

Leaders can't remember; lawyers just plain stupid

■ OUR OPINION: Lawyers and politicians are defining the word "dumb"

"The truth is out there. We've just got to find it," Rep. Wes Cooley, the beleaguered Oregon Congressman, said in a recent press conference.

Wait a minute, what's this "we" stuff?

Cooley is in worse shape than any of us thought if the man can't figure out how to navigate his way back to the world of telling the truth all by himself. This is a grown man talking here! And apparently one who not only needs to get out of office immediately, but one who could benefit from some professional counseling as soon as he does leave office.

While Cooley is in deep political trouble and will probably be looking for a different career soon, he and his staffers should realize the incredible opportunity that exists for Cooley in the field of magic.

Though no photographer was able to capture it on film, Cooley stood before that room full of people in Medford, elevated himself, and promptly stuffed both of his feet in his mouth.

During the show in Medford on Tuesday, Cooley pulled other rhetorical rabbits out of his hat as he addressed about 150 journalists and political supporters (probably more like 147 journalists and three supporters) to try and answer some of the questions and allegations that have dogged him for the past month or so.

If Cooley somehow survives his current "truth-

telling crisis," he could probably win an award for being the most eloquent speaker of a variation on the words made famous by Ronald Reagan during the Iran-Contra hearings: "I don't remember" (the truth or the facts, that is).

But the Republicans aren't the only ones suffering from memory loss or lame excuses.

Analysts are predicting political and legal troubles for President Clinton, his wife and aides as a result of Tuesday's Whitewater guilty verdicts for two of the president's former business partners and Arkansas Gov. Jim Guy Tucker. Adding to Clinton's political embarrassment was Tucker's immediate resignation — turned in just hours after the Arkansas jury's decision.

Add to this the renewed interest in a political blunder made by Clinton's lawyer about the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit, and a recipe for scorched presidential aspirations could very well be served up in November. The Republican National Committee jumped all over a brief filed by Robert Bennett that compared a request for a delay in the lawsuit against Clinton, commander in chief of the military, to the kind of delay that active-duty servicemembers are entitled to under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act.

As for a second Republican Revolution, it probably won't happen. The GOP seems to have an incredible talent for snatching defeat from the jaws of victory — as they learned when George Bush failed in his try for a second term.



Energy wasted on political correctness

"As long as you know that most men are children you know everything" — Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel

In my life, I've only known four men of integrity; all three of them taught me what it means to be a man of principle, honor and morality with a passionate love for his family, friends and convictions. All of them taught me these things unintentionally, and I learned from their actions, the only way worth learning. I still have a long way to go before I can call myself one of those men.

During my 21 years, it's pathetic that I've only met four males who truly deserve to call themselves men. I'm just fortunate that one of them is my father.

Now gentle reader, you must be wondering what the hell I'm trying to get at and why I've managed to leave out the more intelligent of the species. Real simple — I'm going to spew about males and then perhaps get on to talking about overall paranoia on this campus in general. So start calling me a sexist bastard now and get it out of the way. After all, I may just use that most heinous of sexual epithets, "bimbo," again.

It seems there's a wee bit of an uproar about a certain group of Christians invading Autzen Stadium and throwing one hell of a shindig complete with dope, sheep, booze and free love all around. Uh ... whoops, sorry, that's the Oregon Country Fair.

No kids, it's the Promise Keepers, those who unapologetically label themselves "Men of Integrity." These guys travel from stadium to sold-out stadium preaching the gospel of men, becoming better men to their wives, family, and the Almighty. I hate to be a cynic, but you don't become a better man just because you spend 65 bucks to cry and be intimate with 40,000 other guys, then say you'll be nice to the kids and the Mrs. now.

But enough about that. It seems that certain members of our community aren't too pleased about these guys tearin' it up at Autzen. They claim the Promise Keepers are homophobic and that they are discriminatory to women.

True, the founder of the Promise Keepers was caught with his pious foot in his mouth in 1992 when he stated that "homosexuality is an abomination of Almighty God." He didn't say this at a Promise Keepers conference, so the organization claims it is not anti-homosexual. However, the Third Promise of the Promise Keepers is to be sexually pure, whatever that may be. So I had a chat with Promise Keepers state manager Dennis Blevins. After multiple Scripture quotes, he finally said that the Third Promise relates to adultery and thinking about others in a lustful manner for one's own selfish indulgences. He went on to state that the Promise Keepers do not condemn homosexuality. So we have the organi-

zation saying one thing while the founder is saying quite another. Hmm ...

As to the Promise Keepers' view of taking charge of the family and leading it, every marriage that I have seen work involves both the husband and the wife leading the family — as equals. You just don't go home and start dominating the wife. She'll kick your ass — straight out the door.

OPINION



Jesse Bohrer-Clancy

But as to women not being invited, so what? What's wrong with men getting together for a little male bonding? Would all this happen if the Boy Scouts held a jamboree? They're all male, supposedly religious and do weird things (such as running around half-naked, screaming, covered in mud and looking like something out of *Lord of the Flies*). I was a Boy Scout, and that's where I learned what real men were. Of course, it took longer than just one weekend.

If men need to get together for support then why the uproar? I don't see people getting their panties in a snit about the Women's Center. (Whoops, touched the wrong sacred cow.) If there were a Men's Center (there was a fight about this a while back), it would hit the fan. Men don't need men for support. Keep your problems to yourself; the local bar is your support group.

A fellow columnist got blasted repeatedly by critics (mostly women) for espousing his views on certain women's issues. His critics state that because he's not a woman, he has no idea what he's talking about. When the idea of a Men's Center comes up, those same critics (again mostly women) go off on how men have no need for such a place. Oh really? Well now, I am so glad they were kind enough to enlighten us males as much as Mr. Cunningham has enlightened the women on this campus. Gee, Ms. Pot, what color was that kettle again?

This isn't about a Men's Center, or the Women's Center, or even the damn Promise Keepers. It's about realizing what you really need to waste your energy on. Everyone on this campus has this holier-than-thou mentality. Everyone has to be politically correct, and everyone is paranoid that he or she will break this holiest of dogmas. I could care less if anyone on this campus brands me as a sexist or anything else.

The crap and the paranoia that goes on here doesn't fly in the real world. As soon as we all realize that, maybe we will finally all get along.

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