

## Time to eliminate grocery cart road rage



**Marvin Baker**  
columnist

from the Sharper Image, building to the final climatic scene where she rips the packaging from his Boba Fett action figures and storms out of his mother's basement. Fortunately, back then they didn't have green ketchup, and we were treated to a rather steamy culinary display as well as a warning as to how important it is to turn the tide against the spin-doctors of the retail establishment.

For myself, I tend to relate all trips to the store into the dreaded polyester-queen dodging exercise in anger management called grocery shopping; it may be a simplistic view, but things are much easier for me this way.

First on my hit list would be a firmer set of protocols to deal with those who seem to think express is a relative term. You know who you are. Busy with your checkbook, refusing to make eye contact with the rest of us as if we're not going to notice you're trying to smuggle an entire Thanksgiving dinner through the ten-items-or-less lane. Personally, I don't understand why we just stand there and mutter to ourselves, as if you're going to shame yourself into slinking away to a regular line, but we all do. I'm just as guilty as the next person, so, here are a couple of thoughts to make enforcement of the express lane more ideal: A) there shouldn't be a single pen, pencil or crayon allowed within 50 feet of the checkout, B) staff these registers with road rage diversion programs who can't count past ten,

and C) double coupons for every item you have the stones to remove from an offender's cart.

Finally, we need marketers to use a more rational placement of products that compliment one another to expedite our trip through the store. I'm not talking about simply moving the ketchup to a display next to the potatoes. I'm thinking total, real world placement that makes sense, i.e., stocking air freshener next to anything made by Nalley's, or putting the breath mints with the birth control and calling that the condiment aisle. And a singles catwalk in frozen foods to bypass the parents negotiating with their kids over what the babysitter is truly capable of heating in the microwave. As long as we're engaged in flights of fancy, I'd also like to see immunity from prosecution for beating the hell out of whoever is caught refilling the candy displays in the checkstands.

A brief note in closing - I understand there are different types of shopping, just like there are different types of stores. Costco lurking or prayer rug ceremonies at Fry's or Best Buy have a completely different vibe and consequently require entire articles of their own. Conversely, a trip to the mall for some power shopping can't be done justice without input from a true expert, and, to date, the closest I've been able to come to anything resembling the female perspective has been gleaned from staring up at the ceiling, which I'm certain is just a small piece of the pie.

## Volunteer's passion helps Orchard Society

**Elisabeth Meyer**  
Feature Editor



ELISABETH MEYER Clackamas Print

**Jim Cox, works even when it's raining.**

"It's a bit demanding, when it's snowing and raining like mad," Jim Cox said, "but in the spring when the orchard is coming to life, it's a real pleasure to see."

For three years now, Cox has volunteered most Tuesdays in the Home Orchard Society Arboretum, pruning and maintaining the trees, vines and bushes. It's a big job, and it's short on recognition.

"Students don't usually know we're here," Cox said. And he's okay with that. Except for a few pruning seminars taught Winter term by the Horticulture department, the college has little to do with the arboretum. Actually, the Home Orchard Society (HOS) rents the space from the college for its own use.

The HOS also has chapters in Vancouver and Eugene, but neither location has space for trees.

"Eugene is expanding," Cox said. "Places to grow things are disappearing fast."

Oregon's HOS members have to visit our campus to learn pruning techniques hands-on, Cox's favored method of arboriculture study.

"You don't necessarily need to go to college to learn (how to grow fruit from trees)," Cox said. "Unfortunately, the books are very

often written by people who don't do this kind of work."

"Of course, I didn't go to college; maybe that's my defense," he adds. "But in the olden days, you learned this by being an apprentice to a nursery."

Cox estimates that the arboretum could keep an individual busy for an hour a day, year in, year out. He comes in just once a week to keep things orderly.

The arboretum is home to mulberries, kiwis, berry bushes, persimmons, and many varieties of apples and grapes. When the arboretum is open, (read: when Cox is there), he sells fruit grown there to whomever happens by and the small group of people who seek out the produce.

Although there's no fame associated with the long hours, Cox feels, "It's better than anything on TV, anyway."



*A Member-Owned Financial Cooperative*

**Clackamas Federal  
Credit Union**

*Where Membership Has Its Advantages*

Oregon City • 270 Warner Milne Road  
Milwaukie • 10400 SE Main Street  
503-656-0671

### REGISTERED STUDENTS & STAFF:

Do you have \$5??  
Then you have what it takes to open an account with us!

#### ~ ENJOY THE BENEFITS ~

- Waived Membership fees!
- Interest earned on Savings!
- Visa rates as low as 8.5%!
- No Monthly fees!
- Student Loans - Free ATMs!
- Discounts on fitness clubs and

Costco memberships and more...

WE WILL SAVE YOU TIME AND MONEY  
IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

CLACKAMAS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

PROMOTING THE FINANCIAL SUCCESS OF OUR MEMBERS

www.clackamasfcu.org

Stop in, open an account, and be entered to win a Palm Pilot or Mountain Bike!!!

(Entry deadline is December 1, 2002. Must be 18 years or older to enter. One entry per member only. All entries must be handwritten. Need not be present to win. Winner to be selected in a random drawing on Dec. 15, 2002. Membership not required.)