

Bob's Corner

Some of us enjoy clutter and the joy of having stacks of stuff on our desk and atop every piece of furniture in the room, not to mention piles of important documents and valuable garbage covering most of the floor. It makes us look important, we think.

But there comes a time, especially when navigating into or out of the room becomes hazardous, that one must take action. Action known as cleaning up your room before your spouse does it for you and then you can't find anything any more.

Such was the case last week. Actually it turned out fairly well, although I choked several times due to an accumulation of dust on all my vital stuff. You know, stuff that you just might need to review some day, perhaps during the next century.

And what do we sentimental types do with all our items of memorabilia? Old photos, old newspapers, old clutter that maybe we could sell at a yard sale. Yeah, right. Out comes the trash can. In go some items. Out come some items. Hey, it's difficult to toss expired coupons, worn-out rubber bands, pens that nearly work, and paperwork from 1999.

I have to admit that it's much easier to work in my home office now. I still have stacks of vital documents, but they're not nearly as tall as before. And I found some "things" I thought were lost: the driver's manual to our van, my father's U.S. citizen border crossing pass when he was 18 (he died at 88 a couple years back), a map of Downtown Salem showing where the merry-go-round is located; and a pin-on button with the words, "The pen is mightier than the sword." Also unearthed were the instructions to a former computer that I killed with my .45, a partly eaten turkey sandwich, seven empty 7-Up cans, and some "Star Trek" stickers. OK, so I tossed the sandwich.

The massive room cleanup resulted in our kids' photos being placed on a wall, instead of face down on the carpet. Besides, I now have a calendar up (I think it's the one for this year). Plus, I found a couple of railroad postcards that I really like.

Anybody want to buy some "Star Trek" stickers?

You improvise. You adapt. You overcome.
- Clint Eastwood/'Heartbreak Ridge' -

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Illinois Valley News

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(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until Noon, Monday with an additional charge.)

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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.) ***

'Yes' for library From Louis Levison Cave Junction

Many past generations took pride in their contribution to the building of their nation and community.

A bridge, a library, a fire engine, a park, or a school: these were among the collective achievements of the communities that made the backbone of the greatest nation in the world.

But now we have among us a ghost town voice, a self-centered voice of armchair experts, who don't mind enjoying the investments other generations made for them, and yet a voice that denounces the collective investment that built this mighty nation as too burdensome or too inconvenient for itself.

There will always be some waste in any budget. There will always be a continuing need for oversight and efficiency. But that doesn't mean we shut things down or have a second-rate community.

Let us take back the pride we once had in building a vital community. Let the anti-tax, anti-government, anti-society zealots whine their doomsday chant of, "No, No, No," and let the rest of us shout, "Yes, Yes, Yes!" "Yes" to the best community we can make. "Yes" to the kind of community that makes Janet say, "Bob, we must move the company here. This place is so nice!"

And "yes" to the library in the coming election. With resources and efficiency beyond the wildest dreams of the past, the public library as an institution has remained as American as apple pie.

Let's keep it that way. Vote "yes" for the library and feel good. Feel pride.

Where's the truth? From Laurraine Rakes O'Brien

In response to Jim Gandee's letter on holy matrimony ("Illinois Valley News," March 24); perhaps he is right. Marriage should stay a tradition between men and women and kept in the church where it was created.

I don't dispute that so much as I do all of the hatred and negative feedback from people that these issues create.

I attended many churches growing up. My siblings and I were always encouraged to go to church. I think it's good for kids to go to church, but why just take them to one church?

Why not let them go to 10 different ones and pick the one they like the best? If there is only one word, then why are there so many different religions and beliefs? Why so many different versions of the Bible? Which one are we to believe to be the truth? Why do some churches accept some people and not others?

This leads me to believe that they can't all be right, so who's telling the real truth besides what

God puts in each of our hearts?

Rafferburg backer From Elizabeth Metcalf Selma

I believe that Jim Rafferburg will bring integrity, openness and energy to the job of county commissioner, Position 2, if we elect him in May.

I worked with Jim as a fellow planning commissioner for four years. I appreciated his skill as chairman; his willingness to listen to the concerns of Josephine County residents, and his thoughtful decisions.

He believes in financial responsibility and planning for the future. As a retired certified public accountant, I feel that these are critical in county government.

He is also a trained mediator, which will help avoid the constant fighting that the citizens have seen on the county board for many years.

Because I believe that Jim has the ability to make change happen, I am working on his election campaign.

Park use fees From Daniel O. Fiske Cave Junction

I am writing in response to Steve Lyons' letter about not understanding the "animosity of the Cave Junction City Council toward the I.V. Lions Club," as well as the previous letter from the CJ Lions Club stating that it is withdrawing from a service project to the city due

(Continued on page 3)



Myrna Hooley retires from post office
More than 50 well-wishers gathered on Sunday, April 4 in Illinois Valley Senior Center for a party to mark the March 31 retirement of Myrna Hooley, 62, who had the same Cave Junction Post Office rural route for 20 years, 17 of them full time. She is a 1960 graduate of I.V. High School, and is married to Steve Hooley, a '59 IVHS graduate. The couple plan to travel in their RV and visit Ireland following his retirement in June. 'I thoroughly enjoyed my job, especially meeting people on the route and becoming friends,' she said.

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