DISTRACTIONS

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What's the world coming to?

"An Austrian circus dwarf died recently when he bounced sideways from a trampoline and was swallowed by a hippopotamus. Seven thousand people watched as little Franz Dasch popped into the mouth of Hilda the Hippo and the animal's gag reflex forced it to swallow. The crowed applauded wildly before other circus people realized what happened."

From the Las Vegas Sun

Ninety eight percent of the people who collide with moose along Route 201 in Maine do not read English. And, according to Rodney Small, a game warden with the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the majority of accidents involve French Canadians from Quebec. Small said that these Quebecers do not read English at all or don't read it that well at high speeds.

"The majority of accidents," said Small, "are within 100 feet of the signs warning of moose crossings." Part of the problem is that it is difficult to accurately portray a silhouette of a moose with it looking like a cow or a horse, hence the signs are a simple 4ft x 4ft yellow diamond shape with the words in English: "Moose Crossing Area Ahead".

Bangor Daily News

A two ton elephant named Sassy grew overly fond of chili on the El Paso, Texas ranch where she lived among cows before she was sold to the circus. However, the chili she ate caused tremendous problems in her digestive tract.

"I'd notice the next day that the cows would stick to one end of the field," said rancher Antonio Guayabera. "I always thought someone was burning trash, but I finally realized it was Sassy and cut her bean supply."

Recently, however, while performing at a nearby circus, Sassy got her trunk into a vat of chili before anyone could stop her. " I knew I had to get her out of there," said her trainer Franz Hildebrand, "but I wasn't fast enough. As I led her away, the gas attack started. I should have known better than to stand too close, but that first blast blew me right through the tent and into a trailer parked ouside." Hildebrand suffered 15 broken bones.

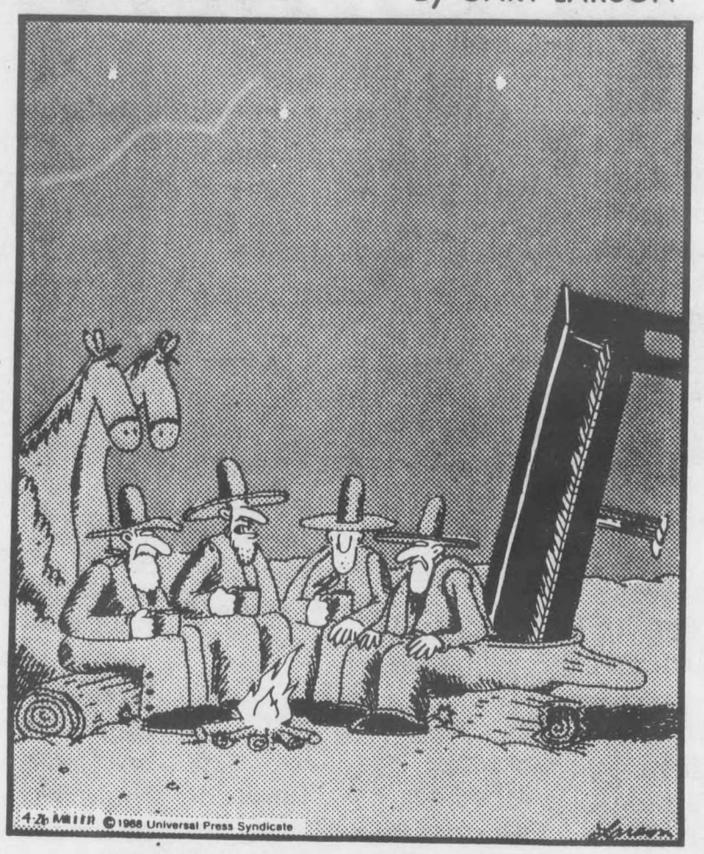
A number of subsequent elephent farts ripped several holes through the big top before Sassy could be led away.

From The Sun

"An appeal filed by convicted murderer Stephen Peter Morin was dismissed by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Morin had already been executed in another murder case".

From the Trentonian

THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON



"Say, Will — why don't you pull that thing out and play us a tune?"

I.C.U. BY Chris Kane

FOX TROT by Bill Amend

by PAUL WHITE