

Disproving Bigfoot not easily done

(Continued from Page 1)
muddy terrain and through streams. In addition, the prints lacked impact ridges, which are microscopic impressions left by a stamping device. One Bigfoot researcher, Peter Byrne, contends the Bossburg prints were a hoax. Byrne is the director of the Bigfoot Information Center in The Dalles, Oregon, a research center studying Bigfoot evidence.

Byrne said the prints were found within 500 yards of the home of a known Bigfoot faker, Ivan Marx. According to Byrne, Marx moved into Bossburg shortly before the prints were found and none have been seen there since Marx left.

Marx, a bearhunter and amateur filmmaker, at one time worked at the Bigfoot Information Center and tried to sell the center a film sequence of the animal for \$25,000. Byrne said the film was eventually shown to be faked and was not purchased.

Byrne is, however, a believer in Bigfoot. "There's too much evidence," he said, noting the long history of consistently similar sightings of the creature.

Bryant suggests Bigfoot could be a surviving colony of large, manlike animals known as Gigantopithecus, which lived in the Himalayas and China about 25 million years ago.

He said the seven-foot, 600-pound animals could have migrated across the former Bering Strait land bridge and taken refuge on the steep slopes of the Cascades Mountains.

Although eyewitness reports and footprints seem to make the most convincing case for Bigfoot's existence, there is a wealth of other less reliable evidence, including movies, photos, hair and fecal samples and a tape recording.

An avid Bigfoot hunter, Roger Patterson, was riding horseback through a snow-covered valley of northern California when his horse, apparently frightened by a Bigfoot reared and threw him to the ground. Patterson managed to get an eight-second color film of it from about 100 feet away as it walked into the brush.

Bryant said a Hollywood costume artist contends it is not a man in an ape suit. However, anthropologists are skeptical of the animal's stride, which is considered too short for an animal of its height (about eight feet).

Photos made of Bigfoot are hard to analyze, Bryant said, because they are usually of poor quality; they are either out-of-focus or taken in poor lighting.

One California Bigfoot hunter said he knows a nesting place for the animals and sent a tape recording and hair samples to Bryant for his analysis. The hair sample turned out to be from a bear. Bryant said the sounds on tape are definitely those of a primate and are similar to a chimpanzee, gorilla and monkey, but the

recording is not foolproof evidence. A hunter from Tacoma, Wash., found a six-inch spherical mound of fecal matter in a mountain stream and Bryant has been making tests on it. The feces show the animal had strictly a vegetarian diet, including spruce needles, according to Bryant.

Judging from the diet, the feces do not belong to a bear, Bryant said. The size of the mound, he contends, rules out the moose and elk. He said it could belong to a horse or cow, although those animals are not normally found in such a remote area of the Cascades.

The hunter did not see any tracks near the stream, but Bryant says the feces were sitting long enough for any tracks to have disappeared.

Bigfoot would appear to be herbivorous — it never attacks for food. Albert Ostman, a lumberman who was captured and held by a Bigfoot family for six days, said they ate grasses, spruce and hemlock tips and tubers. There are serious doubts, however, as to whether a non-carnivorous animal the size of Bigfoot could survive in the Cascades' environment.

Despite the heavy rainfall, the vegetation is considered very low-energy food. In fact, the Cascades would be one of the least likely forest regions where a Bigfoot could survive. It does not have the bamboo, celery, nettles, bark and plantlife of tropical forests where large herbivorous primates, such as the mountain gorilla.

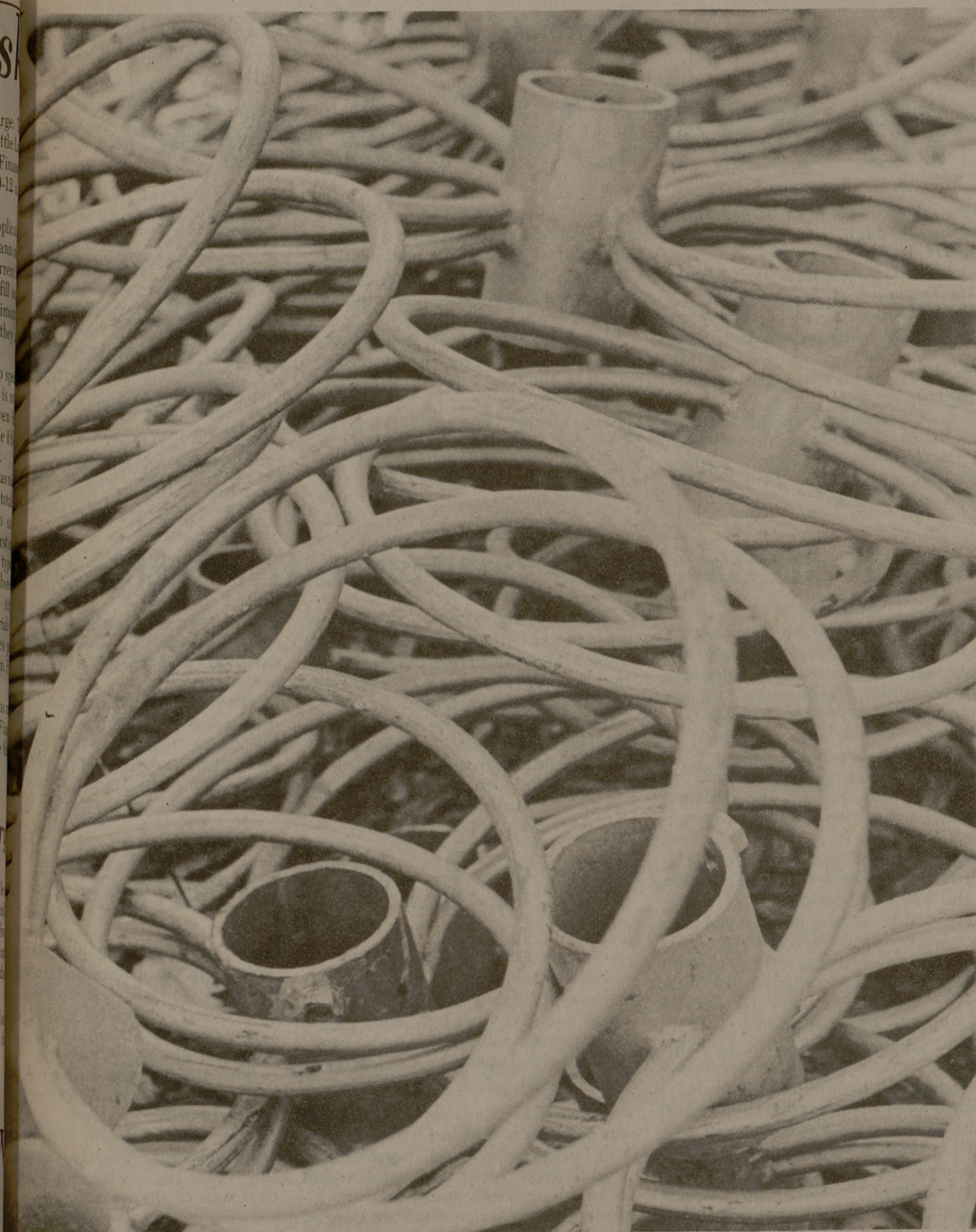
Since "The \$6 Million Man Vs. Bigfoot" was aired on television, Bryant said he has had an increased demand for his Bigfoot presentations. This program and movies have given Bigfoot national attention, he said, and helped keep the myth alive.

Bryant said Bigfoot, like the Abominable Snowman, the Loch Ness

Monster and aliens from outer space, is the modern way for satisfying the need for the mystical, the unsolvable.

The man on the street, he said, can't participate in discussing theories on solving cancer, but everyone can have a theory on Bigfoot.

"That's why this whole controversy stays alive," he said.



Steve Goble

Unstrung bike rack

Minus its centerpole, this bike rack was discovered collapsed near the southeast corner of the library. As part of the master landscape plan, racks for 5,000 bicycles are being placed on campus.

Today in history

Ag sets world record

Today is Friday, February 20, 1976, the 33rd day of the spring semester. There are 78 days until Final Review, 84 days until the last final exam.

On this date in 1965, 19-year old sophomore Randy Matson shattered the world indoor shot put record of 64 feet, 11-3/4 inches held by Gary Gubner of New York University with a heave of 65 feet, 8 1/2 inches at the Will Rogers Indoor Games in Fort Worth. Matson went on to better his own record in the finals with a put of 66 feet, 2-1/4 inches.

On this date in 1950, Harry Stiteler's gridmen held their first of four spring scrimmages for the '50-'51 season. The Maroon team, led by defensive tackle Jack Little and halfback Yale Lary, defeated the White team 20-7. The highlight of the game was a 50-yard punt return touchdown by leading ground gainer Lary.

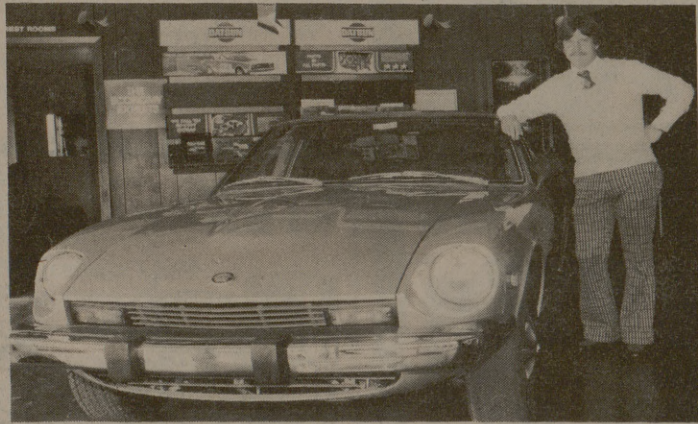
On this date in 1946, General Dwight D. Eisenhower announced his acceptance of College President Gibb Gilchrist's invitation to speak at the Annual Aggie Muster in April.

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MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FRIDAY

Occupation Ed at 8 a.m. in Rudder Tower.
Campus Crusade for Christ at 7 a.m. in MSC 224.
Institute of Electronic Science at 7 p.m. in Rudder Tower.
Northwestern Students at 7 p.m. in MSC 141.
Students for Responsible Expenditures at 7:30 p.m. in MSC 206.
AMAC at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC.

SATURDAY

BA or law degree seminars will be held. Law discussion at 8 a.m. in MSC 141 and MBA at 10 a.m. in MSC 141.
Recreation will have a duplicate tournament at 1 p.m. in MSC.
I.S. Industrial Program Plan at 8 a.m. in Rudder Tower 700.
Admissions Office Meeting at 8:30 a.m. in Rudder Tower 302.
Alcoholic Counseling Services at 8 a.m. in Rudder Tower 305AB.

SUNDAY

Commitments at 1 p.m. in MSC 140.
Recreation Committee at 6 p.m. in MSC 228-9.
Phi Xi Delta at 7:00 p.m. in Rudder Tower 501.
Phi Kappa Phi at 8 p.m. in MSC 230.
Ride at 2 p.m. to begin at the Fountain. All slow and fast welcome.

MONDAY

5 p.m. at Zachry Fountain. Stand pictures will be taken.

TRY

BATTALION CLASSIFIED

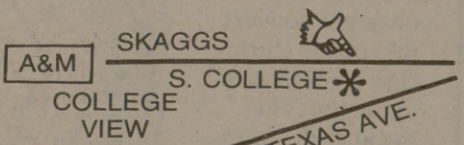
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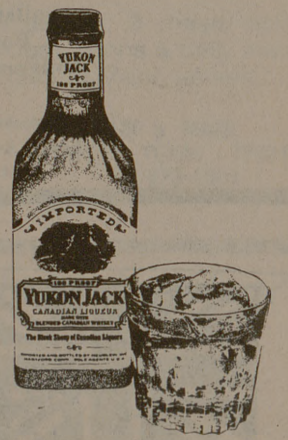
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