

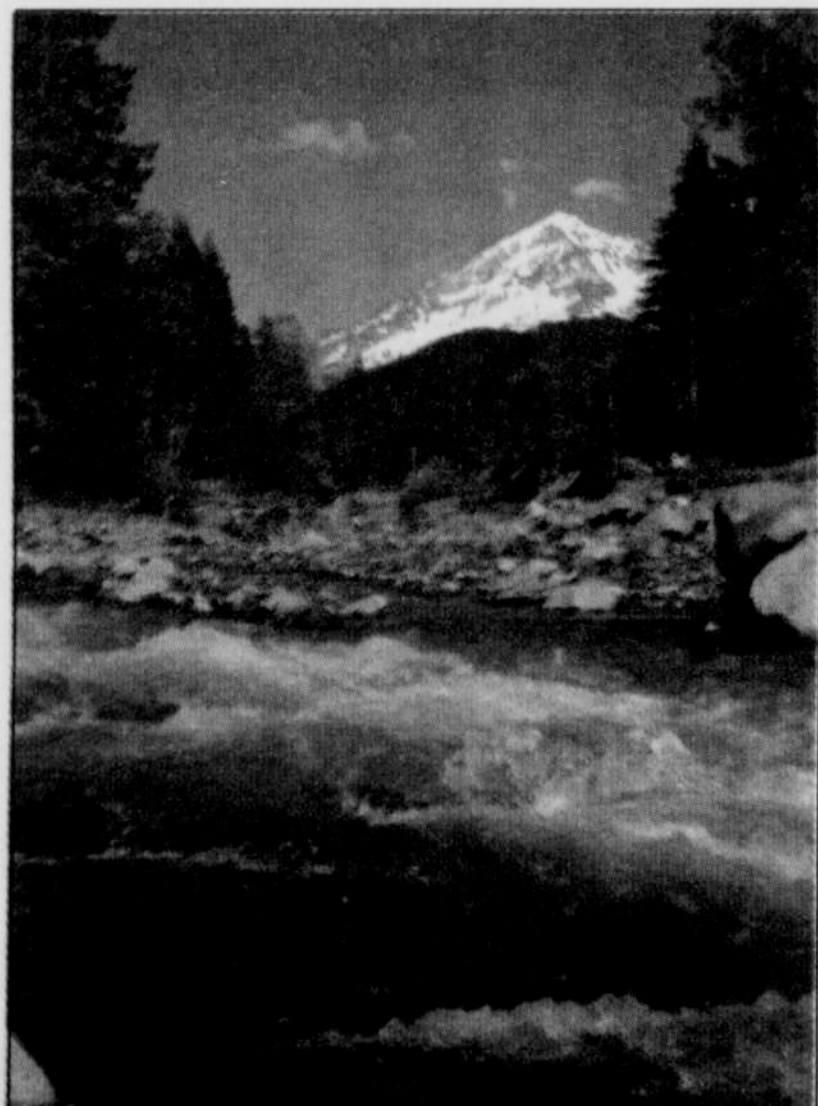
Continued from Page 31



STAFF PICK
"Cow Beach"
 Christine Hall

We are surrounded by thousands of beautiful images in our everyday life. In fact, for this photo contest, we received so many that it was really hard to choose a favorite, but when it came down to it, there was one image that I kept going back to because it made me ask, "What the...!?" The snapshot "Cow Beach" taken by Christine Hall made me laugh and it made me think of freedom. It caused me to pause for a moment and wonder at an uncommon scene. I enjoy the unique and slightly strange. But is it strange or is it just natural for animals to be on the beach? Maybe wild animals have a place on the beach; however, these cows are clearly tagged and owned. They are the kind you find on a farm, in an enclosed pasture or usually worse. But not on this day. Maybe someone wasn't doing his or her job and they accidentally got out, or maybe these cows planned their escape. Whatever the circumstance, on this day they were on vacation, enjoying the beach. They were free.

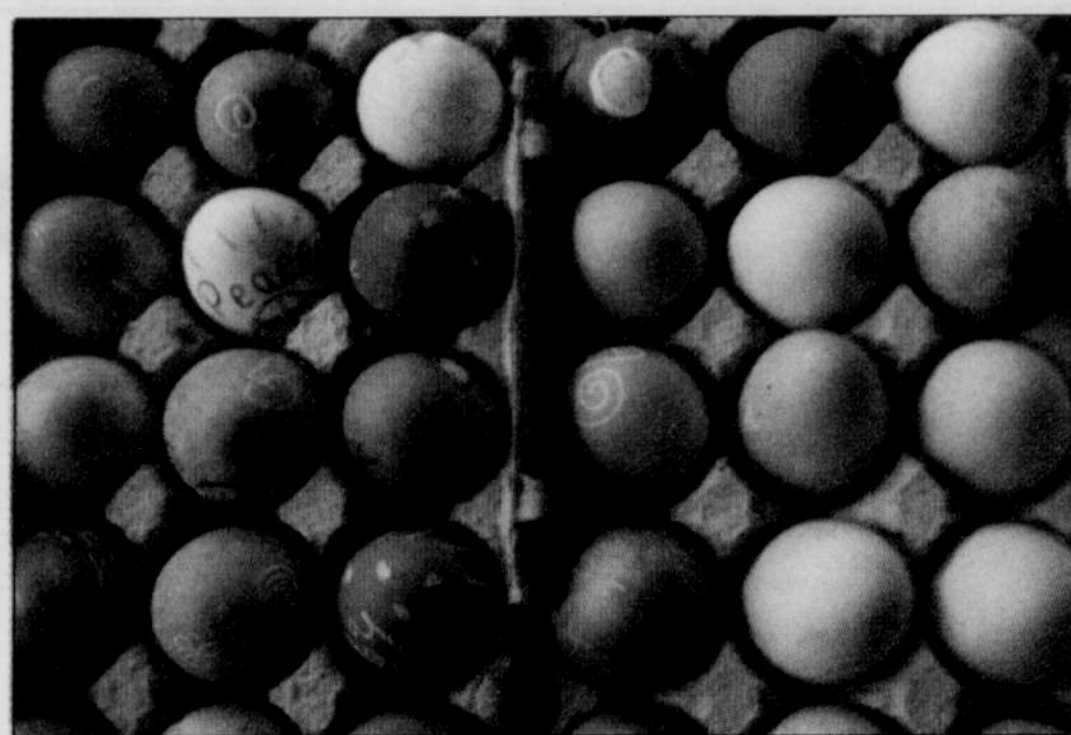
MELISSA MORALES
 Advertising Representative



STAFF PICK
Untitled
 Rachael Harlow

I chose this photo because it's a "slice of life" of the beauty and peace of the Northwest. The camera captured the image of crystal clear water so vividly, I could hear the peaceful flow effortlessly in my mind. This image, to me, says as much about the spiritual peace of our mountains as it does about the physical beauty of the area. In short, it was the almost magical capturing of the water that hooked my eye; after all, it's those same drops that begin as mountain snow and whitewater mountain streams that eventually make their way into the endless flow from Portland's beloved Benson Bubbles. I say thanks to Rachael for sharing a slice of peacefulness with us.

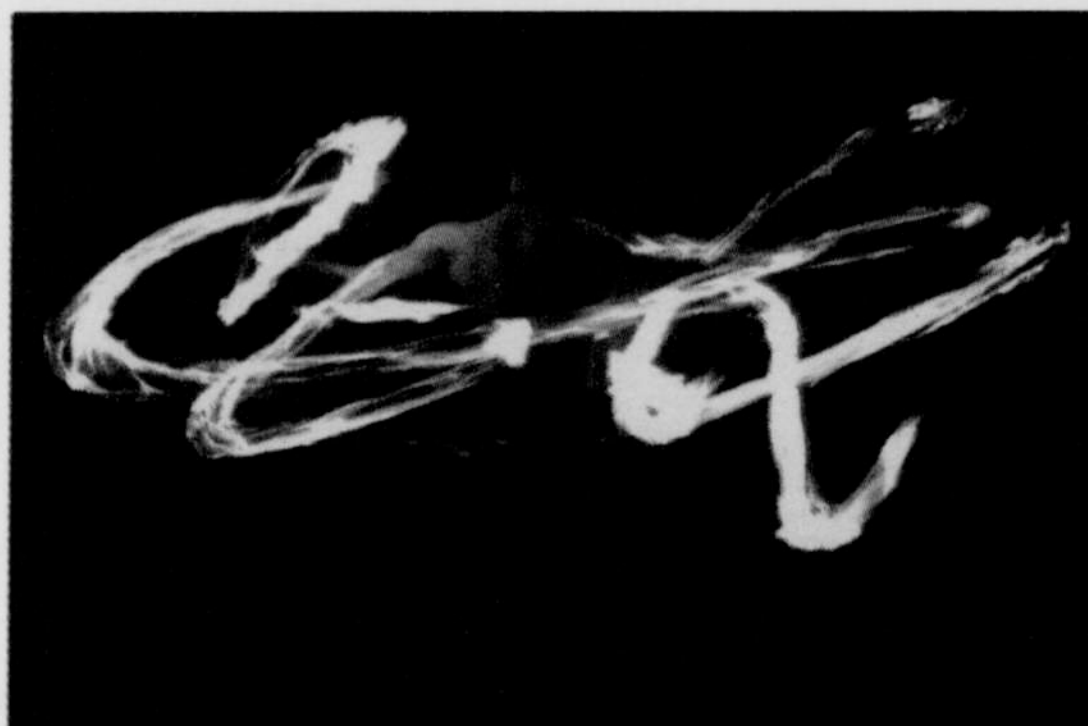
ROGER CURTIS
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STAFF PICK
"Happy Eggs"
 Becky Bilyeu

This vibrant photograph instantly brings to mind a number of comforting childhood memories: the vast spectrum of colors inside a fresh box of crayons, the joy of painting Easter eggs every spring, the security of feeling a sense of peace with the world. At a time when the United States is waging war based on a born-again Christian's misguided "crusade," I appreciate this subtle yet important reminder that Jesus was a man of peace.

JIM RADOSTA
 Arts and Culture Editor



STAFF PICK
"Fire Art"
 Kevin Chapman

I find this photo to be quite mesmerizing. The fire seems to dance around the man, threatening to lash out at any moment to burn him. Which one is in control? Is it the man who seems to be in control while wielding the fire, or the fire, which, with one poorly executed movement, can unleash this unyielding beast? When I stare at the flame, I envision a mythical dragon racing around him, taunting him with its warmth and danger.

LARRY LEWIS
 Advertising Director



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