

Letters

Take a stand

During homecoming week, I overheard an alumnus of the University ask why all transients/street people were hanging out on 13th Avenue. I was glad not to be the only one who noticed.

Not only do I notice them, but I have been harassed by a number of them. I, as an adult woman, do not feel safe after dark walking on 13th Avenue — a lighted busy street.

But what scares me most of all is the fact that the students at the University seem to be denying that there is a problem. I see students give them money — why are you doing this? Out of pity?

It's beginning to look like a safety house for transients. I believe it's time to take a stand and have some pride for our campus. Don't encourage them by giving them money. Make them feel unwelcome and maybe the University will be a nicer and safer place to be.

Kelly Johnson
Eugene

No joke

In response to Enrique Arias' letter (ODE, Oct. 23), military-funded research on animals is a "horrible" issue, and not one to be joked about in a sarcastic manner.

At present, University professor Terry Takahashi is receiving over \$350,000 from the office of Naval Research to conduct brain exploration research on barn owls (a species listed as endangered in some states).

Takahashi's grant proposal makes several references that lead us to believe his research may be targeted toward weapons development. "... (I) modeling the data obtained, we hope to discover some global strategies by which a biological system is able to track a sound source in a cluttered 3-D environment without emitting a telltale probe signal. (They) may be ... implemented ... to improve man-made machines that do the same." (p. 15, Grant No. N00014-89-J-1582).

Whether or not Takahashi's

work is for weapons development, there is still a question of ethics involved. Conducting invasive research on animals with Defense Department funds is immoral as well as treacherous.

Were the Office of Naval Research to decide to use Takahashi's results for destructive military purposes, Takahashi would have no choice but to submit his findings or lose his funding.

Furthermore, five veterinarians have determined Takahashi's anesthesia methods are inadequate. Essentially, the proposed surgical procedure takes much longer than the outlined anesthesia can last. This is not only cruel, but in violation of federal policy as well.

In light of these facts, I would infer that Arias should consider a bit more seriously this issue before ridiculing it.

Jill Freidberg
Students for the Ethical
Treatment of Animals

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Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

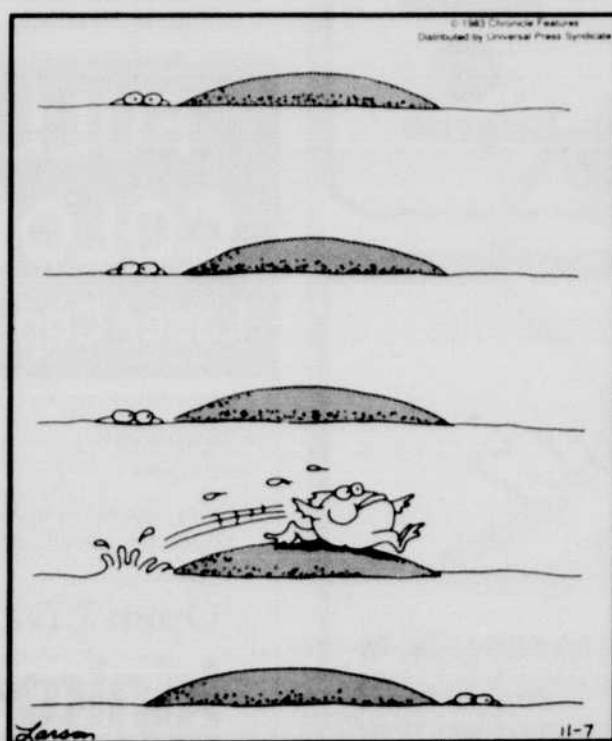
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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



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