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The Maine Campus, "Buddhist ruling due Thursday" (1978). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 388.

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Maine Campus

Vol. 84, No. 15, Tuesday, October 31, 1978

Buddhist ruling due Thursday

UMO President Howard R. Neville said Monday that a decision will be announced Thursday on whether a 23-year-old animal technology major can keep her laboratory animals alive.

Michele Earltinez, a Zen Buddhist, said a required course, laboratory animal care, which exterminates the animals at the end of the semester, violates her religious and moral principals.

"They're infringing upon my moral and religious beliefs. You don't need to sacrifice those animals," she said.

A meeting Friday between Neville, Earltinez and Student Legal Service representatives involved a discussion of the situation.

Neville would not comment Monday on the meeting. Jud Esty-Kendall, an SLS staff lawyer and Earltinez's representative, described the meeting as "fairly amiable."

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● Buddhist

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"It was a nice discussion. I can't tell which way he's going to decide. He should be quite aware of Michele's position, let's put it that way," Esty-Kendall said.

"He (Neville) told us, 'No decision waits for a week on my desk,' he said, referring to the Thursday announcement.

Earltinez's request to keep her laboratory animals alive had been previously denied by John H. Wolford, chairman of animal and veterinary sciences, and James M. Clark, vice president of Student Affairs.

Earltinez said she has been researching her case for a year.

The course involves clipping ears and drawing blood of rabbits, rats and other small animals.