

Bob's Corner

It's difficult for me to find anything I'm looking for these days. This likely is linked to the fact that I am a disorganized person, besides the fact that remembering where I put stuff is darn near impossible.

This means that when I need to find a tape measure, it's not where I think I might have put it the last time I used it. My first move is always to go to the catch-all drawer in the kitchen, although I'm a little afraid to open it because of what might pop out.

If what I seek is not in the clutter drawer, I look in the top drawer of the dresser in the bedroom. After that I mutter a few incoherent words, follow this up with a prayer, and then try to think. When my brain hurts from too much thinking about where the item is that I must have or die trying, I head for the garage and the dreaded Cabinet of Clutter. This is a bit scary, so the faint-hearted should stop reading now.

First, I have to move several items from the doors in front of The Cabinet to be able to look inside. Next come more incomprehensible words, which we will not talk about here. At last, if I haven't melted from the heat inside the garage, I gingerly open the doors and quickly jump back. This is because I enjoy having 10 toes, all attached to my feet. At various times, heavy or sharp items, or sharp and heavy items, have leaped from inside The Cabinet and attacked parts of my body, primarily my toes. So I'm wary.

The reason this topic arose is because last weekend I was searching for a tape measure. Historically, and hysterically, I have periodically purchased items that I knew I already had, but couldn't find. Therefore, in checking the Cabinet of Doom last weekend, actually taking the time to sort through the debris, here is what I found, besides three tape measures:

*Twenty-four screwdrivers of varying lengths, some of which should be in a museum, and most of them appearing as though they had been used as weapons in a medieval war.

*Nine hammers, generally rusted and a bit beat up, but quite usable (as long as they stay away from my toes). Some have wooden handles; some have plastic handles; a couple have rubber handles; and the handle on one is cracked and looks quite dangerous.

*Six partially used rolls of duct tape; three rolls of plumber's tape all tangled together; and a large roll of sticky tape of unknown origin or use.

*Nine paint scrapers, two of them never used.

*Two large coffee cans overflowing with bent, rusty and flattened-head nails and screws, all of them unusable unless you want to sink something in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

*Several odd bits of metal, sort of like special tools, that look as though they have great uses if I could just figure out where they came from.

*A sack full of nuts, bolts and washers that would have been great for assembling a wheelbarrow, except I misplaced the sack after getting the wheelbarrow and bought another sack of nuts, bolts and washers that worked, although they didn't come with the wheelbarrow.

*A collection of half-empty paint cans, none of them labeled.

Yard sale anyone?

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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.)

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Typed, double-spaced letters are acceptable for consideration. Handwritten letters that are double-spaced and highly legible also can be considered for publication.

Cards of thanks are not accepted as letters.)

* * *

American rights From George Leverett O'Brien

It's easy to be discouraged since Sept. 11, 2001. We are on continual alert by our government for terrorist activities, and we get daily reports of our sons and daughters being attacked and killed in Iraq.

Not to mention the budget deficit and struggling U.S. economy. Even though things seem bad, my fellow citizens should take heart. It is my pleasure to report that there are many good citizens here in Illinois Valley who proudly proclaim and exercise their rights as Americans.

To begin, I was in a valley hardware store around the 4th of July when I overheard a customer describing his experience setting off fireworks throughout that week. He complained bitterly that his neighbors in O'Brien were voicing concerns about his activities.

He also told the cashier that he "put his neighbors right back in their place" saying, "I'll set off all the fireworks I like; it's my right as an American!"

I live in O'Brien and did notice a brush fire or two around that time. As I watched the fires being doused frantically with water, I thought of that proud fellow, and my heart was glad for his patriotism.

One of my other good patriot neighbors exercises his rights each and every evening by turning up his car stereo in front of his house. Even though there are several acres between us, I have the good fortune of being able to enjoy the constant thumping of the bass as it rattles my windows for hours on end.

One of my less-patriotic neighbors (probably in league with Osama) once questioned this person's listening habits at a yard sale - to which he replied, "I have the right to listen to my music!" My own wife has even shown some communist tendencies on occasion, when she repeatedly sets off our car alarm to protest our good American neighbor.

Two of my neighbors were canoeing around their pond recently when a shower of bullets came raining down on them. They quickly fled to their home, where the woman called the police.

She was informed that, unless the bullets actually hit them or damaged their property, the person firing the gun was within their rights.

I can recall several occasions where I have been doing yard work, and one of my good neighbors exercises his right to discharge guns. My heart sighs with patriotic pride every time I hear a bullet go whistling by me.

As I sit here with my windows rattling, bullets whizzing by, and fires in the distance, I can't help but pity those less-fortunate folks in other

countries where the only rights afforded them are common sense.

Slavery? From J.D. Freeman Cave Junction

Those who wish to be free should read and understand the following.

A driver's license is a revocable privilege from a state. If you have one, you are a slave. You have been deceived into giving up your right to travel.

"The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people." (Article IX, Bill of Rights.)

Also, state laws requiring the registration and licensing of your private car are rendered "null and void" by the U.S. Constitution.

"This Constitution ... shall be the supreme Law of the land ... any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding." (Article VI, paragraph 2.)

"The Senators and Representatives before mentioned; and the Members of the several State

Legislatures; and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution." (Article VI, paragraph 3.)

Why are these government people violating their Oath of Office and failing to support the National United States Constitution? The answer is - We the people are ignorant. We have been deliberately deceived.

People need to wake up, study the Constitution, and learn to enforce it.

By the way, to help, stop using toothpaste with fluoride in it. The Germans used fluoride to tranquilize prisoners during World War II. Today it is used to

tranquilize vicious bulls. We need to stop allowing the government to deceive us and our dentists. This fluoride tranquilizer is turning us into sheep.

'Corruption in county' From Raymond Ronald Karczewski Cave Junction

Josephine County government officials (judges, district attorney and sheriff) had no compunction about destroying my reputation and jailing me for 128 days arising from a high-beam headlight violation; then labeling me a Paper Terrorist (under the Patriot Act.)

Yet they released me from jail with no charges after undergoing my two

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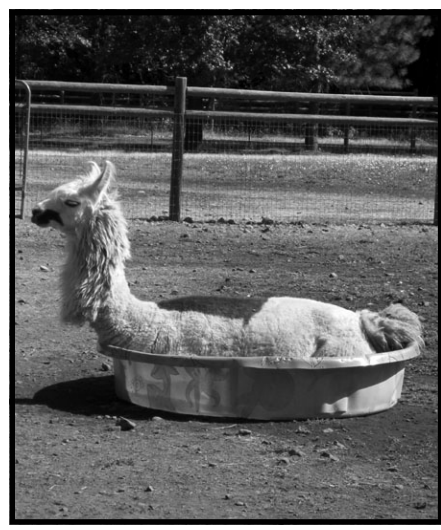
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