

Post office insanity brings rash solution

Everyone has a bad day now and again. You spill your coffee, flunk a test, bomb an interview or twist an ankle. It becomes immediately clear you should never have left the security of your bedsheets.

Most people adjust quite well to these predicaments. However, there is a certain group that seems to have bad days more frequently than others. And, unfortunately, they don't always react positively to their misfortunes. The culprits: postal workers, of course.

Therefore, in the spirit of Rep. Liz VanLeeuwen's, R-Halsey, quick-fix solutions to growing problems, the *Emerald* has several suggestions to stem the bubbling postal-shooting volcano.

First, the U.S. Constitution should add a 28th Amendment: Postal workers and ex-postal workers should not be allowed to own firearms. Although the Second Amendment declares that people have a right to bear arms, certain postal workers have a tendency to shoot other people's arms off, which has got to be unconstitutional in some way.

Second, the bars that separate employees from the public at post offices should be heavily reinforced, possibly with bullet-proof glass, so that citizens are safe from these armed menaces. You never know when a postal worker will become disgruntled.

And finally, letter carriers should be handcuffed at all times. What if, perhaps, a mail person were to step in a mud puddle in front of City Hall? He or she could go berserk and clear out the City Council. With people's hands clasped behind their back, they won't be able to reach their holsters. To make up for their handcuffs, a small monkey should be allowed to sit on their shoulders to put mail in the slots.

These negative suggestions are just a few responses to post office shootings. However, there is a silver lining — his name is Edward Egging of Tigard. He was recently honored by the National Association of Letter Carriers for saving a life during an apartment fire, as was Keith Wickham of Janesville, Wis., who rescued a man whose vehicle had plunged through ice.

In all seriousness, these latter individuals are just as representative of postal workers as those people who shot up post offices in Michigan and California last week. The behavior of a few bad postal eggs has a tendency to smear the reputation of all, and, unfortunately, people across the country are beginning to think of post offices as powder kegs waiting to explode.

The most unfortunate result of the shootings is that those employees that do represent the post office with pride will never get equal publicity. Postal workers don't need handcuffs, reinforced bars or cockamamie amendments to restrain them. They don't even need training to prevent the frustration that leads to inane acts of violence.

They simply need a little luck, so that the next few crazies to shoot up a neighborhood work for McDonald's instead.



LETTERS

Review review

The *Emerald*, notorious for its lack of insight, especially reflected in knee-jerk editorials, at least did something right with an exceptional film review of *Indecent Proposal* (ODE, May 7).

D. Lee Williams did not succumb to the usual hyperbole and glitz over an aging Hollywood brat (Demi Moore) and a fading star (Robert Redford). Instead, he provided a highly perceptive, analytical and timely review.

I am very pleased that as a film critic for the college newspaper, Williams exercised intelligence with integrity and saw *Indecent Proposal* as nothing more than a "misogynistic mess" from a vapid director. As he thoughtfully pointed out, it's got nothing to do with P.C.

Perhaps best of all, he sent a much-needed message to local critics that what is good for people who read *The Village Voice* had better be just as good for us folks subscribing to *The Register-Guard* and *The Oregonian*. Do you think Paseman and Berry believed they could get away with such sloppy film reviews because they serve mostly a local constituency?

At any rate, excellent work, and please keep it up. And whenever Williams would like to talk films, he should drop by my office hours; I could learn a lot from him.

Clarence Spigner
Assistant Professor
Anthropology/Ethnic Studies

One main cause may be that people are playing with "Mother Nature." We are not letting the natural selection process work. The population now has an increasing percentage of elderly, probably larger than ever before.

We are keeping people alive much longer than in the past; we are curing diseases and replacing vital parts of bodies to keep people alive.

If population control is so important, then we should let natural selection take its course. The fit will survive, and the unfit will not. Stop medical research — and how does a Dr. Kevorkian retirement plan sound?

Allen James
Biology

Insightful

Congratulations on your insightful editorials of May 7 (on the faculty assembly meeting) and May 10 (on the OCA's new initiative).

It is to your credit that you took an editorial position on these issues. Your ability to cut through the clutter of both of these complex topics and examine the facts in a clear-headed manner does your paper proud.

In my estimation, this is what good editorial journalism is about: separating the facts from the jumble of sensory perceptions and reaching an informed and informing opinion.

Keep up the good work.

Thomas H. Bivins
Associate Professor
School of Journalism
and Communication

No on EWEB

Please pay attention to the brown election envelop that you have recently received. This is a local ballot measure that would authorize our local electric utility (EWEB) to spend \$150 million to buy new electric power supplies. The plan calls for spending a total of \$300 million during the next few years.

You may be very busy and inclined to "recycle" this envelop, but every student is a rate payer and this is the single largest budget expenditure ever presented to the voters of Eugene. It amounts to an uni-

mate debt of \$4,400 per customer.

Under the plan, \$13 million will be spent on power transmission lines so we can ship our cheap power to California. We get the pollution and environmental impact, and California gets clean electricity at only five cents a kilowatt-hour.

Ask yourself some basic questions like: Do we really need all of this power? Are there other ways to pay for it? What are the environmental consequences? What are the risks? What are the alternatives? Do we have to approve this all at once?

Unfortunately, it is hard to get answers to these questions. The voter pamphlet and EWEB information bulletin present only one option and do not carry any dissenting viewpoints. You may wish to call EWEB and ask directly at 484-2411.

If you are not satisfied with the answers, join me and vote "no" on the bond measure.

Eben Fodor
Environmental Studies

Question basics

Many opponents of the multicultural curriculum requirement maintain that transforming the curriculum represents an attempt to introduce politically correct viewpoints into a "neutral" curriculum.

They claim that the proponents of a transformed curriculum seek to distort it with their own politically motivated reform agendas, yet transforming the curriculum is no more political than the process that designates the existing "canon."

As Professor Gates from Cornell University has stated, "That people can ... protest the eruption of politics into something that has always been political from the very beginning says something about how remarkably successful official histories have been at disguising all linkages between the canon, the literary past we remember, and those interests that maintain it."

Essentially, we must begin to question what we have always considered the "basics." We must challenge the long-held certainties that we assume mirror reality.

Diana Collins Puente
ASUO Vice President-Elect

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