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10-27-1978

## Neville begins review of Buddhist's complaint

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*University of Maine*

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### Repository Citation

Donnelly, John, "Neville begins review of Buddhist's complaint" (1978). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 391.

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# Neville begins review of Buddhist's complaint

by John Donnelly

The case of a UMO student who refuses to take a required course because it violates her religious and moral principals was scheduled this morning by President Howard R. Neville.

Details and the outcome of the meeting were not available by press time.

Michele Earltinez, a 23-year-old Zen Buddhist and a two-year animal medical technology major, said the course, laboratory animal care, "needlessly sacrifices" animals after they're used for experiments.

The lab, which involves drawing blood and clipping ears of rats, rabbits and other small animals, is required for animal medical technology majors.

Neville said Thursday that the meeting would take place between Earltinez and her legal representatives, Student Legal Services, and himself.

Earltinez said she would file suit against the University if she wasn't allowed to keep

her laboratory animals alive after the course.

Jud Esty-Kendall, Earltinez's lawyer, said Thursday that the appeal to the president is the last one possible within the University.

Esty-Kendall said he had "no idea" what would transpire from the meeting.

Neville echoed Esty-Kendall's statement. "I couldn't tell you on the record or off the record," he said. "I have no idea what will happen."

"I feel it should be settled right on campus. I think it would be ridiculous if it wasn't," Esty-Kendall said.

Earltinez had offered several proposals to keep her laboratory animals alive after they are used for experiments to John H. Wolford, chairman of Animal and Veterinary Sciences.

She said she would either take care of her animals after the course, pay for the animals or provide her own animals.

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## ● Buddhist

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Earltinez further said that in any case she would have the animals checked by a veterinarian.

The University, in a March 9 letter to Earltinez, listed two reasons for denying her request: precedent would be set if she was given preferential treatment, and it would violate HEW guidelines.

An HEW animal welfare officer, Dr. Roy Kinard, disputed the University claim that Earltinez's proposals would violate federal guidelines.

Kinard said in September, "I wrote back (to the University), saying it's hogwash and doesn't violate our regulations. They shouldn't come out saying something like that."

Earltinez, who researched her case a year ago last October, said earlier, "They're infringing upon my moral and religious beliefs. I believe that human and non-human lives are equally valuable. You don't need to sacrifice those animals."