

## UNDERGROUND EXCLUSIVE

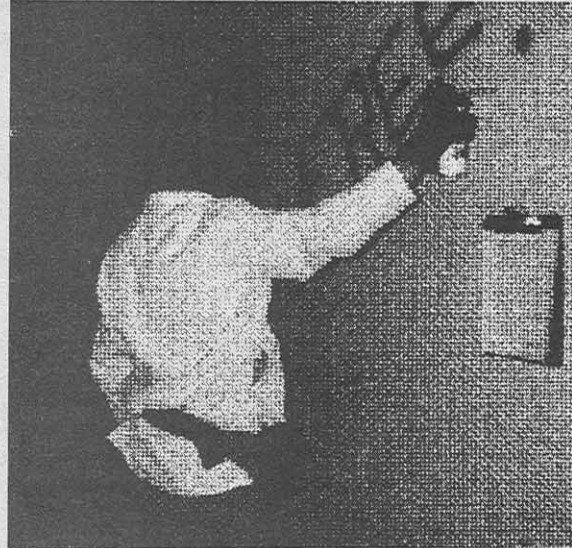
**RAIDING ARIZONA**

How The A.L.F. Carried out the University of Arizona Raid

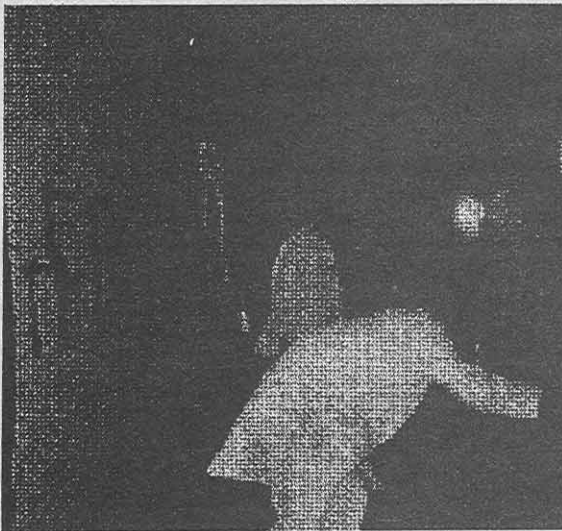
by the A.L.F.

In the summer of 1988 we were alerted to animal experimentation conducted at the University of Arizona in Tucson. We were told that pound-seized dogs from the Sierra Vista Animal Shelter and greyhounds from local racetracks were only a few of the thousands of animals used in vivisection on campus. Other animals including rabbits, rats, guinea pigs, frogs and primates were used in primarily cancer and diet research with the majority of the experiments being a variety of grant-funded disease research and basic repetitive vivisection such as skin irritancy experiments to teach the medical students and, of course, the notorious LD-50 testing.

Whereas many Animal Liberation Front (A.L.F.) targets are chosen to target specific experiments of the work of a controversial vivisector, the UofA was chosen simply because it was one of the nation's top ten animal research



**The raid in progress.  
Activists leave their mark.**



campuses funded by both the federal government and the pharmaceutical industry. Annually, thousands of animals were ground up in the institutional mechanism of animal research that generates millions of dollars for universities in this country and billions for the pharmaceutical corporations that use educational institutions to develop the drugs that will make them filthy rich. All at the expense of innocent animal life while animal-based diets, environmental contamination, substance abuse and the true causes of most deadly illness and disease remain unaddressed by the very same people who profit from vivisection with one hand while the other encourages the lifestyle that creates the illness and disease.

We began our reconnaissance by disguising our members as college students who would walk the halls of university buildings searching out the vivariums where the laboratory animals were housed between and during experiments. Campus maps detailed the biological and psychological sciences buildings where we knew we would find animal research, the rest of our search was focused on the research wing of the nearby university hospital renowned as one of the best in the world. Once it was determined where vivisection was conducted, the next goal was simply using our noses to lead us to the animal rooms themselves which are usually kept either at the basement level or at rooftop. The scent of pine shavings and urine emitting from underneath doors and through extractor fans and vents lead us to our target.

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Once it was established which buildings we would target, we began nighttime surveillance of the outside areas surrounding the labs. This meant spending countless hours hunched low in cars parked in filled parking lots where all comings and goings by staff, students and security patrols were recorded in our notebooks. After the first few weeks an obvious routine began to become apparent. Before long we could correlate the late night visits by students with lights that were turned on and off that were visible from the parking lot. Custodial activity was very predictable as these employees followed a meticulous routine. Security patrols were equally predictable and we learned the times of shift changes for the nearby university police by surveying their campus station. Of course, there were completely unpredictable events, which are always a factor, but the majority of activity was the day in day out mundane habits of a university during a school year. We chose the school year as our time for action, as it was expected that there would be late night activity on campus and in the targeted buildings and "students" coming and going would not draw unwanted attention.

Next, we obtained the frequencies of university police and began to monitor their transmissions with police scanners to gather intelligence on the periods of greatest police activity and their appropriate responses. This way we were able to learn response times and familiarize ourselves to common police communications and codes. The equipment and frequencies are commonly available from Radio Shack-type electronic stores.

Now it was time for us to begin physical infiltration. Our first actions were simple walks around the target buildings, visibly inspecting doors and windows for possible entry. During daylight hours the target buildings exterior doors remained unlocked which allowed us the opportunity to inspect locks on doors and windows. This gave us an idea of what kind of tools we would need to gain late night entry. Our next objective was to search the trashbins and wastepaper receptacles outside of the targeted buildings where we discovered a wealth of information on what type of animals were housed in the buildings and the names of researchers and their individual experiments. This allowed us to reference the Index Medicus at the campus library for more information on particular published works by the targeted vivisectors. What was more important to us was when we struck a goldmine by finding in the trash physical descriptions of the buildings construction. This saved us having to draw up our own maps for the different units of A.L.F. members that would be called in for the raid.

The night finally came when we began to enter the targeted buildings at night surveying firsthand the interior traffic and conditions we would encounter on the night of our action. By this time we felt fairly confident that the targeted vivariums and labs would be empty due to our exterior surveillance and our interior observations confirmed this. Our only problems would be encountered should we run into anyone in halls, stairways or elevators the night of the action. We would only be able to liberate rabbits, rats, mice, guinea pigs and frogs from the biological sciences, psychology and microbiology buildings while inflicting economic damage to equipment and the buildings themselves at the microbiology labs and the off-campus headquarters of the animal sciences department which was located in a house in a residential area.

We did everything but enter the targeted rooms during our reconnaissance mission and recorded the times it took to enter and leave the buildings. Once we knew how long it would take to carry out the action, we then took on the task of choosing a window of opportunity that would correlate with our outside recon. We needed not only enough time to enter, break-in to the individual rooms, load the animals and transport them to the ground floor, but also a safe time to literally drive a vehicle to the door to load the animals without any witnesses whatsoever. Here lay our greatest risk. No amount of preparation could help us deal with having to explain to anyone why we were taking animals out of the buildings late at night on a weekend.

Finally, the word went out to the individual specialists that would be required for an action we knew would be North America's largest laboratory animal liberation ever. All unit members would have to fit into the visible role of students should they encounter another person, as well as have the skills to carry out the raid. Homes had to be arranged for the rescued victims of vivisection and a safehouse established where a sympathetic veterinarian could inspect the animals before they could go on to safe homes to live out their natural lives. We also had to prepare for the unfortunate circumstance should any animals be deemed too far gone to survive whereby they would be humanely euthanized. No healthy animals or any with a fighting chance would be killed. Vehicles for transportation of both the animals and A.L.F. members had to be tuned up and inspected for no signs of mechanical or legal failure and cages constructed for transportation. Most of the animals would be transported in the cages they were already in. Tools were purchased far away that would be needed for the break-in and our technological division had to develop and build incendiary devices that would allow

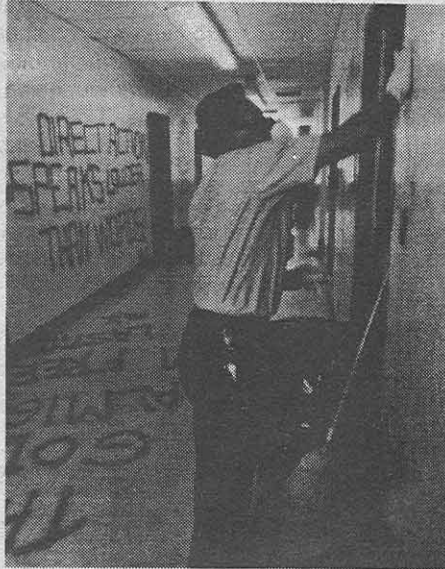
enough time to escape, while at the same time ignite at a synchronized time. Disguises were constructed for each individual member including wigs, false beards and eye-wear and clothing that would be expected of college students.

Shoes to be worn during the action would either be too small or large, depending on the wearer so that any footprints would not match the feet of A.L.F. members. All tools, clothing and equipment for the raid were kept in plastic bags where it could not collect fingerprints or even the minutest fragment of forensic evidence such as hair or lint. This precaution was taken in the case that any item should be inadvertently left behind during the operation.

A day was chosen for the action that would fit the safest window of inactivity for the four targeted buildings. April 4th, which also happened to be the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination. All unit members were assembled and some told for the first time what their target was. The next 48 hours were spent meticulously going over each individual unit member's role and conducting final surveillance on the campus. Meanwhile, the "handlers" that is the people charged with caring for and transporting the rescued animals once they were safely out of the labs prepared boxes, cages, water bottles and feed in the transport vehicles. Now all that remained to be done was perhaps the hardest part of any A.L.F. action. The waiting.

On the day of April 3rd, while the majority of the A.L.F.'s active service unit tested and recharged radios and the incendiary devices to be used in the Microbiology laboratories and the animal sciences department offices, another team was on campus where they walked out a "dry run" of the action insuring that all doors and windows were just as they were supposed to be. This team also was charged with the

responsibility of estimating just how many animals could be safely liberated in the time allotted for the action. The break-in unit would be given a cut-off time after which they would have to be out of the building to ensure that their entry and exit would not coincide with one of the regular police patrols or cut into the time needed to allow the demolition unit entry and exit to plant the incendiary devices.



### University of Arizona the aftermath



As the dusk turned to darkness, over eight A.L.F. members began to load their daypacks with tools, radios, spraypaint and ski-masks which would be worn once inside the buildings. Lastly, the whole operation was reviewed with each team repeating its role and objective and the time they would take to carry it out. If all went well, not only would hundreds of lab animals be rescued, but also two animal research facilities

would be set ablaze thereby destroying the equipment used to torture animals and countless records for research experiments that were kept in the off-campus offices of the animal sciences department.

At approximately 2100hrs. a man and woman holding hands passed two male students walking towards the biological sciences building. Neither couple were students and while the two men headed in one direction the man and woman approached the bottom floor doors of

the Microbiology Building. Not far away in a campus parking lot, a surveillance member watched carefully the surrounding area should the need arise to radio either team to alert them to the occurrence of anything out of the ordinary. The man and woman reached the door and quickly gained entry with the aid of a few small hand tools which left no telltale

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## UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA RAID CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 12)*

sign of a forced entry. Next they climbed the stairwell to the top floor where they first pulled on their ski masks before swinging open the doors that lead to the vivarium where it was known over 100 mice were being used in cryptosporidium experiments. While one member stood watch, the other carefully transferred the mice into small boxes which were then placed in two separate long duffel bags. With this completed, the two A.L.F. members each picked up a bag and exited separately out of different doors minutes apart. Before they left the Microbiology Building there had been no radio transmissions which translated into everything appearing normal to the surveillance unit. The two team members walked towards a van where waiting inside for both of them was a driver and handler to receive and transfer the mice to larger cages for their journey to freedom. The two A.L.F. members then returned to their own vehicle and drove away; their role completed with total success.

At about the same time as the Microbiology Building was being entered, the A.L.F. team that had passed the other A.L.F. members reached the basement loading dock of the Psychology Building. Here they were somewhat hidden, as only a pedestrian walkway passed the adjacent doorway where the unit members would gain entry through an extractor fan that led to the vivarium of the Psychology Building where hundreds of rats used in experiments were housed. While one member stood watch, the other began cutting through the sheetmetal ventilation cover with tin snips. Next came the removal of the fan itself which took all of the twenty minutes allowed for this stage of the action. With precious minutes ticking away (which would translate into more lives saved, should any time be saved) the break-in team member entered the vivarium while the watchperson replaced the slightly bent and cut vent cover which would only appear tampered with at close inspection.

Next the A.L.F. member on the inside opened the adjacent door allowing in the other team member. Quickly the two began to remove individual rat cages from their tall racks and place them on rolling tables which could then be rolled to the loading area. Once 150 rats were ready for transport, the two-person team called in the transport vehicle which was awaiting their call with anticipation. In the time it took for the vehicle to arrive, one of the A.L.F. members began to smash the small electroshock boxes that were used in the psychology experiments and spraypainting demands that all vivisection be ceased. With the transport vehicle now at the loading area and the driver serving as a lookout, the two A.L.F. members began wheeling out the carts full of rat cages. Unfortunately, there was limited space in the vehicle allowing only a certain amount of rats all of which were standing on their hind legs sniffing at the cool night air as they were taken away from the sterile smells of the vivarium. Looking back at the hundreds of rats that would be left behind to a certain painful death, both team members rushed back in to grab one cage each which they carried on their laps as the transport vehicle ferried the animals to freedom.

Phase two of the operation was now complete with no unexpected developments. With radio-communicated word that both the mice and rats were safely off campus and both strike teams equally safe and secure, now came the most dangerous and largest stage of the five-pronged attack. Between timed police patrols a vehicle drove up to the five-story Biological Sciences Building and dropped off one unit member who was to gain entry through a bottom-floor door. Once that was accomplished, two separate teams entered the building bringing the number of A.L.F. members in the building to five. Meeting in a stairwell, the unit members donned ski-masks and white labcoats and, pulling a five pound sledgehammer from one of their packs, charged to the fifth floor where hundreds of animals awaited their freedom.

Days later police and media would still be talking about the brazen attitude of the "A.L.F. Commandos" who, not only carried out the lightning strike raid, but also videotaped their crime. In the video, A.L.F. members, many of whom were obviously women, are seen smashing through vivarium doors and rushing in to spirit the animals away. When the team reached the fifth floor, one member approached each locked animal room and with the sledgehammer smashed a hole through the reinforced glass and then reached in unlocking the door from the inside. Immediately after, each room was entered where first a small colony of guinea pigs were transferred to smaller cages.

Many of the animals were without food and water and sank to the back of their cages, many with shaved fur awaiting exposure to toxic substances which would inflame their skin. The A.L.F. had arrived in time to prevent such cruelty. Slowly, rolling carts were filled with guinea pigs, then more rats, hundreds of mice and

finally six African frogs used for breeding, their offspring sacrificed for dissection. A separate cart was filled with over a dozen rabbits in cloth sacks. Now the elevator was brought to the floor by an A.L.F. member who was in it. The carts full of animals were carefully rolled into the elevator with two unit members while another two spaypainted our greetings to the animals' executioners.

Now travelling downward in the elevator, the A.L.F. team held their breath, hoping no one else in the building would call the elevator. If they did, the doors would open to reveal not only two masked members but hundreds of mice, rats, frogs, guinea pigs and rabbits. When the elevator full of animals left the fifth floor, a radio call was made to the pick-up vehicle which was to receive the over 900 animals. At the ground floor the two A.L.F. members wheeled the animals to double doors where the transport vehicle was reversed directly to the building. Any student or police officer who saw this would immediately become suspicious, but here the weeks of nighttime surveillance paid off. The unit knew that as long as it stayed within the window of opportunity they would evade the regular police cruiser patrols.

Backing up to the Biological Sciences Building, a handler swung open the rear doors of the vehicle and was met immediately with the break-in team who quickly began to load the many cages. Within minutes the animals were safely loaded and the vehicle drove away at a normal pace. The break-in team rendezvoused with the other unit members in the stairwell where clothes and tools were neatly packed back into their daypacks and the team split up to leave the campus on foot. The surveillance watchperson would later report that not three minutes after the vehicle full of animals departed from the doorway, a student would exit from the very same doors.

When the A.L.F. watchperson received word that all animals and unit members were safely out of the buildings, a radio call was made and with a one word prearranged message called in the demolitions unit.

Minutes later a solitary "student" entered the Microbiology Building carrying in their daypack an incendiary device. Climbing the stairs to the rooftop laboratory where the cryptosporidium mice had earlier been liberated from, the demolition member pulled on their ski-mask and set the device in the center of the laboratory. Carefully setting the timer for 0400 hrs., the A.L.F. member then built a pyramid of dissection boards and desk drawers around the device to fuel the fire once it ignited. As the member left the building, they took one last look at the torture chamber where literally thousands of animals had lost their lives, their eyes being the last to ever see it standing.

Exiting the building the demolition member met with their driver who next drove them to the quiet residential neighborhood where the Animal Sciences Department headquarters was located. Previous reconnaissance had revealed a weakly constructed basement vent which entered into a crawlspace beneath the house filled with computers and file records which contained vital information and data necessary to every animal experiment on the UofA campus. The same unit member now walked casually to the basement and crawled beneath the building and set the second incendiary device also for 0400 hrs. Completing this, they returned to the vehicle and departed towards the interstate, their mission completed.

At approximately 0438hrs university district residents were awakened to the sounds of multiple sirens responding to a blaze on the rooftop of the Microbiology Building. Before the fire could be brought under control it had destroyed not only the complete animal research laboratory, but water doused on the flames had caused hundreds of thousands of dollars damage to the labs beneath the targeted lab.

No sooner had the fire at the Microbiology Building been brought under control when the Tucson Fire Department received the call the Animal Sciences headquarters was also ablaze. Though damage caused by the fire at the residential offices was first thought to be minimal, later news reports would detail that the heat had caused irreparable damage to the complete computer systems and since the fire caused serious structural damage to the very foundations of the building, it would later have to be demolished.

Meanwhile, in the network of safe homes established as the A.L.F.'s Underground Railroad, the 1,231 rescued lab animals were beginning a new life -- one that would quickly erase the nightmarish memories of the laboratories of the University of Arizona. Though federal investigators and local police pursued over 150 leads in the A.L.F.'S raid at the UofA, investigators would later report in law enforcement journals of the virtual lack of evidence that might lead to any arrests. Michael Cusonovich, head of research for the UofA later conceded that

