PATENTED MOUSE

*Those little creatures of fields and homes
feeding on berries grain and domestic debris,
tasty prey for birds and mammals;
those Old World Muridae, tiny passengers
to the New World in dark depths of ships
laden with food never seen or tasted.*

*Nerve-wracked bundles of boundless energy
named Mus musculus by Carl von Linné
who could not know the albino cousins
bred by predators in white gowns
for laboratory labors on life and death.*

*The New Mouse,
red-eyed whisker-twitching pink-footed naked-
tailed
neurotic flesh and fiber assembly line robots
bioengineered to unlock the mysteries of
disease.*

*Now in the dawning of the New Age,
Needles prick naked embryos of the little ones;
mouse mammary cancer genes
spread within pale pink bodies
like liquids flooding a yielding sponge,
grow new generations of time bombs for
tumors.*

*To patent or not to patent,
the question a faint echo in the great halls
where answers roll like thunder
drowning a choir of ethical objections
to the first government patent,
a genetically engineered animal.*

Leo Kartman
Sunnyvale, California

Books Received

Sharon Gottermeyer and David
Youngmeyer, eds.

Behavioural and Political Animal Studies
Bi-annual, 44p

Hamilton, New Zealand: Animal
Archives

NZ\$8.00

Susan Sperling

Animal Liberators: Research & Morality
Berkeley: University of California Press,
1988

217p, bibliography, index
\$19.95