From Spira to SHAC: Comparing Animal Rights Activism in 1976 to 2006

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My project compares animal rights activist campaigns, targeting animal researchers, in 1976 and 2006. I examined Henry Spira’s campaign against the American Museum of Natural History in 1976 and the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) campaign which targets Huntingdon Life Sciences. By analyzing the two campaigns, I hoped to discover that the Internet is accountable for the differences between the two. Instead, I concluded that the lack of leadership in the SHAC campaign, as well as SHAC’s use of violence, has prevented it from reaching the same level of success as Henry Spira.
Animal Rights Activism

Novartis under attack from Animal Rights Protestors
Henry Spira

- Who is Henry Spira?
- Spira’s protest at the American Museum of Natural History
Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC)

- What is Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS)?
- The SHAC protest
Similarities/Differences

• Leadership
• Violence
• Public Reactions
Leadership

Henry Spira vs. Kevin Jonas
Violence

- Secondary Targets
- SHAC’s relationship with the Animal Liberation Front (ALF)
Reactions

- Media Attention
- Governmental Response
- Scientific Community’s Reaction
Conclusions

• The role of violence and leadership in public perception

• Where can animal rights go from here?