

All Creatures great and Small



A sea otter, one of the four rescued from the Alaskan Exxon Valdez oil spill and rehabilitated by aquarium veterinarians, munches on a snail.

ANTHONY FORNEY/Emerald

□ Vet finds fish surgery challenging

By Meg Dedolph
Oregon Daily Emerald

For most people, surgery on a fish means filets, a hot broiler and maybe some lemon and butter.

But for Steven R. Brown, the on-call veterinarian for the Oregon Coast Aquarium, operating on a fish is a regular activity.

Common fish operations might include repairing lacerations or corneal ulcers, and occasional biopsies on fins or scales.

Brown, who usually works at a mixed animal practice treating pets and farm animals, began working with the aquarium a year before it opened.

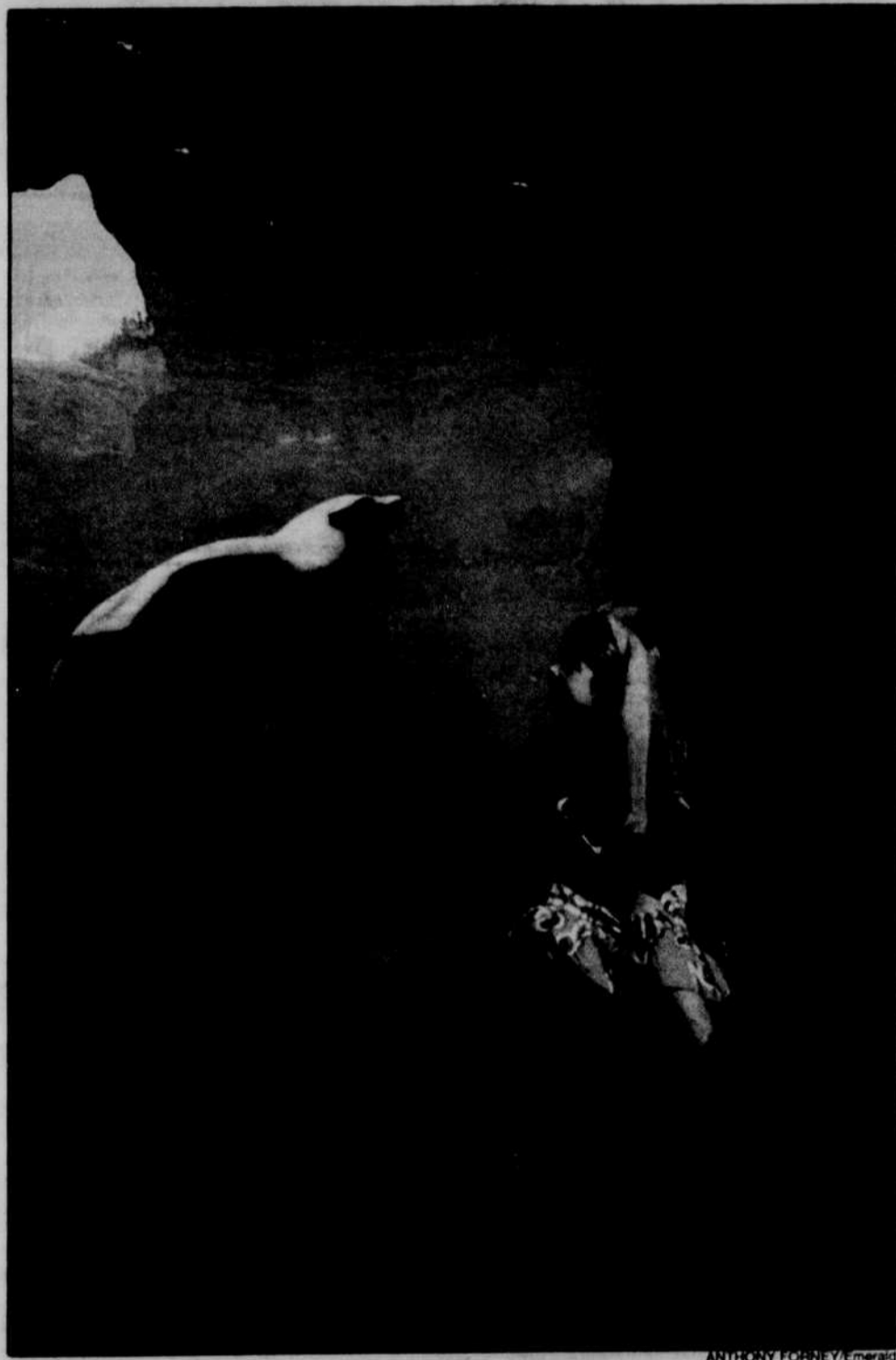
"There was a certain amount of anxiety in that for one were a lot of species we were dealing with there weren't any established norms like with dogs or horses." He explained that in many cases, even fundamentals like normal body temperature or blood chemistry are not well known.

"It's often very challenging to come up with those things," Brown said. "We try to imagine what would be the most appropriate as far as mimicking nature."

Brown visits the aquarium Thursday mornings, checking on sick and recovering animals.

"The curators know far more about those animals than I do," Brown said. "They work closely with the animals every day. It would be impossible for me to walk through there without the curators."

Brown said he likes the challenge of his aquarium job as well as the people he works with. "It's just an excellent



ANTHONY FORNEY/Emerald

Five-year old Tori Westcott, visiting with her family from Kennewich, Wash., watches the California sea lions play in the outside aquariums.

Bicyclists must obey campus traffic rules

□ Ignorance of riding laws will not protect students from being cited by police

By Tamara Jones
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Those who opt to ride a bicycle are not exempt from certain traffic laws.

Bicyclists have the same rights and duties as drivers of automobiles, and if a law is violated, he or she will be penalized the same as if in a car.

Police officers in Eugene have been citing many bicyclists, particularly students who are unaware of riding laws. The excuse, "I didn't know" usually will not reverse an officer's decision to cite a person for a traffic violation.

John Mueller, a University student, was recently given a ticket with a \$40 bail fine for traveling the wrong way on a one-way street.

"He (the officer) wouldn't give me a break even when I told him I didn't know," Mueller said. "He didn't even care that it was my birthday."

An exchange student learned Oregon's riding laws the hard way when he was given a ticket for not making a complete stop at a stop sign on his way to school.

As daylight hours dwindle, the most popular ticket being given is to those who ride without a light at night.

To be safe and legal in Eugene, one must have a white headlight visible from 500 feet and a red reflector or rear light visible from 600 feet, in the light of a car's low beams. As with automobiles, bicyclists must use lights from sunset to sunrise, or when vision is otherwise impaired.

If caught without proper lighting, an officer can penalize the rider with a \$40 fine. If a headlight works but is not visible from 500 feet, one can be given a "fix-it-ticket" and avoid paying a fine if he or she proves that the light is working properly.

These laws are enforced not to annoy or discourage those who ride bikes, but for safety reasons. Last January, two men riding at night without lights along the Willamette River were involved in a head-on collision, and one of the men died as a result.

Bicyclists not only need to obey the rules of the road on public streets, but also

Turn to BIKE, Page 4

The Oregon Commentator offers politics, humor

□ Magazine was an alternative to the "overtly liberal" Emerald

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of four articles looking at the three main alternative publications currently on campus, as well as others that have come and gone. Today, the focus is on The Oregon Commentator.

By Jim Davis
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

What is the closest thing to the Nazi party on campus? The Oregon Commentator would be the first guest of many.

"We are not fascists," said Owen Brennan Rounds, Commentator publisher. "People who think that we are fascists have not read our magazine."

The Commentator is a student publication that focuses upon politics and humor, and controversy has never been far behind these two focuses.

In recent years, members of the Commenta-

tor staff have been labeled racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic. The material printed in the Commentator has been called trash and drivel, and the magazine has been nicknamed the "Commie-hater." It receives enough hate mail to keep the timber industry afloat.

All of this reaction to a group that believes in "free markets, free thoughts and free beer?"

The Commentator, soon to be celebrating its 10th anniversary, began as an alternative to

Turn to COMMENTATOR, Page 4

