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LETTERS

NRA targeted

Just recently, the NRA targeted Sears with a boycott for contributing money from stuffed toy sales to the Humane Society of the United States. Let me begin by expressing my thanks to the NRA for doing so.

Your belligerence and arrogance become you. You have turned on a great big neon sign to mainstream Americans who appreciate a sense of balance pertaining to hunting and the sale of firearms, to further scrutinize what you're all about.

An organization without limits, whether it be lobbying and bullying in Washington or selling military assault weapons to any jerk on the street. You will have to forgive us for being more than alarmed when bloodbaths in our restaurants, grade schools, and shopping centers are becoming routine. I know, guns don't kill people, people kill people. The next time you see someone kill 25 people in a restaurant with a knife or baseball bat, let me know.

Just where do we draw the line? Does the "right to bear arms" imply the right to carry hand grenades and flame throwers? How about some surface to air missiles and machine guns for the kids? Freedom does have its guidelines.

This latest bashing of the Humane Society and companies contributing to it, borders on the surreal at best. I am not sure what the animals did wrong this year, but this latest action further reinforces the perception that the NRA has become an extremist organization.

Gerry Rempel
 Eugene

In defense

From the looks of the front page of the *Emerald*, on Nov. 4, the newspaper needs a reason that would explain why the Department of Defense does not allow "gays and lesbians" in the military.

One reason why DOD does not permit these things is because there is no place to put them. Do you expect the department to house "gays" with real "heterosexual" men? Do you expect the department to house "lesbians" with real "heterosexual" women? Do you expect the department to have "homosexuals" live together? Do you expect the department to have "bisexuals" live together? How can one tell when these people aren't having sex if they live in the manners of such?

On this campus, we celebrate diversity by separating the sexes. Men live in fraternities. Women live in sororities. In the dormitories, each floor or wing of a building is represented by a single sex.

This isn't designed to stop people from having sex, of course, but it provides a good idea of when rape occurs. How can one ensure that rape will not occur?

What would the *Emerald* like DOD to do? Form a military division designated for "homosexuals," each housed in their separate rooms? There is no room for "homosexuals" anywhere.

Bryan Westly
 Student

Attacks

In the Nov. 7 *ODE*, the edi-

tors headed a letter by Jordan Lund with the snappy slogan "ROTC defended." A more apt headline would have been "Saferide Attacked." I would like to present a series of facts relevant to Project Saferide.

The most important fact is that it is usually men who attack women. This makes it unsafe for a woman to walk across campus alone. When Saferide was established, the ASUO and the University deemed this fact important enough to start a project to rectify the problem.

The University, wanting to save the students' money, decided the drivers would not be paid (and it takes about 42 permanent drivers to keep Saferide running each week). The original problem was safety, and a confounding problem is that drivers must volunteer their time, so the obvious decision is that drivers must be women.

But as most informed students know, a man can answer the phones or work in the office (these are paid positions). Saferide doesn't practice a discriminatory hiring policy.

ASUO, the University as a whole, and the courts uphold Saferide's right to exist, and recognize their method of existence is the most convenient one available, but people like Lund must still exercise their vocal cords with their cry. My response to such men is that if they can present the facts necessary, they might be able to organize a Saferide of their own. But this requires facts, not a series of attacks on a useful project.

Debra Frye
 Psychology

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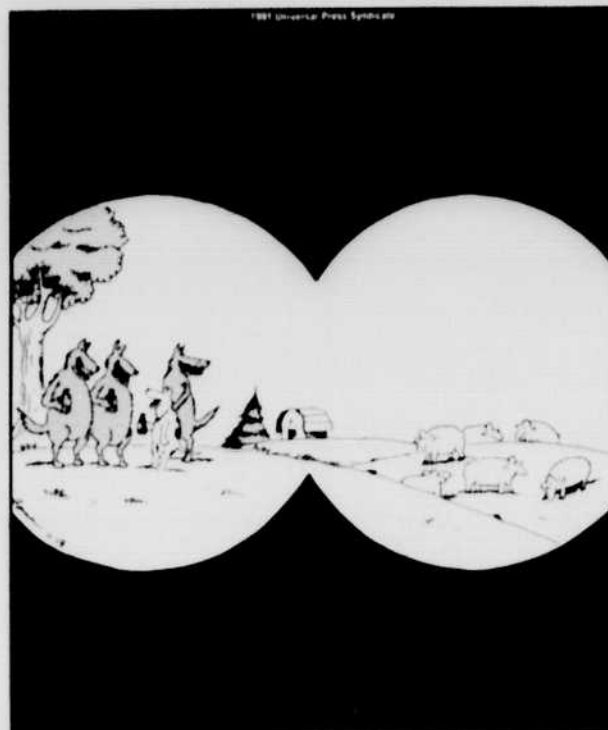
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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Everything was starting to come into focus for Farmer MacDougal — his missing sheep, his missing six-pack, and his collie, Shep, who was getting just a little too sociable for his own good.



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