

Bob's Corner

There's an old story that the reason Moses wandered in the desert for 40 years is because he refused to ask anyone for directions. My own father was like that, and I have followed, so to speak, in his footsteps. Or maybe in his tire tracks.

The problem with us men is that we do not like to admit that we might not know something, especially where we are going. So we roar off in all sorts of incorrect directions, confident in mind that we know exactly which road to take and where to turn. This has gotten us in trouble for thousands of years. In fact, some of us have been lost for thousands of years.

One reason I bring up direction is that in a page 1 caption last week, I became utterly confused and wrote that two brush fires were south of Fort Hay Ranch. Actually, they were northerly.

Moving right along, so to speak, I confess that my worst times of having improper direction have occurred in large cities including San Diego, Sacramento, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle. First, I am intimidated by the hordes of motor vehicles racing this way and that, with all drivers knowing (I think) exactly where they are headed.

Meanwhile, my faithful navigator and wife (same person) will suggest, quietly at first and then with greater volume and energy, that I stop and seek directions at: (a) a service station, (b) a real estate office, (c) a quick-mart type store, or (d) anyplace, dang it, just quit driving around aimlessly and muttering under you breath. I, of course, choose (e) driving foolishly for a couple of hours before choosing a service station with employees who have lived there all their lives but don't know where anything is located.

My dad used to take us by car from San Diego to El Paso, Texas via Flagstaff, Ariz. As near as I can figure, this took about a day longer and many more miles than necessary. I think it happened because we always got lost in Phoenix, although he told me when I was older that we went via Northern Arizona because the enjoyed the scenery. I'm still unsure. During one trip we had a horrible night drive because somehow we went to Flagstaff via Show Low, at a time when the road had been used for bombing practice or attacked by a squad of bulldozers.

My dad never got used to using new freeways in San Diego, and insisted on using the old routes, including congested surface streets. We had a couple of arguments about it, which I won with the simple expediency of serving as chauffeur and basically ignoring his protests.

Anyway, getting from Point A to Point B is especially tricky for a guy like me, who did not do well in math or logic classes. (Still don't, but that's a whole other direction.)

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

Cards of thanks are not accepted as letters.)

Undecided Christian voters? From Cheryl DeBrett Cave Junction

We should not find even one undecided voter among the Christian population in this country.

As Christians we have a responsibility to elect government leaders based on their positions on numerous issues, including five non-negotiable issues.

Abortion: This is the intentional and direct killing of an innocent human being, and therefore it is a form of homicide. The child is always an innocent party, and no law may permit the taking of this life.

Euthanasia: Even though this often is described as "mercy killing," it also is a form of homicide. No one has a right to take his own life (suicide), and no one has the right to take the life of any innocent person.

Fetal stem cell research: Recent scientific advances show that any medical cure that might arise from experimentation on fetal stem cells can be developed by using adult stem cells instead. Adult stem cells can be obtained without harming the adults from whom they come. Thus, there is no longer a medical argument in favor of using fetal stem cells.

Human cloning: This ends as a form of homicide because the "rejected" or "unsuccessful" clones are destroyed, yet each clone is a human being.

Homosexual marriage: True marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Legal recognition of any other form of "marriage" undermines true marriage, and legal recognition of homosexual unions does homosexual persons a disfavor by encouraging them to persist in what is an objectively immoral arrangement.

Any candidate who favors even one of these issues would not be a responsible choice for any Christian. In the presidential race this year, one candidate opposes them all, and the other favors them.

I am proud to be a Christian, proud to be an American, and proud to pledge my support for George W. Bush. I hope that others will join me.

'Do the write thing' From Charles Greenwood Cave Junction

We need our Republican friends back to speak up for true conservative values including small business, fiscal responsibility, and especially defense of the Constitution.

This time, pick someone who embodies honesty and integrity like John McCain, Pat Buchanan, or even Anthony Zinni, and write their name on your ballot. You know in your heart that the names at the top of your ticket no longer deserve your respect or your support.

We need our Democratic friends back to speak up for the average working person, union protected or not, and those thirsting for

decent jobs and educational opportunity in this country.

And especially for those in need of health care and something to believe in again.

The late Sen. Paul Wellstone's book, "The Conscience of a Liberal," gives as its inspiration, "The Conscience of a Conservative," by the late Sen. Barry Goldwater.

Find out why. And then get ready for the real work that will begin on Nov. 3, no matter what the outcome is portrayed to be this time around.

We need our Green Party friends back to speak up for the most disenfranchised of all; the one-legged people, and the planet itself.

The party was right to effectively repudiate the megalomaniac Nader this time around. And because of that resolve, it may well emerge as a viable progressive third party soon.

You must know by this time that all votes count.

Greed and religious fanaticism on all sides are at the core of the conflicts we now face. It is time to allow the common principles of compassion and forgiveness to direct the course of our common experience.

We should allow our true spirituality to inform our very important decision this November.

Operation Truth From Joan Norman Cave Junction

The letter from Bill Reid ("Illinois Valley News," Oct. 6) was interesting. He doesn't believe that the letter from a soldier in Iraq was a fact.

He called it "purported." Evidently he has not seen the website, Operation Truth.

Former Capt. David Chasteen and 1st Lt. Paul Rieckhoff, who still serves in the Army National Guard, hope to educate the American people about the truth about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan from the perspective of soldiers who are experiencing it. They both served in the 3rd Infantry Division in Baghdad early last year.

The website is www.optruth.org, and includes many letters from our military as a forum for all the military serving in Iraq, or just returned, to tell their stories, post digital photos and complaints.

Operation Truth is a

nonprofit soldiers' advocacy group, which is non-partisan, nonpolitical and not affiliated with any political candidate.

Some issues addressed to date include what they call, "Stop Loss," the involuntary extension of active-duty soldiers, whose enlistment has ended.

They call this a backdoor draft. One comment is that this action is destroying the concept of a voluntary military. It damages morale, and they say that it is "just another indication that the original plan for war was flawed."

Another issue is "the

role of private contractors in combat zones." They state that the relationship that companies like Halliburton, KBR and Blackwater have with the military is disturbing. They maintain that this weakens the military by drawing away some of the most experienced war-fighters with offers of much higher wages and better benefits.

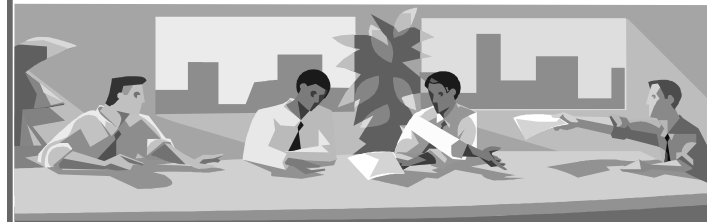
Another issue that bothers them is "The Veterans Administration." They say that the VA budget will be cut by nearly \$1 billion by 2006. Also that the VA is closing

(Continued on page 3)

ILLINOIS VALLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE FORUM

Presented by
Illinois Valley News

When: Wednesday, Oct. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Where: Lorna Byrne Middle School



6:30-7 p.m. Meet the Candidate
This will be an informal opportunity for the citizens to mix and meet candidates individually. Citizens also can take this opportunity to submit questions for candidates on index cards.

7-7:10 Welcome and Ground Rules

7:10-7:20 Candidates' Opening Remarks

Position 2: Jim Brock - 3 min.
Jim Raffenburg - 3 min.
Position 3: Dwight Ellis - 3 min.
Cheryl Walker - 3 min.

7:20-8:20 Questions for Candidates
Each candidate will have a maximum of 2 minutes to answer each question. Questions will be screened to minimize redundancy and ensure they are relevant to the position of Josephine County commissioner. Questions will be directed to candidates as evenly as possible.

8:20-8:30 Candidates Closing Remarks
Candidates will be limited to 2 minutes, order to be determined by coin toss.

8:30 Good-night

Another possible source of guidance for teen-agers is television, but television's message has always been that the need for truth, wisdom and world peace pales by comparison with a need for a toothpaste that offers whiter teeth and fresher breath.

- Dave Barry -

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