

Jan. 4, 1971

NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
(SOUTHWESTERN)
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



BOB FENLEY, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION

JOHN WEEKS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

DALLAS--Dr. M.B. Starnes, director of animal facilities at The University of Texas (Southwestern) Medical School, has accepted both national and local awards on behalf of the school for employment of retarded youth.

The National Association for Retarded Children presented a certificate of appreciation which reads, in part: "For substantial involvement in ending the dark ages of exploitation, abuse and degrading treatment of the mentally retarded and for significant contribution to the dawning of this new age of equal and inalienable rights of human dignity and freedom for these special people of the human family."

In addition, the Texas Association for Retarded Children presented a plaque denoting the "Employer of the Year" award.

Dr. Starnes' department at UTSMS regularly employs about a dozen retarded youths in its work.

"They give a very good performance," said the director, adding, "The absenteeism record is the best of any group in the medical school."

At the school, the youths are called on to keep a wide variety of animals, from rabbits to white mice, which are used in scientific research.

Dr. Starnes, who also is a professor of microbiology at UTSMS, observes that while there is some slow learning on the part of the group, "They don't object to repetitive duties, whereas some of the others get real tired of them."

The group of retarded youths resides at the Marbridge Foundation House in Dallas.

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