

Bob's Corner

This was the week that I was going to wreak on you the story of my recent jury duty. Or some reminisces about my sterling service on the sixth-grade school safety patrol in the Olden Days of the last century, as well as a safety patrol beach party on the Silver Strand between Imperial Beach and Coronado and a certain motorcycle police officer, who --- well, these issues will have to wait for other issues.

Instead, and this is definitely appropriate, everyone must realize that September is “Be Kind to Editors & Writers Month.” I know. It’s not an easy assignment, especially for those in “the biz” who work for an editor. Or who perhaps have horrible recollections. However, being a writer and an editor -- and having worked under a number of (insert appropriate vulgar word here) editors myself -- I have a fair understanding of the dynamics involved.

I’ve seen editors vs. writers -- with an editor throwing pencils and tantrums, shouting, pounding his desk, swearing, slamming doors and generally running amuck. Not always at the same time. I, of course, am always the perfect gentleman. Yeah-right.

Oh, and regarding the kindness we so richly deserve, we haven’t even mentioned The Public. It’s that humongous horde of happy humanity with some members who: A. misunderstand, B. fail to comprehend, and C. hold grudges for the lifespan of a Galapagos turtle. I mean, at some newspapers for which I toiled, people were still complaining about stories printed at least two decades earlier. Under a previous editor. Written by a now deceased reporter.

Talk about holding grudges. Oh, but we were talking about being nice to me ... I mean to editors and writers in general. Seems that part of the problem is that some folks perceive an error, a misstatement, whatever -- but they tell no one at the appropriate newspaper. Instead, they complain to all their friends, all their family members, and anyone who will stand still long enough on the sidewalk or in a restaurant or store to hear their tale. Then they can’t figure out why “the newspaper” never runs a correction or a clarification. Or why a certain story was run, or not run. Maybe it’s because no one ever broached the topic with any editor or writer.

Wait. This is supposed to be about being kind to me ... I mean, all those other editors and writers. But after all, don’t I deserve some niceness? Don’t answer that!

I think that we should devise a way for most everyone to help publish at least one newspaper issue. Otherwise, there’s no way to comprehend what it’s about or why you should be kind. Everyone should have to attend a public meeting and then write the story that night.

They should have to write like a sweaty madman to meet deadline before going to press. They should have to extract information via telephone calls from various sources. Sometimes it’s like herding cats, or trying to put socks on an enraged octopus.

Then maybe people would comprehend why they should be (generally speaking) kind to editors and writers. It’d be the kind of action to which we’d take kindly, because we like to think that we’re one of a kind. Although we know that it takes all kinds. Kind of.

Letters

(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.

Peace and quiet nixed by drugs and alcohol Name withheld Cave Junction

We moved to Cave Junction seeking peace and quiet, and by all outward appearances, this town was the right place.

Unfortunately, as we became acquainted with some of the local population, we realized that, on the contrary, this was a place of joblessness and desperation fueled by and encouraging the use and distribution of drugs and alcohol.

Indeed, time in jail is the good life to the perpetual criminal with no place to sleep and nothing to eat.

Still, we love it here. Our neighbors were friendly and nonviolent. We were aware that our neighborhood, like all others in the Southern Oregon area, was in flux, with homes and acreage changing hands as the real estate market would allow. We watched new neighbors move in and hoped they’d all be like us -- caring and conscious.

Now we are faced with an uncomfortable situation and nowhere to turn for help. The sheriff’s office is

understaffed and “lacking resources.” It has neither time nor incentive to aid in apprehending a gun-toting pot-grower who has recently decided to set up camp in what may be a transient land purchase.

Shots ring out across the quiet valley, a form of intimidation, we guess. The man and his henchmen brazenly carry handguns in side holsters, and greet their neighbors armed this way.

In the short time that they have been in our neighborhood, we’ve seen numerous strange vehicles driving up and down our otherwise less-traveled road, some of them slowing to seemingly survey homes.

Already, there has been one attempted break-in where heretofore there have been none.

We have attended the Cave Junction City Council meetings and noted that only those residing within the city limits have opinions and votes that count. Police patrol the city, but have no time to patrol outlying areas. A person could die 20 times over before a deputy arrives at the scene.

True, the businesses that bring revenue to the city are targets for crime and must be protected, but where do you think criminals come from? Only the alleyways and parks?

No. They live in our forests, under our bridges, in abandoned houses, in make-shift lean-tos and tents and boxes -- wherever they can find a bit of shelter and a place to hide for one more day -- to get one more drink,

one more fix, to sell 1 more ounce of something they found, stole, grew, or manufactured.

Meanwhile, the county gets a kickback and a pat on the back for all the liquor sold by the state stores last year.

We don’t know what else this pot-grower may be doing on his side of the fence. We only know that we don’t want the evil element that accompanies his activity. We only know we don’t want our children shot by accident or our well being threatened by people whose mindset we are unsure of.

We have decided we must look out for one another and be prepared to

protect our homes and families without the aid of the city sheriff’s office. Together, as a cooperative neighborhood, we can make it uncomfortable and unprofitable for this guy to continue to conduct business in our neighborhood.

But where will he go next? Perhaps he will be your neighbor.

Criminal justice system needs immediate repair From Roslynn Berubee Cave Junction

What is wrong with this picture? I was recently a victim of a crime, and after six months of “dealing” with the police, the grand jury, the D.A.’s office, Vic-

(Continued on page 3)

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DEADLINES:

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

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POLICY ON “HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE,” DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED ADS & NOTICES: All submissions must be hand delivered, faxed or e-mailed to us for publication. Submissions must be resubmitted weekly if the item is to run more than one week.

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