
Reader comments

DEAR DR. ROBERTS:

I am writing just so you know that at least one person looks through “Facts and ideas from anywhere.” Under the heading “Animals in tsunamis,” Dr. Richard Feynman, the late Nobel laureate, in his book *Surely You’re Joking, Mr. Feynman*, opined that humans probably have a much better sense of smell, hearing, and taste than we think. It is just that we have allowed ourselves to let these systems atrophy as we do not depend on them for survival.

Under the heading “Iwo Jima,” a couple of corrections. Number one, there were no soldiers on Iwo Jima unless there was a small token force. The combatants were Marines. Secondly, “the picture” was taken by Joe Rosenthal on still film, for which he received the Pulitzer Prize, I believe. The movie version was taken by Sgt. Bill Genaust.

—R. ELLWOOD JONES, MD
Professor of Internal Medicine
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

DR. ROBERTS REPLIES:

Thank you for the corrections. In the article, I did indeed refer to “soldiers” after identifying the group as Marines; I should have used your word, “combatants.” Thank you for clarification on the photographer and filmer: Joe Rosenthal is correct as the photographer. Marine Sgt. Bill Genaust has often been overlooked for the movie he filmed—which he never saw, since he died 9 days later.