

Bob's Corner

This is the week that the editor was going to tell you about his jolly experiences on Thursday, Dec. 5 during a 12-hour out-patient extravaganza at Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford for an angiogram. Sounds like something a criminal would send to someone on a hit list: "Hey, Jackson -- send that creep on the East Side an angiogram." Something like that.

But because El Jefe was back at RVMC on Monday, Dec. 9 for a return engagement, he has decided to talk about something else. At least for now, until my chances for entering the Olympics look a bit better. Not to worry; I just have a bit of a heart problem related to bypasses and stents closing, apparently because of bad reviews (?).

Anyway, Jan and I have faith that God is in charge, along with various cardiologists and other medical folks, so we're leaving it their hands. Especially God's.

What does all this mean? Unfortunately, or fortunately -- depending on how one wields a two-edged sword -- it likely means that the editor will have to take a diminished role at the "Noose." One that doesn't take too much time, and especially one that avoids as much stress as possible. We'll see about that, but it seems a distinct possibility.

We have a terrific staff, and they will continue to produce the "Noosepaper." El Jefe will have to take more of a sideline approach. Kinda' like in high school, when my football position was Left Out.

As this is written on Sunday, Dec. 8, our kittens are going at it tooth-and-nail in a "playful way." They also are making noises like veloceraptors. They're funny little creatures (the kittens, not the veloceraptors). How did I get into the topic of cats?

Don't know. Going to stop this column for now. Get back to you next week after I deal with another doc coming at my femoral artery with a sharp knife. God bless all.

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Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary expressed in letters to the editor are strictly those of the letter-writers.

Typed, double-spaced letters are acceptable for consideration. Hand-written letters that are double-spaced and highly legible also can be considered for publication. Cards of thanks are not accepted as letters.)

Losing our outback
From Larry Warnicke
Cave Junction

Summer is gone, and the fires are finally out. Cave Junction is back to its lazy self and digging in for another winter.

I just took a ride over the hills from O'Brien, up Lone Mountain Road to the west where the Biscuit Fire burned hot. I went down into the valley of Diamond Creek, one mountain range over from Sourdough where the fire first broke out and was totally heart broken.

What was a pristine place to go camping -- with four beautiful pools in the size of a large Jacuzzi with crystal-clear waterfalls splashing, causing the water to bubble with excitement -- are gone.

The waterfalls and ponds are still there, but the scene surrounding them is devastating. The trees and brush once thick with paths to various rural campsites, with beauty only surpassed by clean air and blue sky, are gone.

Now in its place are blackened, burned-out tree trunks standing like monuments to remind us how Mother Nature can be so cruel if we don't heed her warning.

How does something like this happen? We had two small fires that could have been easily put under control. However, the paid bureaucrats decided to let it go until it became the largest fire in the United States in 2002, and the largest in many decades on the West Coast.

Environmental groups fight hard to keep the timber industry out of the areas, and are doing so today in order to "preserve our forest."

Does this mean we should clear-cut all the timber in order to prevent fires in the future? This is as devastating as not select-cutting timber or clearing out under the brush. Now we have nothing but burnt forest to remind us that we need to regroup and start managing our forest before it becomes a waste land.

At what point should the environmental groups be held accountable for their actions? Do they stop responsible forest management with protest and high-paid lobbyists at the governmental level?

Are they willing to pay for this and other fires, or absorb the cost of replanting the more than 50 square miles of destroyed forest?

How long are we going to hold our forest captive in the name of preservation? I won't be able to go into my forest unless I hike, so how does my dad get there. How does the handicapped person get into the backcountry? I bet they all pay taxes to maintain trails, and fight the fires.

It's going to take millions of dollars to rehab this forest, and who is going to pay for it? Does this mean toss out the environmental groups or put people who were in charge of this fire in the unemployment line? Should we allow the timber industry to go in and clear-cut large areas or allow the

off-road groups to run through our forest unchecked?

Not at all.
 Is it time for our government to hear from the people, instead of special interest lobbyists? We need to help the economy not cost billions in firefighting and rehabilitation of our forest. It is time for the people to reclaim lands lost in the name of preservation.

Thousands of acres are gone in this fire, and the timber will remain there until the next lightning strike starts another devastating fire. Less than 20 percent of the burnt timber will be logged, and if not cut and processed soon it will be of no use to the timber industry.

With the cost of lumber and lack of jobs in Oregon, isn't it ridiculous to waste what we should have addressed before this fire? And at least get something out of the burnt timber?

The forest will be cleaned up, trees replanted, roads repaired and reopened, along with making money for the state at little or no cost to the people of Oregon.

R&R sadness
From Paul Dillon
Cave Junction

I was sad to hear of the potential loss of jobs should Rough & Ready Mill close.

It is my prayer that everyone affected by this lay-off will put their trust in the God of the living, Jesus Christ, in this time of change and always.

This is yet another example of the chipping away of the strength of our Nation by those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, while fantasizing that they are the saviors of the Universe.

Romans 1:18 - 32 should make it very clear even to those of us perceived to be less educated than the Clinton/Gore liberal-left, what is really going on here.

I believe that when these people have finally obtained what they want they will still be dissatisfied.

They may see themselves as some sort of savior, who they really need is the Savior.



MUSIC MOOLAH - (Top photo) IVHS and Lorna Byrne Students sing Christmas carols as Linda Oncay of Family Tree Garden Center presents T. Lund with a \$300 check to the Illinois Valley Music Program at the 5th Annual I.V. Music Dept. Benefit and Open House on Saturday, Dec. 7. The check consisted of 10 percent of Family Tree Garden Centers December 2001 sales. The benefit continues Saturday, Dec. 14. (See ad below)



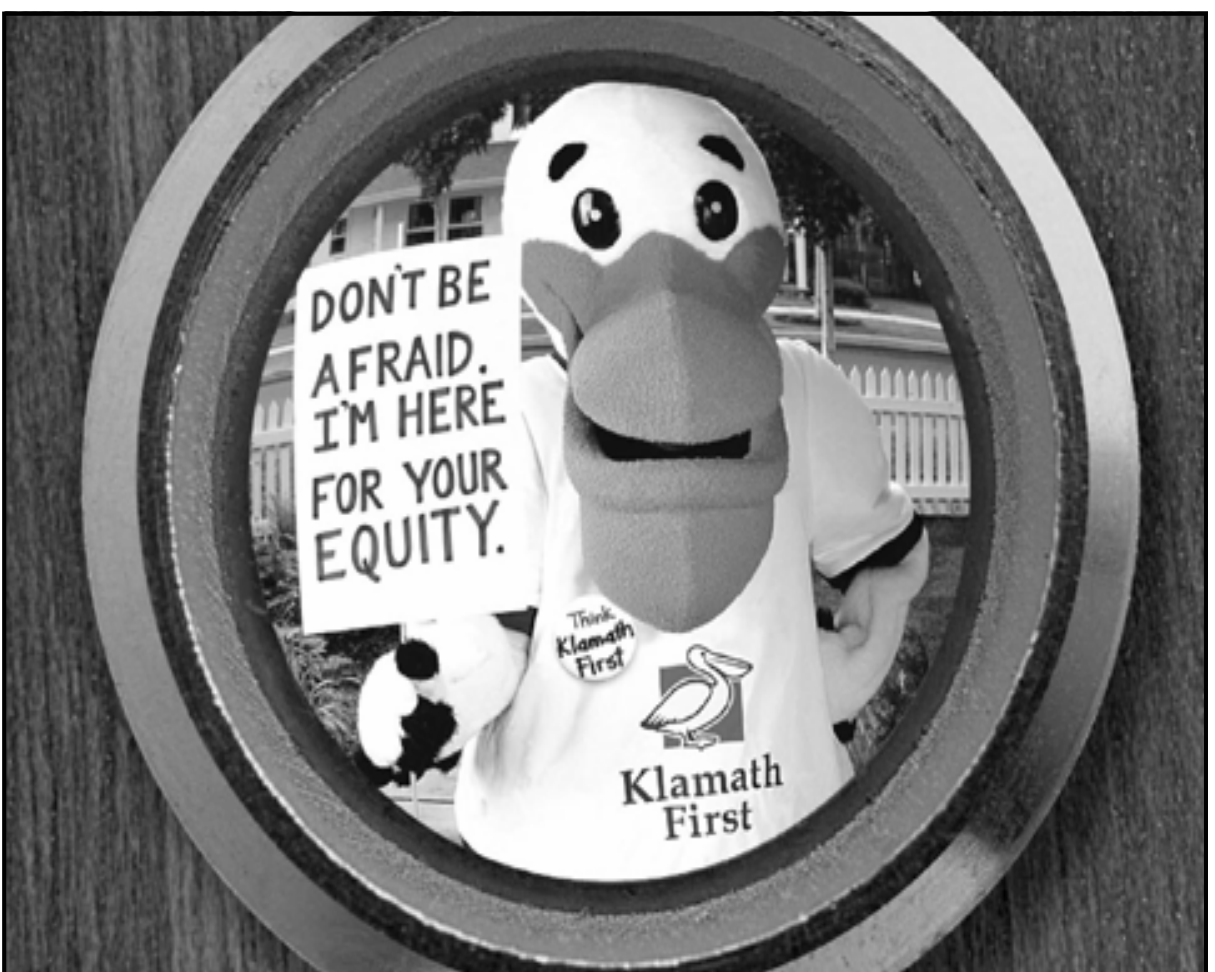
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