

Bob's Corner

This was the week that El Jefe thought about relating his recently rewatching the 1951 movie, "The Thing," sort-of starring Marshal Dillon; I mean, James Arness, as the vegetable critter from another planet; I mean, planet, possibly bent on conquering the Earth so that his fellow veggies could drink our blood.

The first time I saw the movie, in the Linda Theater in San Diego, I was probably 7 or 8 years old. No one knew that I was near-sighted, so I didn't become "four-eyes" until I was in the sixth-grade. Which means that I actually saw little of the movie, although I remember getting a migraine headache trying to. So "rewatching" it last week in a colorized version was like seeing it for the first time.

But that's not what I planned to talk about this week. A co-worker showed me an article in a national magazine about high school football memories. The article stirred some of my own recollections, and those are what I really want to inflict on you this time.

On one occasion, we were in the team bus at a public school waiting for a gate to be unlocked. We were good ol' RC boys being taught by Augustinian priests. Under direction of the team captain, we began reciting the rosary, while public school students walked by on either side of our bus, staring in. The team captain got miffed, and right in the middle of our praying, he unleashed a rather harsh expletive at those staring in. I thought it was somewhat inappropriate, but being only a linebacker and guard I was outranked by the captain, who was our quarterback. I still remember the startled looks on the faces of those kids walking by.

During one practice on a hot San Diego afternoon, we were doing one-on-one drills where a coach would toss a ball at one of two of us maniacs, who would then gallop and try to smash past the other guy, who did his best to crême his opponent. I was matched with one guy who my dad would have called "a big bruiser." I was 165 pounds and rather muscular at the time (brag-brag). We collided like two planets, and we both saw stars. As we "came to" after the smash, the coach said, with an evil smirk, "Good contact feels great, right?" We both moaned in agreement. But it was just for show.

Playing high school football was mostly fun, except for the practices and losing most of our games. Also, we didn't always have the best equipment, but we managed. Except for one 52-0 loss against San Diego High at our homecoming. That was awful. It was so typical of a small, private school playing public schools that had more students in one class than we had in our whole school. And the San Diego High Cavers were tough.

There are lots of other football war stories I could tell, but after thinking about them and the gruesome details -- swearing while reciting the rosary notwithstanding -- I think I should have stuck to "The Thing."

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An Independent Weekly Newspaper Co-owned and published by Robert R. (Bob) and Jan Rodriguez - Bob Rodriguez, Editor El Jefe

Entered as second class matter June 11, 1937 at Post Office as Official Newspaper for Josephine County and Josephine County Three Rivers School District, published at 321 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523
Periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction, OR 97523
Post Office Box 1370 USPS 258-820
Telephone (541) 592-2541, FAX (541) 592-4330
Email: newsroom1@frontiernet.net
Volume 68, No. 31

Staff: Kacy Clement, Michelle Binker,
Becky Loudon, Bryan Harley, Tabitha Jackson, Nina Holm Consulting.
Member: Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

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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.

Open Door seeking valley assistance From Vicki Jones Selma

I am part-owner with my mom, Dodie Vandermark, at Illinois Valley Open door in Selma. We have been here for 10 years serving people with clothing and food.

We are experiencing an abundance of homeless people during the last couple of months. During that time we have served more than 1,200 people of whom 30 percent are homeless.

We could only get one box of six blankets from Food Share at this time because of the Gulf Coast hurricane disasters. All the disaster blankets are being sent to that area.

We are asking the community for help. We need old, usable blankets, pillows, sleeping bags, baby blankets, diapers for our little ones, snuggle beds, quilts and old backpacks. They would be greatly appreciated.

Our address is 18250-B Redwood Hwy. For directions phone 597-2197.

Kwilters applauded for their Fire Quilts From I.V. Kwilters Cave Junction

Following is only one letter of many that have been received by I.V. Kwilters in response to one of our group's community projects: Fire Quilts.

This kind of appreciation of our efforts keeps us involved making chemocaps and heart-shape pillows for mastectomy patients, and Project Linus quilts.

The letter is from Selma resident James R. Simmons: 'Dear Ladies: On Aug. 25 my home on Deer Creek Road burned to the ground.

"Many people contacted me about many issues, most trying to make money from my loss. Your quilting club was the first and perhaps the only one that did not seek anything from me.

"This fine quilt that was made for me will now become a treasure that I will keep and use the rest of my life. The quilt and the fact that there are people who seek nothing from others will serve me well for a lifetime. My sincere thanks to your club."

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Resident says CJ needs development planning From Ann Centonze Cave Junction

On Monday evening, Oct. 10 I attended yet another city council meeting. I cannot understand why -- with all the desire, wisdom and experience that sits on the council -- that a long-term plan for developing the direction and growth for our fair city has not been created.

As was pointed out we are, like most cities, very diverse and should embrace that. But our city is going through growing pains.

We, as citizens, should be thinking that we would like to see an overall development plan of where our police station, hospital, entertainment complexes, department stores and light industry should be placed to help support the families we anticipate will move here and buy homes.

We should be creating direction and diversionary traffic flow to all these places, and developing infrastructures to maintain all these necessities that growing cities incorporate into their growth plan.

While these issues may not seem too important right this second, the council already is running into development walls on simple matters such as approving street paving and directing water run-off flow on newly needed, paved streets.

I think that many things would happen if an overall development plan, mapping the future desired growth, were created. It would encourage citizens to be more excited about the future of Cave Junction, while encouraging developers of many locations to want to develop here, thereby creating more jobs, diversity and a wealth of human input with regard to CJ's future.

And by allocating potential growth areas, it will help lay plans for roads, drainage, parks, protected wildlife areas, shopping areas, and zoning for quiet areas for a hospital.

And maybe there also could be a college or university in Cave Junction's future. Just a thought.

It appears that the city leaders are trying to encourage a retirement community. That is all well and good.

But my parents are of retirement age. And while they do play golf and enjoy the outdoors and the arts, as both are artists, they also

have serious health issues, sometimes requiring a fully functional hospital with 24-hour service.

Cave Junction not only doesn't have a hospital, but as far as I can see as yet, no plans for one. An emergency trip 30 miles away to the Grants Pass hospital makes living in CJ, for my parents, prohibitive. If during development you create a need, then you also need plans to fulfill that need.

For the mayor to say, "It is not the council's responsibility to protect the rights and investments of Cave Junction's residents," and then in the next breath create an environment to protect the rights of developers; and similarly, protect another council member's property rights, that tells that me that not only doesn't the council have a clue as to what they are saying, and really supposed to be doing, but is doing it without concern for the citizens, or the future financial, developmental and ethical bottom line for the city as a whole.

And yes, it is the responsibility of the council to protect the rights and investments of its citizens. Otherwise, so much time wouldn't be spent creating rules and

ordinances, and trying to enforce them. Without the citizens, there would be no need for a city council.

Encouraging city leaders and citizens to commit to forethought and direction, create a plan, and look to the future suggests that we care about where we would like our fine city to be in 25 years.

I know that it is not going to happen overnight. But making a plan and sticking to it is a good place to start.

Poor-helpless targets, claims ex-commissioner From Tony Corriera Grants Pass

(Editor's Note: The writer is a former Josephine County commissioner.)

Until the commissioners have closed the senior center, I don't believe they'll be happy. They are targeting the poor, the helpless and those depending on Meals on Wheels.

The board of county commissioners had been doing great as far as cutting back the cost of employee benefits since there will be a big loss of revenue for next year's budget. We'll all have to tighten our belts due to the increase in the cost-
(Continued on page 3)

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