humane practices within the medical community, claims that more than 90 percent of medical schools have now abandoned animal testing in favor of more ethical and moral alternatives.

The Brody School of Medicine, the last North Carolina school using live animals, recently capitulated to a two-year campaign by PCRM and will, in July, cease using live animals for student training. The school will employ simulators at that time, embracing the practices employed by all but eight other medical schools in the United States.

Some may contend that abandoning the use of live animals for medical education may impact the progress of innovation and instruction in that field. However, the advancement of alternative humane methods of medical study, which medical school leaders have endorsed, more than justifies the transition.

The East Carolina community should be proud of the change this decision reflects. The distinguished work of the medical school will continue unabated, now with a more compassionate and moral philosophy.
Public Forum

More support for Pirates baseball

As witnessed by the attendance at East Carolina University baseball games, there is great support for the sport. Monday's sports sections should include Conference USA standings and the results of the past weekend series.

While learning the Winnipeg Bluebombers of the Canadian Football League signed quarterback Kevin Glenn to a contract extension is important to somebody, maybe, the suspense of keeping up with a close league race could create even more excitement and more fans. Go Pirates.

TONY JOYNER
Greenville
Son disfigures Rameses, usurps UNC mascot throne

"Let us sit upon the ground and tell sad stories of the death of kings."
William Shakespeare, "Richard II," III.ii.155-6

BY JOSH SHAFFER
STAFF WRITER

The reign of Rameses XVII ended with the terrible flourish of Greek tragedy — an "Oedipus Rex" set in the world of football and sheep.

After five seasons as the UNC Chapel Hill mascot, the curly-horned monarch was knocked from the throne by a head-butt from his own son Pablo, who hit the elder ram so fiercely that his horn snapped off.

His crown broken, Rameses will no more hear the roar of 60,000 fans, or see the Chapel Hill sky explode with fireworks.

Instead, he will spend his final years in exile, grazing with a single horn. He will watch, indignant, as his usurping son rides to Kenan Stadium in his place, newly dubbed Rameses XVIII.

"I didn't think he was going to live," said Rob Hogan, Rameses' keeper on a farm outside Carrboro. "He went off food and water for a week."

The Rameses line dates to 1924, when UNC's head cheer-

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"I guess they were just tusslin'."

ROB HOGAN,
RAMESES' KEEPER
ON A FARM OUTSIDE CARRBORO

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leader decided the Tar Heels needed a rival to N.C. State's wolf and Georgia's bulldog.

Hogan's family has raised them all save one that was donated in 1996, a replacement for a Rameses that was butchered alive by a 26-year-old man who later claimed to have been hungry and very drunk.

Sibling rivalry is common among royalty, but not so with sheep. Rams and their sons will usually share a pasture in peace, butting heads only in jest or out of just for a passing ewe.

"I guess they were just tusslin'," Hogan said.

Each ram weighs about 200 pounds, but Pablo is 3 and Rameses is 8. Sheep life tends to flare out at age 10, and the crown must have seemed dazzling and attainable to the ambitious son.

How heavy it lies.

Now Pablo must train to be led on a halter, to ride in a pickup, to endure the pep rallies and sideline noise without breaking a regal pose.

"It's not that big a deal," said Hogan, "but it's not that simple either."

Now Pablo inherits the lot of a king who rises by violence, pursued by the ghosts of his wooly fathers, haunted by the approaching hoofbeats of his own successor.

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ORANGE COUNTY

Plane damaged during landing

CHAPEL HILL - A small plane sustained slight damage Tuesday when part of its landing gear collapsed as the plane was landing at UNC-Chapel Hill's Horace Williams Airport, public safety officials said. University spokesman Randy Young said that no one was injured and that he thinks the plane had been carrying a family of four.

Chapel Hill Fire Chief Dan Jones called the incident minor and said there was no fire or fuel spill. Jones said the plane slid off the runway into the grass when the gear collapsed about 2:40 p.m.
Interim president named at Louisburg

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Dr. Rodney Foth has been named interim president of Louisburg College, as the school continues to deal with financial issues and search for a permanent leader.

Foth joined the college in 2001 as executive vice president and vice president for academic life. He replaces J. Michael Clyburn, who recently resigned as president of the college.

"His seven-year tenure at the College provides us with much-needed continuity and stability as we deal with SACS financial oversight issues and the management of day-to-day operations at the end of this school year," said Dr. John Cameron, chairman of the Louisburg College board of trustees.

Foth came to Louisburg from Iowa, where he served as the associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Dubuque since 1997.

He received his undergraduate degree at Anderson University in Indiana, and his master's and doctoral degrees at Ball State University.

Cameron said the Louisburg board will move swiftly to establish another presidential search committee that will begin work immediately.