

Bob's Corner

What happened to 2005? Christmas Day is only 11 days away from the date of this issue. Should I make an issue of it? Nah. But it seems incredible that we're not that far from stumbling into another year; the one we'll call 2006. Where did '05 go?

Actually, I could look in my handy-dandy calendar book and see all the appointments, meetings, special events and the like that took up time. Not to mention all the other parts of just living that eat minutes and hours. Oh, I'm not complaining, just thinking out loud. Ouch -- it always hurts when I think.

We had three special visitors during the past two weeks: Our "baby" daughter (she's 37 now) and our Matt & Vicki Kaplan granddaughters, Natalie, 3, and Ella Valentina, 6 months, from Carlsbad in San Diego County. Their visit provided many interesting times, fun times, happy times. And a house that looks really lived in. I am reminded of the old refrain: Give me a home where the buffalo roam, and I'll show you a messy house.

That also reminds me, what are called buffalo are actually bison. However, "Bison Bill" didn't sound nearly as good as "Buffalo Bill," so there you go.

Back to our visitors: Matt didn't come, as he had to work at his job, while Vicki worked at her job (visiting us). And when they reunited last Sunday, they picked up sharing The Job, that of raising children together. Quite a chore, but one with lots of silver linings and rewards. Wonderful visit; great kids all.

Speaking of silver, how about those "Silver Bells" that mark the holiday celebration. Plus green wreaths and trees, lights of many colors, and decorations of many shapes, sizes and colors. Especially those bright, shiny bulbs to which cats are attracted. There's not a sound to compare to the tinkling noise of Christmas bulbs falling to the floor. What's even better is when they make that little explosion sound.

Yes, I'm tending to ramble here, but it's only because of my holiday, brought on by Too Much Work, Too Much To Do. Those are my excuses, anyway. Probably my other worst tendency is (gasp) not being organized. So I'm intuitive and irrational because logic escapes me. Sometimes I feel like the guy trying to put socks on an enraged octopus. Or the time Charlie Brown forgot his lines for a school play, and Linus advised him, "Why worry about minor embarrassment when you can achieve total public humiliation?"

Despite the Yuletide crunch (good name for a candy bar, eh?), I'm going to have a pleasant Christmas with my ever-loving wife, Jan, and our ever-all-over-the-house cats and dogs. Plus our son Mike, and granddaughter, Kim.

And when I figure out where the last 351 days went off to, I'll let you know. Now it's time to run. Is anybody ready for Christmas?!

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.

'Thank you' submissions are not accepted as letters.

Global warming: Is it true?

From Sue Norman Jones
Cave Junction

I believe that the Earth changes are pointing to the truth of global warming, with the increase in hurricanes as one example. What should be done?

From what I have read, carbon dioxide building up is the biggest reason. Stopping the burning of fossil fuels needs to happen soon. Until we find an alternative, there might be another idea to consider.

Green plants and trees take in carbon dioxide for their survival, and in return, give us oxygen. It seems logical then not to cut down any more trees, and leave the plants and decomposing dead trees for food and soil protection. Then plant more trees and plants, of many varieties to add more green.

What will we do for building materials and paper? I have read of a compressor, which compresses hay mixed with other substances, and the product is a 2x4. Also hemp, which is not the same as marijuana, can grow very well and replace tree made products.

He wants to know, What's up America? From William Schneider Cave Junction

I just have to wonder what people are thinking when they suggest that the U.S. should mind its own business internationally and let other countries get along as best they can on their own.

Forty-two percent, according to a recent Pew Poll, feel this way. Besides being, in my opinion, shortsighted and selfish, this sort of action would be detrimental to what is left of the stability of the civilized world.

True, many of the problems, but also much of the progress in other countries, is a result of what the U.S. does and has done in the past.

Gone are the days when the problems of most countries are kept neatly within their borders, hidden from the world with no effect on the whole. Today the economies of nations and their military capabilities have tied us all into one big happy, umm, family.

We live in a world of limited resources, and we will see different camps coming together, some made of unlikely partnerships getting into position to gain control over diminishing resources, such as oil, lumber, metals, water, etc., in our country and abroad.

Also, there is a fairly new player, an awakening giant if you will, named

China, at the water hole. Much quicker now can the well go dry. Add to all this a flawed fanatical religious ideology; and as we can all see, all Hell can break loose.

Which brings me to another point. I know without a doubt that if people were blowing up each other and destroying lives and property in the name of Jesus, the Bible, or the Ten Commandments, without a doubt a vast majority of the world's Christian community would loudly speak out against and distance themselves from this utterly shameful and inexcusable behavior.

I have seen no such actions save but a very few from the world's Muslim community, including those in the U.S. and other countries that enjoy the benefits and freedoms that this sick and twisted bunch of suicidal walking dead would deny us all.

Views offered on 'price of immorality' From John Bazen Cave Junction

Let's address the human cost of the secular and humanism ideas of, "There are no absolutes in truth, in right, in wrong; these are according to each individual, at the time."

Abortion - since legalized by men in 1976, more than 40 million have been killed in a womb.

"Out of the closet," during the 1970's, to now seeking legal marital status.

Pot, the push for legality is gaining, under "medicinal use," but most hard drug users claim to have begun on this.

Medical-assisted suicide, why not? There's no respect for life at either end, or why would murder rates be so high?

Children murdering children, and why not? Look at what we teach about the value of life.

Mass media's ideology is controlling the news they print and broadcast. Even truth itself is a victim.

Sex is used to sell everything from A to Z, in nearly the most provocative methods.

Let's take these one by one. Every organization that supports baby killings gives the same arguments: those who seek or have abortions are victims of rape, abuse, incest or whatever. But can we truly say most [abortions] are not [a result of] these horrid crimes? Yes, most know how to prevent unwanted children, so why are they not used? No preventative measure has a [failure] rate to warrant 40 million murders, not even the Nazis had these numbers, yet we are the "Good Guys," right?

The "average life expectancy" of those choosing the so-called, "alternate life style," is 58 for females, and 48 for males, only...if...there is no HIV/AIDS, then for males it's 32 and females fare better unless they also have male partners. Yet there are many who have

turned away from this successfully, so this "born this way," or "have no choice" is bogus.

Regarding pot, the drug companies have synthesized chemicals found in Cannabis in pills that are chemically identical to pot, but the users say, "Medically this does not work," so what's left? The desire to smoke pot.

Now it's the mildest known mind-altering drug, yet many who use it go on to harder and addictive drugs. Yes many people, even professional types, use it, but will it make right? If many take a long walk off a short pier into shark-infested water, will you follow them? A question, "How many of those who oppose tobacco anywhere, can't wait to light a joint?" Are both types of smoke not equally unhealthy?

Medical assisted self - murder. Pain is no fun; I have lived with chronic pain for years, yet cherish each day, plus there are pain killers available, and the FDA has relaxed heavy narcotic use, for terminal patients, yet they are not living as Zombies.

Besides, one would hope those so inclined have known their medical professionals long enough to trust them, so how is it possible to ask them to help one kill oneself? Where will this end? The nation that began this, Holland, the old folks there, many live in fear of their relatives, especially those with some wealth. They are old, and have lived

their lives. Make room for the next generation, right?

How many times do we hear of children murdering other children? Well, with assisted suicide and all those abortions taken in stride, what are we teaching them, other than that human life is cheap? How many of our children, I wonder, have silently asked themselves, "Did I, or should I, have brothers or sisters?"

On Jan. 12, 1997, the "New York Times" reported, "Nearly 1,000,000 teens will become pregnant, 75% are 'out of wedlock.' Fully 80% of these will end up in dire poverty, on welfare, costing taxpayers \$7 billion a year! Each day sees 1,300 teenaged new moms, and 1,100 abortions on teens."

Wm. Bennet, the former U.S. Secretary of Education, reported from 1960 to 1990 we had a 400% increase of births out of wedlock.

Did you know that children lose more parents to AIDS than to car crashes, which takes 40,000-plus each year? That world-wide AIDS kills some 300 million each year, or more than the U.S. population? The condom is only about 50% effective as a barrier to this virus, it's just too small, and goes through most of them.

Woman's Health Weekly, 6/28/01 reports that nearly 1 in 5 teenage females are infected with Chlamydia and 10% of all males are the "silent carriers." Plus estimates that some 45 million women are

(Continued on page 3)

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