

VA under attack for brain surgery

By STUART AUERBACH
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WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration (VA) has performed at least 16 brain operations for behavioral problems, a procedure that the government's chief psychiatrist has said shouldn't be done because doctors don't know enough about the brain.

Nevertheless, the VA acknowledged in a series of letters to Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), chairer of the Senate Health Subcommittee, that its doctors have been doing the operation, known as psychosurgery, since 1961.

Recognizing that it "will have application to only a small number of patients," the VA last February restricted the operation to four hospitals and said that each case requires extensive review and approval from the central office in Washington.

VA administrator Donald Johnson agreed Monday to testify at a joint hearing June 18 of the Senate Health Subcommittee and the Veterans Health Subcommittee headed by Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.). Johnson agreed to testify only after the committees threatened to subpoena him.

Psychosurgery came under heavy attack last year from doctors who say that it does not correct a patient's problems but merely dulls his mind. Others, including Kennedy, have questioned the potential of psychosurgery for behavior control.

In at least two cases—one in Detroit, the other in Arlington, Va.—doctors considering performing psychosurgery on mental patients have been stopped by public pressure.

Kennedy held a hearing on psychosurgery in February as part of his investigation into the lack of controls over experimental medicine and surgery. It was this hearing that Dr. Bertram Brown, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, said: "Until we do more animal research, we don't want to move into experimental psychosurgery."

Kennedy commented: "The VA and NIMH are part of the same government. Why isn't there a single government policy on this?"

"Because psychosurgery involves irreversible destruction of brain tissue, and because it involves the control of human behavior, it must be approached very cautiously.

"The VA, which is after all a government-run operation, must be extremely cautious in doing this type of procedure, especially given their extensive experience with lobotomy," a brain operation popular in the 1940s which largely has been abandoned by doctors in recent years.

In March the VA denied to Kennedy's staff that any psychosurgery had been done in VA hospitals. By May, however, the VA admitted to 20 cases of psychosurgery since 1961, including two cases this year.

On May 29, in a revised memo made available to Kennedy, VA Dr. J.H. Smith reduced the number of cases to 16. He said four brain operations by a surgeon in San Diego had been listed by mistake as psychosurgery.

The early denials of psychosurgery conflict with a Feb. 7 memo from VA Deputy Chief Medical Director Dr. Benjamin Well to all VA hospital directors on "Surgery for abnormal behavior (psychosurgery)".

"Experience in VA hospitals to date demonstrates that surgical techniques for alteration of behavior, or so-called psychosurgery, have application to only a small group of highly selected patients."

Wells said that in order for psychosurgery to be performed, a patient must have something physically wrong with brain cells that does not respond to traditional medical or psychiatric care, and his condition must be sufficiently serious that he is of danger to himself or others."

Wells said that a group of experienced psychiatrists, neurologists, psychologists and neurosurgeons not connected with the case should decide whether psychosurgery is warranted.



Photo by Nick Lacy

You won't have this old dog to kick around anymore, nor any others on campus if Lane County Dog Control has its way. Once again, recalcitrant dog owners whose pets are off lease will be issued citations at \$11 a shot.

Campus crackdown coming on delinquent dog owners

By KATHLEEN GLANVILLE
Of the Emerald

The Lane County Dog Control Department is going to crack down on the campus dog problem. Under the urging of campus security, dog control officers will begin giving citations to all owners of dogs running loose.

During the last few weeks some officers have hesitated to give out citations to new students who were unaware of the University's dog policy. Dogs on campus must be on a leash. They cannot be left unattended or tied to a tree or fire hydrant.

If the owner is accompanying a dog not on leash, he will be issued an \$11.00 citation. According to Officer Dan Farley of the Lane County Dog Control Department, the citation is classified as a misdemeanor and if it is ignored a bench warrant would be issued for the offender's arrest.

Dogs found running loose will be impounded and taken to the Lane County Humane Society.

"We make all possible efforts to find the owner,

if there is a license on the dog," said Farley. "If the owner is not located we have no choice but to impound it."

The impounding fee is \$10 plus a boarding fee of \$2.00 a day after the first day.

"We would rather issue a citation than impound the dog," said Farley. "In the past few days violations have increased somewhat, and we have been having more calls from the University area."

The Lane County Dog Control Department and the Campus Security are urging individuals to keep their dogs on a leash when in the campus area and not to tie their animals anywhere on campus.

"Lately one of the complaints made by some of the officers working on campus is that people have run from them . . . and they can't do their job properly," said Farley. "That's their main problem . . . people are just grabbing their dogs and running."

"I hate to give anyone a citation who has never heard of the regulations," said one campus officer, "but in the future . . . I'll just have to go ahead and cite them."

'Webfoot Express'

Fall rail travel set up

How many years has it been since more than a handful of students traveled to college by train? Probably quite a few.

Why not reserve cars on Amtrak and bring students from California to the University of Oregon campus this fall by train, they thought. Why not give them a bit of fun and a chance to make new friends while they travel?

It's been done. Two cars on the Amtrak leaving Los Angeles Sunday, September 16, will be reserved just for Oregon students, both new and returning. U of O faculty members will be along for the trip to facilitate arrangements. There will be entertainment provided, with ample time to get acquainted.

This may be the first time, says Lenny Jackson of Student Services, any university in the country has run a special train for students to a campus.

The first contingent of students, from southern California, will board the train in Los Angeles at 10:05 a.m. September 16. Tickets will be ready

for them. The Amtrak special cars will arrive in Oakland at 8:20 p.m. the same day, to pick up Bay Area students. They will arrive in Eugene on Monday, September 17, at 10:30 a.m.

In Eugene, the students will be picked up by chartered buses and taken from the station to the campus.

New students will arrive in time for the start of New Student Week the evening of September 17.

The two cars will accommodate 88 students with luggage up to 150 pounds per person. Which means students can bring small equipment, such as skis or stereos.

Price of the trip will be \$45 for students from Los Angeles and \$30 for students boarding in Oakland, plus the reasonable cost of meals on the train. No extra charge will be made for the bus from station to campus.

Scenery along the train route — the coast in southern California, and the mountains as the train winds around snow-covered Mt.

Siskiyou in Oregon — will be a part of the experience.

If the cars are filled for the first trip, a similar Webfoot Express will be scheduled for September 19 and 20 to bring new students who have pre-registered during the U of O's Early Orientation-Registration, and returning students who want to reach the campus for regular registration, which starts September 20.

The Webfoot Express, if it is successful, may become an annual run from California, says Lenny Jackson.

Students who want to have the new experience on the Webfoot Express should mail their checks, made out to the University of Oregon, in care of the Office of Student Services, Emerald Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403. AMTRAK should be written across the bottom of the checks.

For additional information on the train trip, write the U of O Office of Student Services or telephone area code 503, 686-3211.

County approves Coburg rezoning

The Lane County Board of Commissioners dealt with several items at their regular Wednesday meeting, including

— Bohemia Inc.'s request for rezoning of land adjacent to the Coburg site of their bark conversion plant. After facts disputing some community people's claim that the land was prime agricultural land were discussed, the commissioners unanimously decided the land could be properly used for the proposed expansion.

— selection of three Eugene architectural firms for services relating to new county facilities. The firm of Unthank Seder Poticha has been selected for the county's \$11 million Public Service Building. Wilson & Taylor will provide services for the Operations Yard to be situated on a 17-acre site north of Eugene Sand and Gravel, and the firm of Moreland, Unruh and Smith has been selected for architectural services for an addition to the Florence Courthouse Annex and a Florence area public works facility.

— a decision to continue supporting and participating in the community Mental Health Center, stipulating that they expect to see more in the way of results than have been forthcoming in the past. The Center is supposed to provide specific, short range planning and coordination of mental health care for the county.