

Bob's Corner

There is no way we can ever move from our present residential address. Not unless I can find a way to not “waste” the 42,000 self-sticking address labels that have come to me unsolicited by organizations that apparently want me to feel obligated to send them some cash.

I suppose that I could use the labels by writing hundreds of letters each week, but that might take time away from writing for this space. Or perhaps they could be used to paper a couple of walls. I don’t know; I suppose it’s possible to start a new fashion trend by pasting 40 or 50 of them on my forehead each day before heading to work. You think?

Of course, some of them should be trashed, as they’re a tad incorrect. Such as those that misspell my last name, “Rodriguez,” by using a “q” instead of a “g.” It’s interesting to me that some read, “Bob Rodriguez,” while others are printed as “Robert Rodriguez,” “Robert R. Rodriguez,” or my least-favorite, “Mr. Robert Rodriguez.” You know, “Mr.” sounds so fuddy-duddy, too formal for a guy whose favorite clothing is old blue jeans and well-worn colored T-shirts with sayings on them.

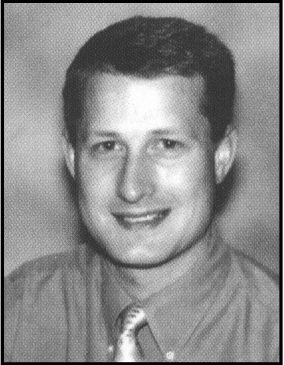
Where these organizations get my mailing address is always a mystery to me, being as naïve as I am. Sometimes I’ve never heard of those sending the labels. For example: “People for the Preservation of Movie Monsters,” “Brother Ike’s Church of the Undamned,” “Dairy Cows United,” and “America’s Popcorn Ball Heritage Group.” Does everyone get almost a weekly selection of address labels?

It’s difficult for me to throw anything away, being a packrat at heart. OK, it’s time to confess: I have address labels sent me during the past 40 years. In fact, nearly half my dresser is stuffed with the darn things. I just can’t bear to let them go. Especially those with cute illustrations like hopping frogs, colorful butterflies and my name in ornate lettering.

I know, for the next Illinois Valley High School bon fire, or if we ever need a beacon at I.V. Airport to guide in a plane, I’ll be ready to donate my saved labels. Reluctantly, but I will make the sacrifice.

And by the way, if anyone knows how to get off the “Label Sucker List” please advise. I’m running out of storage space.

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The future is here. It's just not widely distributed yet.

- William Gibson -

Illinois Valley News

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Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact, are strictly those of the letter-writers.)

Typed, double-spaced letters written solely to this newspaper are considered for publication. Hand-written letters that are double-spaced and legible also can be considered.

Cards of thanks are not accepted as letters.

Bush right choice
From Gregory Anderson
Cave Junction

I would like to add my voice to those thanking the Democrats, Independents and Republicans who voted for President Bush.

It is kind of nice to see that the majority of Josephine County, along with 81 percent of the counties in America, could see through the propaganda and misinformation of the likes of Michael Moore and his myopic followers.

I thank them for voting for a man of high moral convictions to bring back honor and respect to the White House. A man who spends his time in the Oval Office concerned about the needs of his country instead of his carnal desires.

I thank them for voting for a man who realizes we are entitled to keep more of the money we earn, and that we shouldn't be compelled to support programs and bureaucrats to build dependency on the federal government for the sake of more government power.

Finally, I thank them for voting for a man willing to slow the onslaught of the radical extremism of the left, so that we may harvest some of our God-given resources for food, clothing, and building materials, thereby providing jobs. The jobs make it so we can pay more taxes to provide grants to those groups against utilizing our resources.

Our taxes also support corrupt government employees so they can initiate lawsuits and plant lynx hairs in forests where the endangered animal doesn't live, in their zeal to keep the taxpayers who pay their salaries from utilizing these woods.

I'm sure we can expect to see women in black attire, standing on the street corners in Cave Junction and throughout the world, to show their appreciation to our president and the fine coalition of troops for de-

fending the world against terrorism and giving the Iraqi women the opportunity to vote. The Iraqis are experiencing their first taste of freedom, liberty and democracy, thanks to GW.

Yes indeed, thank you to all those voters who believe in America rather than blame this great country for their personal woes and those of the world.

Good Samaritan hiker
From Isaac Tausaga
Kerby

I was recently mountain biking on single-track trails near Lake Selmac. It was a fun ride.

At the end of the day I realized I was missing my wallet. Dusk was nearing, leaving no time to go back and search for the wallet.

A week later I received a package from a "Happy Hiker" from Selma. It contained my wallet with everything inside.

I appreciate the "Happy Hiker" and wish them happy trails.

Fin-clipped 'strays'
From Ellis Couron
Cave Junction

In the 2005 edition of the "Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations" booklet is listed for the first time in at least 10 years permission from our fish-and-game officials to catch adipose fin clipped steelhead in Illinois River.

Having some background information regarding fishing in this river, I sent a questioning email to the Fish & Game Dept. asking when, where and how many of these fish has the department put in the river in the last five years.

The answer I received stated that none of these fish have ever been stocked in Illinois River, and that the regulations were changed so that in the event any one catching a fin-clipped fish in our river would be able to keep it.

More than 20 years ago a number of us met with two representatives for the F&G Dept. at Junction Inn and asked them what their intentions were for Illinois River. We were told that the department wanted a dam on Sucker Creek, and that until that happened nothing

would be done for Illinois River.

The federal government listed Illinois River as Wild and Scenic in 1985, and sometime thereafter it was closed to fishing by the F&G Dept. and has been since.

Also you might like to know that the top of the big waterfall down-river at McCaleb Scout Ranch has been removed, something that violated the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Act.

The F&G Dept. tells me that if I want to fish I am welcome to fish in the Rogue or Applegate rivers, but that it has no plans for allowing anyone to take anything but adipose fin-clipped steelhead out of Illinois River; something that requires a license fee of \$46.25 for the privilege.

'Mad as hell'
From Annette Rasch
Cave Junction

The original legislation establishing the U.S. Forest Service made it crystal clear that the intention was to protect public land for future generations.

Yet this mandate has been warped and distorted throughout much of the 1900s. The agency operates at the profit-driven whims of our corporate-owned society, and that's been apparent for decades.

We hear terms like "multiple use" or "salvage logging." What a joke. Now we witness the effort to quickly log old-growth trees from primeval forests affected by the Biscuit Fire before a court case in March potentially puts a stop to the insanity.

Take the Babyfoot Lake area as one example. This gem is becoming a world-renowned landscape; a primary tourist destination for folks who want to experience an intact, temperate rain forest of indescribable beauty. Yet the agencies and timber industry would have you believe that logging old-growth at a financial loss from this vulnerable place is a good thing.

Fellow forest advocates counsel me to try to be nicer about my criticism. Forget it. I'm mad as hell, and that's as real as it gets. One big gulp, big slam, big truck American culture, driven by corporate greed and facilitated by a slumbering, selfish citizenry is a global embarrassment, and I'll not sugarcoat my well-earned righteous indignation.

Many Republicans and corporate representatives put on a nice suit and speak in a

(Continued on page 3)

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