

Bob's Corner

It was his first day on the job as a cub reporter for a major daily newspaper.

He was slightly nervous, but no stranger to the newsroom, as he had spent nine months as a copy boy there. And during that time he had written features for the Youth Page, and covered water sports including SK races, water-skiing, surfing contests, and unlimited hydroplane competition.

Wearing a brand-new sport coat and slacks, and an unaccustomed tie, he took his place in the large, institutional green room at one of the manual typewriters and began pounding out a feature. The sound of other reporters frantically rapping at their keys dominated. Not to mention the aroma of smoke from cigarettes and pipes being puffed on by reporters, editors and headline writers.

The day before, the anxious cub had interviewed a family that had just completed a round-the-world voyage in their sailboat. As he was clackety-clacking his way through the first “take” of the story, the city editor strode over and asked, somewhat sarcastically, just what in the H did the cub think he was doing. Gulping some, the writer replied that he was writing his first draft.

“Not in my newsroom you don’t,” snarled the editor, snatching the foolscap from the Royal. “You put in that three-ply form and rap out your piece: You’ve got 20 minutes!” That was the cub’s baptism into daily newspaper strict deadlines. No exceptions. Write the story. Do it quickly. Quite different from his earlier writing, which allowed him a day or two to complete his work.

That was some 41 years ago, and the Deadline Lesson still adheres. OK, so at a weekly newspaper the deadline can be fudged some. But no one who has not worked at a newspaper under deadline pressure will understand what I’m (I mean that cub reporter of yesterday) talking about. You have to experience it. It’d be like telling someone about swimming, who has never been in the water.

What’s this about? Not entirely sure. Possibly it’s to ensure that yawl understand somewhat about getting your stuff to us so that we can meet our deadline. And possibly it’s about that cub’s penchant (OK-OK, yes it was me) for reminiscing. Hey, everybody needs a hobby. Can I help it if mine is recalling the Olden Days?

Also, although we constantly strive for accuracy, we sometimes err. When we do, it’s inadvertent, and we’ll always apologize and correct the error once we realize that it occurred. In that cub’s case, he made a teeny-little mistake in the photo caption that went with his story. So the first edition that day contained the slip-up, but the next four were corrected.

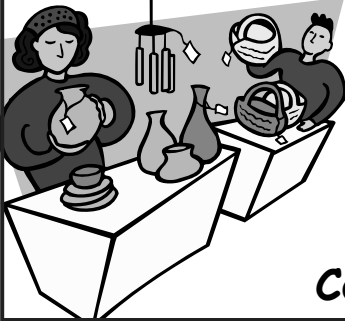
It wasn’t the end of the world, or his job. But maybe sometimes folks will be a bit understanding when they realize that writing Under Pressure can result in an occasional blunder. So don’t bring out your blunderbuss. Just let us know about our blooper, and we’ll press on. Hopefully with fewer bloopers.

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Illinois Valley News

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Email: newsroom1@frontiernet.net or newsdesk@illinois-valley-news.com

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DEADLINES:

News, Classified & Display Ads, Announcements & Letters

5 P.M. THURSDAY

(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until Noon, Friday with an additional charge.)

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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.

‘Thank you’ submissions are not accepted as letters.

Need for natural habitat espoused

From Sue Norman-Jones Cave Junction

Weeks ago I was honored with seeing a bald eagle in Takilma. So surprised, I had to pull over and watch this graceful and strong creature rise higher and higher, then dash across the sky over the mountains.

The sighting awakened a place of awe in me. I have only seen one eagle in 25 years of living here. Are they making a comeback?

As this eagle is rare, so are many species. Endangered species need our protection before they become extinct. Natural habitat is diminishing. This wilderness needs to stay as close to untouchable as possible.

Not only do old-growth forests slow global warming by absorbing the excess carbon dioxide, they also provide places for other beings to live and thrive.

Extinction is forever. I believe that global warming is real. Let us protect what is left, before it is too late. This is a public forest; it belongs to all living things.

Mother queries school rule on zero tolerance

From Anna M. Hurt Cave Junction

I am writing out of pure frustration. My son is one of the finest young gentlemen you will come across; full of love, respect and kindness.

While he was talking to his friends at Lorna Bryne Middle School, a kid came from behind and poked him in the back, hard enough to break the skin. My son turned around, and saw that he had a doorstep.

Not your usual one, it had a screw that was at least 2 inches long and as big around as your pinky finger.

When this other child was not putting it away, my son ran -- out of fear. The kid ran after him with his hand raised and stabbed him in the back. The reason for this is, “Just because.”

The principal’s words were that he was just being squirrely. I thought there is supposed to be zero tolerance in school. Maybe for some, not for others. Which should be for all.

Maybe he didn’t bring a weapon, but he found something to use as a weapon. This kid got only three days suspension for being squirrely. This is a serious situation. It was absolutely not appropriate behavior.

My son is fine; had to go to a doctor and get a tetanus shot, miss school, and we are both wondering why the heck is this OK. Our children are supposed to be safe in school, not worrying about those who want to assault, or being squirrely in the eyes of the principal.

3-alarm fire destroys Proett home

A three-alarm fire of unknown origin caused an estimated \$225,000 damage to a home in rural Cave Junction Sunday morning, March 26, said Deputy Chief Jeff Gavlik, of Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD).

The manufactured dwelling with 1,780 square feet of space, at 218 Martin Road, is owned by Stan & Muriel Proett. It was a complete loss. An attached garage incurred some damage, and several outbuildings were protected by 22 firefighters with three engines and three water tenders.

The alarm came at 10:49 a.m. from a man driving by, who saw smoke billowing from the residence off Rockydale Road near Idlewild Drive.

The Proetts were attending a church service, but were subsequently notified of the fire and returned to their home.

Gavlik said that a number of people came to the site and gave monetary donations to the couple while firefighters worked to extinguish the blaze. Gavlik, who served as incident commander, said he believes that the Proetts stayed in their fifth-wheel, which was not damaged, and that they also had offers for accommodations from friends.

“Controlling the fire was difficult; a real challenge,” said Gavlik, “as gaining access to the interior roof line and attic space was tough. It was a stubborn one,” he said.

Firefighters were on-scene until 4:23 p.m., and it was not until near 1 p.m. that control was realized, Gavlik recalled.

First-arriving fire units found dense smoke billowing from the home, and flames were evident at the woodstove pipe on the roof.

IVFD responded overall with 17 volunteers and staff, two engines, three tenders, two brush units and several command vehicles.

A second alarm brought an engine and five firefighters from Rural/Metro Fire Dept., and a third alarm brought additional IVFD personnel.

“The situation was that

Daylight-saving time to begin

It’s time again to change time, as daylight-saving time will go into effect at 2 a.m. Sunday, April 2.

Therefore, most folks turn their clocks ahead one hour (spring forward, fall back) the night before.

Under federal law, daylight-saving time will remain in effect until Oct. 29.

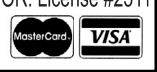
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