

Noisy cars cruisin' for a bruisin'

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

Noise pollution will be the target of the Eugene Police Department as it begins to enforce a three-month old law that may put excessively noisy motor vehicles off the

street, or in the muffler repair shop.

According to Sgt. Robert Laws, supervisor of Eugene's traffic/noise team, Eugene police will begin enforcing an Oregon law that sets noise limits for cars, pickup trucks and motorcycles,

under standards established by the state's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The law, which went into effect last October, hasn't been enforced throughout the state, Laws said, and Eugene will be the first city to issue citations based on the

use of noise-measuring equipment rather than on the officer's judgement.

After three months of training in the use of the equipment, Laws said, the Eugene Police Department began enforcing the law Jan. 1.

"Primarily, the reason it took three months to enforce the law is because of the training in the use of the equipment," Laws said.

"But you have to understand that this has never been done before, so we had to check with the courts and with the city prosecutors and so on to see what kind of problems we could expect to encounter by enforcing the law."

So far, he said, the testing has been limited to the Willamette Street area known as the "gut." After several weekends of testing cars on the gut, noise team members issued more than 100 written warnings to cruising drivers.

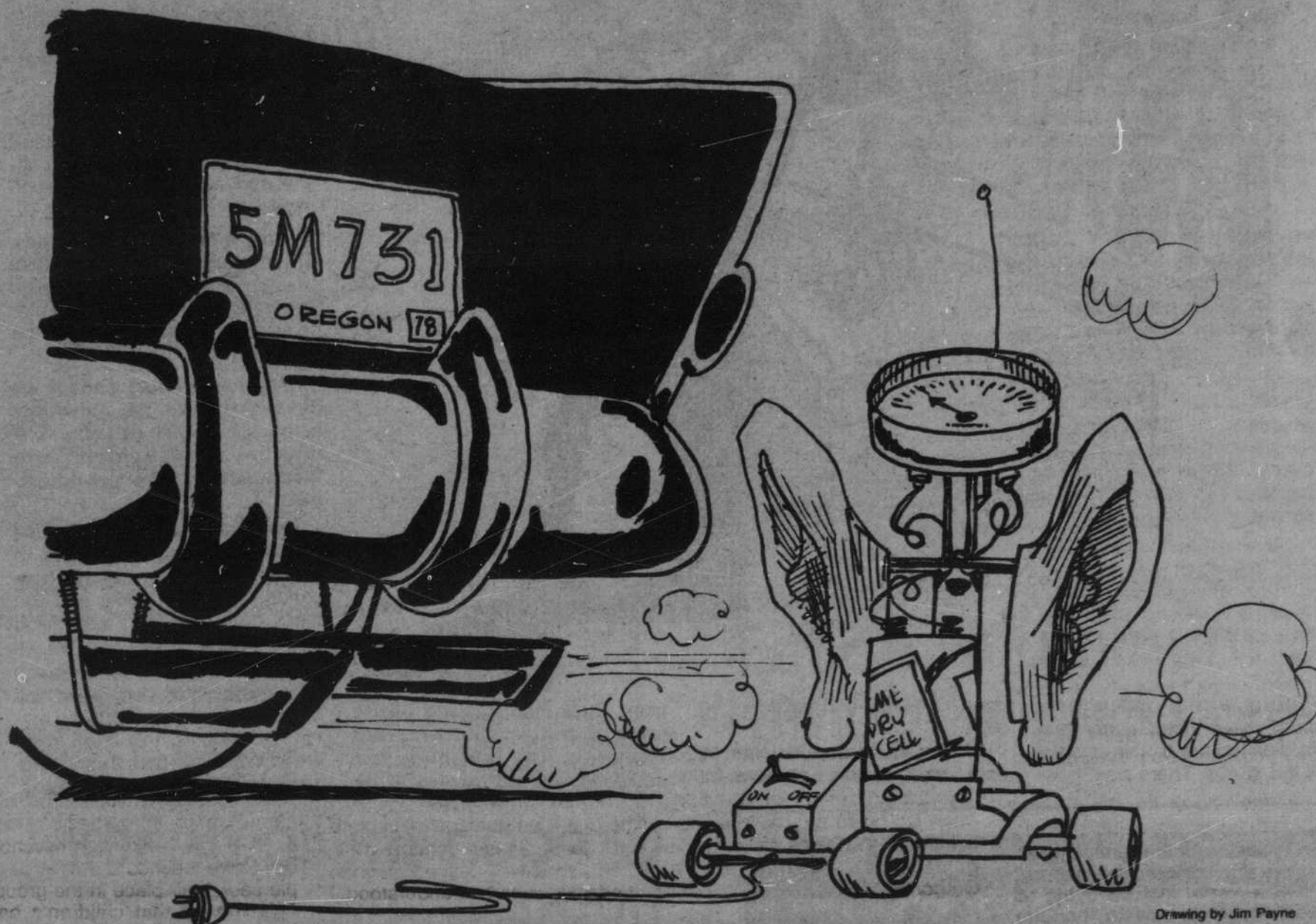
The gut hasn't been the only site of enforcement of the noise standards, Laws said. Other areas where excessive automobile noise has been a problem, such as nursing homes, hospitals and schools, will also be patrolled.

"It's not that we want to single the gut out as the problem, but it is the smallest geographic area with the largest amount of noisy cars in the city," Laws said.

"Right now we're going more into the problem areas where there have been a lot of complaints, rather than going all over the city, shotgun style."

To enforce the law and check the sound levels, Eugene Police have received two sound-measuring devices from the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The devices, small hand-held meters are held 20 inches from the car's tailpipe while the engine is operated at a specified rpm to



(Continued on Page 12)

Family relationship problems blamed on Western culture

By TOM WOLFE
Of the Emerald

With the demise of his group counseling program for parents with young children, Ray Lowe, University psychology professor, has begun a new program to improve relationships between teenagers and their parents.

The Parent/Youth Family Counseling Program is coordinated by Lowe and Jerry Kranzler, a counselor, author and educator in school guidance and counseling.

The approach, like Lowe's Saturday Circus, is group counseling. Young adults and their parents discuss problems in front of other client-families receiving counseling as well as University students enrolled in counseling courses.

Lowe says many of the problems associated with teenaged children and relationships with their parents result from peculiarities in Western culture.

"One hundred years ago these people were considered adults —

they married, worked and had families. But our society doesn't absorb them."

In trying to manage youth, Lowe says Western culture has invented the period called adolescence.

(Continued from Page 12)

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