

Letters

Toll-free spy

That new toll-free spy number (1-800-CALL-SPY) might seem beneficial to our management, but I think there are a few bugs in it that, as illustrated below, need to be worked out.

Supposing a kindly, middle-aged housekeeper notices a suspicious-looking, oh, slightly older bib-overalled gardener putting out some snail killer near the rose bushes of the new neighbors down the way. He's putting down the pellets and looking around and adjusting his bib overalls — and basically goldbricking, she thinks — but that's not all.

It appears to her, suddenly, that after he puts down whatever that stuff is, he taps at it with his foot and then presses his ear and says something to himself.

Well this sets off the former PTA member, mother of three, to calling up the intelligence people in Washington, who, eventually, have them both put under surveillance for the following reasons:

The housekeeper, it turns out, works for an ex-ambassador of an unspecified South American country, and the gardener used to be a night watchman for Rockwell. Also, the roses turn out to be petunias, and the last thing they need help with is snails.

Anyway, they decided to test their reactions under fire. The

housekeeper had to face an agent posing as an Avon Lady, and the gardener's boss was tipped off about the care of petunias, who then wanted to know what the hell he was doing with that snail killer.

There are some more complications, but they'll have to wait.

Tim Jaques
Unspecified

Ironic warning

It is ironic that Michael Cross writes letters to the local newspapers warning us "Westerners" to be aware of the fact that we are a minority on this planet with a "negative population growth."

He proclaims the grim warning of extinction of "Westerners" if they don't start having large families "like evangelists" do. The irony comes when he responds to someone who criticized him for such a bizarre idea — me (ODE, April 3).

When I accused him of trying to impress people by quoting others with exotic names (a man with the last name of Perevedentsev), that was seen by Mr. Cross as me being ethnocentric — believing one's own race is superior.

I would like to suggest that Mr. Cross' idealistic suggestions are as close to ethnocen-

tric as one can get.

I challenged his idea quoted from Mr. Perevedentsev: that the larger the population of a nation, the greater their chances of achieving economic superiority; by asking why, then, are China's and India's economies not superior to all nations of smaller populations?

Of course he didn't respond to my question. Instead he tries to find fault with my choice of the word "exotic," falsely implying that this word denotes a prejudicial connotation.

In my letter of response I humorously suggested that Mr. Perevedentsev had a patent for a perpetual motion machine. It appears that Mr. Cross was angry over this. It seems he doesn't know that there is no such thing as a perpetual motion machine and never can be.

Main issue

I would like to take this opportunity to clear up a few misinterpretations of my stance regarding OSPIRG on the part of Alicia Sloan of the OSPIRG state board.

The issue at hand is not that I think OSPIRG does not serve the student population. And the issue is not that I think OSPIRG should not receive incidental fee funding.

I do think that OSPIRG does offer students a chance to be involved in a broad range of activities. However, just because last year students voted to in-

crease funding for OSPIRG does not necessarily mean students support improper use of their fees for purely partisan political reasons.

Clearly no one, least of all me, is asking to take away student power. Again, this is not the issue. My concern, which is the issue, is how OSPIRG uses student incidental fees.

Just as no other incidental fee

funded program cannot lobby politically by way of IFC monies, neither should OSPIRG.

It is my belief that OSPIRG has abused this power, and therefore the situation needs to be remedied before it gets totally out of control.

Laura Romano
EMU Board
Budget Chair

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