

Bob's Corner

"A fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust, and a hearty 'Hi-Yo, Silver!' The Lone Ranger rides again!"

Wow, mighty stirring, as the masked lawman without portfolio, aided by his faithful Indian companion, Tonto, uses his six-guns and silver bullets, and sometimes his gloved fists, to bring law and order to the Old West, wherever that was. But wait, a "fiery horse with the speed of light." Could that be true? Maybe.

After all, Clark Kent, in his blue-and-red PJs with a yellow cape, was able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. And he was faster than a speeding bullet and more powerful than a locomotive. Man, what heroes we had.

Not to mention Batman & Robin, Captain Marvel, Black Hawk, Aquaman, Plastic Man, Sky King, Sgt. Preston of the Yukon, and a host of others. All of them determined to stop crime, beat the bad guys and generally bring justice to all corners against all comers. Where'd they go?

The reason all this came up is that my 9-year-old granddaughter, Kimberly, and I have been watching episodes of "The Lone Ranger." Over and over. The first area I had to explain occurred after she first listened to Tonto speak his lines. She said, "Grampa, why does that Indian talk that way?" I did the best I could to clarify why he spoke pidgin English. And I think she understood.

But she also noticed that when the ranger and his buckskin buddy race out of town after solving crimes and jailing desperadoes, the voice yelling, "Hi-Yo Silver, Away!" is not the ranger's, but the announcer's. That was one I couldn't explain.

She also wanted to know why the masked man bothers to wear a mask. "Why doesn't he want anyone to know who he is?" asked Kimberly. Another stumper for grandpa, although I made a valiant attempt to describe his origin. But the more I tried to explain the matter, the more I began to question it too.

We also noticed that sometimes in those Old West stories, people "throw" their bullets. Interesting. Another point of contention involves how the Lone Ranger receives mail. Also, how does he stay so clean and why doesn't he have a tent for camping? Plus:

*Does he ever eat?

*Where does he get money?

And most important: What does "Kemosabe" mean? Maybe we don't want to know.

"Editor Bob - Away!"

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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.

Conroy 'refreshing'

From Jerry Dean Kerby

It was refreshing to read the March 16 "Illinois Valley News" article by Scott Conroy.

Many of us in Illinois valley disagree with the extreme environmentalists. However, they are prolific letter-writers.

Thank you for presenting both sides.

'New green bike'

From C. Philemon Cave Junction

I'm wondering if any Illinois Valley High School parents noticed that their son or daughter came home last Friday with a new green bike.

My son forgot -- one time -- to lock his bike that he got for Christmas. After his classes, the bike was missing.

So, if someone's child has a new bike, it could belong to my son. He is walking to school now.

Cat supports USA

From Bill Wiswell Cave Junction

I recently read that Americans buy more foreign-made products than foreigners and Americans buy American-made products.

Of course, this is not good for the U.S. economy.

My wife and I recently bought a Craftsman drill, a Revere Ware tea kettle, Farberware fry and sauce pans, a pair of Reebok shoes, a pair of New Balance shoes, a DVD player, and a bucket of kitty litter.

All the items were made in China, except the kitty litter, which is USA-made.

I am pleased to announce that our cat is aiding the U.S. economy every time he pees.

'New age of intellectual enlightenment'

From Gregory Anderson Cave Junction

A new age of intellectual enlightenment is sweeping the country if the following rumors prove true:

*N.O.W. and other feminist groups are swamping the White House with letters thanking our president for freeing millions of women in Iran and Afghanistan so that they may vote, go to school, hold office, and wear clothing of their choice.

*Algore, Harry Reid, and other prominent Democrats have recovered memories of statements they made before Bush that Social Security is a train wreck waiting to happen.

*Theater groups like the "Dots" across the country are excited about a new play called, "The Penis Dialogues," a series of stories about men's sexuality and

Corrections

In a page 1 photo caption on March 23, it incorrectly was reported that there were three passengers in a van involved in a March 18 motor vehicle accident. The three actually were witnesses. "Illinois Valley News" regrets the error.

self-discovery. A representative from NAMBLA, in conjunction with the ACLU, is furnishing the segment on introducing underage boys to this discovery.

*Bereft of any original thoughts or ideas, [Nancy] Pelosi and Reid have unveiled the new motto of the Democratic Party; "Just Say No!"

*A bipartisan committee from Congress actually read the Constitution and could find nothing about the "separation of Church and State." They did find where it is prohibited for the State to establish a religion.

*The Academy Awards Committee announced that its ceremony would be to give awards for outstanding achievement and not for political sniping by the leftist extremists in their group.

*University authorities nationwide decided to actually practice diversity and tolerance on their campuses by making two important changes: First, every other commencement speaker will represent the conservative point of view, compared to the present zero conservatives. Second, approximately half the professors will be from the loony left, instead of the present 90-plus percent.

*Liberals will start saying, "We Support Our Troops," without crossing their fingers behind their backs.

*The major media point out that even though any death is tragic, more high school students commit suicide than soldiers are killed in Iraq.

'Know-it-all's'

From Ellis Couron Cave Junction

When I was a youngster I wore bib overalls; had a

slingshot hanging from my back pocket; went to school barefoot; and had an old brown Airedale that was my constant companion.

I came into Illinois Valley in 1970 and bought some acreage because it had the same small-town atmosphere that I knew when I was a youngster, and I

wanted to go back to my roots, so to speak.

I had no intention of disrupting the normal way of life of those folks who had lived here most of their lives and raised families.

The valley's only industry for years has been

(Continued on page 3)

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