

Bob's Corner

Frankly (or Robertly as the case may be) I was not going to write about our newest kitty cat because I wasn't feeling too jovial. As a former managing editor I knew used to say, when you'd ask how it was going: "I'm swamped and bleeding from the ears." OK, so I like to exaggerate.

Let's just say that sometimes the amount of work here seems overwhelming, especially dealing with these doggone electronical PCs. (Electronical is a word I just invented.) qwwwwww For your information, that last bit of the alphabet is from our new cat, *Jelly*, who stepped on my keyboard, and who's also hanging off the side of my monitor trying to rip off my stuffed mascot dinosaur. *Jelly* is at the office this day, climbing all over the chairs, desks; and my legs, neck and back, because nei-ther Jan nor I were going to be home.

We didn't want to leave him home alone with our four big cats. Not yet. One of them, whom I won't name, but whose initials are *Maui*, has smacked him a few times. She's sooo mean; hates all other cats, especially newcomers. *Bubba* Big Foot also has "played" a bit too rough a few times. We're afraid he might eat the new kid until he gets bigger. *Deckster* (who was living under our front deck until we adopted him) is a little afraid of *Jelly*, and has hissed menacingly at his approach. Only our gentle *Flint* "*Flinty*" *Eastwood* plays nice all the time. He's even a bit protective of the new little guy.



Why the name *Jelly*? Because our new tuxedo buddy is a Jellicle cat. The Jellicle cats, or simply the Jellicles, are a type of feline mentioned in T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*. Introduced in his poem, *Song of the Jellicles*, they were originally depicted by Eliot as common black-and-white cats whose daytime nature is peaceful, pleasant and restive — but who possess an active love of nightlife. Specifically, Eliot mentions that they like to gather at an event called the "Jellicle Ball." Get the picture?

Actually, probably because he's so young (6 or 7 weeks at this point) *Jelly* is still real active during daylight. But he sleeps well all night, right between us, although sometimes it's 10 or 11 before he settles down. He's a real character, and probably will start looking for the "Jellicle Ball" when he gets a bit older.

We got him at the I.V. Lions Club Labor Day Festival. A nice family was carrying him and his siblings in a box. Jan saw him, fell in love, and we brought him home. He checked out well at our veterinarian's office. And so we again have five housecats, as our previous tuxedo companion, *Charlie*, who's also a Jellicle, is living it up down south with our granddaughters Natalie and Ella.

Jelly has the typical sharp claws and teeth with which all kittens come equipped. And I have the scratches and scars to prove it. He's a cool cat though; we're enjoying him, especially his fantastically active antics when he streaks about the house, moon walks, and performs all those amazing actions that seem impossible, but which kittens do with ease. He's faster than a speeding bullet, and can jump like a flea.

And we never have to worry about what will eventually happen to our menagerie.

Natalie, who just turned 5, said that when she grows up, and can live anywhere, she will live with Nonna and PopPop in Oregon. She pointed out that if we get old and die, and our cats didn't, then someone would be there to take care of them. Oh good, now I'm feeling jovial. In a Jellicle way.

(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.

Congress cuts funds for useful agency From Ed Feulner The Heritage Foundation Washington, D.C.

During the past six years a handful of federal investigators have uncovered evidence of multiple crimes with 775 criminal convictions and repayment of \$70 million taken illegally from U.S. workers.

So how does Congress react? By moving to cut their budget next year.

That's right: Lawmakers finally have found a bureaucracy that they don't want to expand. It's the Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS). It is the arm (or the finger, to be more precise) of our federal government that investigates fraud by union labor leaders.

This year, OLMS had a budget of slightly less than \$48 million. For next year, the House of Representatives has appropriated \$45.7 million. That's a \$2 million cut, and \$11 million less than President Bush asked.

The cut is strange, especially since OLMS is racking up convictions left and right. Perhaps this cut would be understandable if Congress finally had decided to slash spending across the board. But it hasn't.

In fact, lawmakers seem to be specifically targeting OLMS. Because while its budget is being cut, House Democrats want to give the rest of the Labor Dept. a big boost -- more than \$900 million more than the president asked.

Why would lawmakers take on OLMS? Probably because union leaders don't like to be investigated, and they've got powerful allies on Capitol Hill. That's why lawmakers have already tilted the playing field toward unions.

I.V. Lions program gains applause From John McLaughlin Hiouchi, Calif.

Just a short note to say that my family and I thoroughly enjoyed the Illinois Valley Lions Club festival and parade for Labor Day.

We attended on Labor Day, and were impressed with the parade. Plus we had a good time at your city park because of the many booths and food concessions.

Unfortunately we couldn't make it for the tough truck event, but we do plan to attend next year. We like your community.

Driver, pedestrian safety on E. River From S.L. Adams Cave Junction

I saw the letter last week about the woman concerned about traffic safety on N. Old Stage Road. Now I want to add my 2-cents about the same topic on E. River Street.

Let's all make the roads safer for children to walk and bike to school.

Oregon Safe Routes to School
Transportation Safety – ODOT

Letters to the Editor

Drivers are going way too fast. I've seen them whizzing by, easily at 50 to 60 mph. Sometimes at night you can hear them racing up and down the street, especially the ones with loud mufflers.

It's way dangerous out there for other drivers and pedestrians. We have to remember that the road is used by children of many ages, plus adults, some of them senior citizens.

E. River Street is the main road for I.V. High School, the I.V. Senior Center, the I.V. Family Resource Center, and two Head Start sites.

If people don't slow down we are going to have a major tragedy. I know that the sheriff's office patrol is having a staffing problem now, but maybe when there are more deputies, something can be done.

Meanwhile, we can drive safely ourselves. And if we can, let's tell those speeders to slow the heck down. We don't want a tragedy involving death or major injury.

Disaster preparedness means blood supply too From Thomas Bruner, Regional Executive, Oregon Red Cross Chapters; and Eric Brown, CEO, American Red Cross Pacific Northwest Regional Blood Services

As the nation reflects on the two-year anniversary of hurricanes Rita and Katrina, disturbing new statistics have been released that suggest staying prepared for the next large-scale disaster will be harder than ever before.

This new information relates to the blood supply, and the fact that the number of eligible donors in the United States has just been reduced from 60 percent to 37 percent.

Why the drastic drop? The new data – published in the July 2007 issue of the blood banking journal *Transfusion* – cites the fact that improved testing to ensure greater safety for donors and recipients has removed more potential donors from the pool. This is due to high-risk behaviors, chronic diseases and exposure to diseases through travel.

When that figure was at 60 percent, it was known that only approximately 5 percent of eligible people actually ever donate. Now that the cushion of known available donors has gotten much smaller, it is more important than ever for all people who are eligible to take the time to help save a life by donating blood. Then, they should come back to donate again.

The Red Cross depends on the public – on volunteer blood and platelet donors – to make sure that the community blood supply is at a

safe level at all times, including what would be needed in the event of a major disaster. In our region, that could mean a catastrophic earthquake, bird-flu pandemic or fast-moving forest fire – all of which have the potential to render many victims in need of transfusions.

Even on a routine basis, every day more than 38,000 people in the United States need a blood transfusion to survive. That's one person every two seconds.

Quite simply, the numbers of blood donors in our region and around the country must go up. More eligible people need to step up to the plate and help the Red Cross stay prepared to meet all levels of blood need.

If you were moved by the two-year anniversary of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and are wondering what more you can do here at home, here is an easy and practical way you can help: Give blood.

It only takes about an hour of your time, and the single unit you donate could be used to save more than one life.

Cottage Cafe

Hours:
Wednesdays - Sundays
7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

210 E. Main St.
Rogue River
659-6953

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Office Space Available at Illinois Valley Family Coalition

When you rent an office at the I.V.F.C., you get much more than just a room. Our facility is modern, well maintained and in a convenient location with other human services agencies. The facility allows tenants to work together to provide needed services to Illinois Valley residents.



Some of the other features of the facility are:

1. Beautifully landscaped exterior
2. Fully alarmed security and fire system
3. Ample parking
4. Free public use of high speed internet computer resource room
5. On-sight landlord to address building problems immediately
6. Reception area and waiting room
7. Children's play area

The monthly rental price includes, at no additional charge:

- Free high speed internet access
- Free computer use
- Desk and office chair(s)
- Tenant patio
- Kitchen with microwave, dishwasher, and refrigerator
- Office and kitchen cleaning provided by landlord
- Paper towels and paper products for the restrooms
- Electricity, water and trash service
- Free day-time use of the four meeting/conference rooms in the building and reduced tenant rates for evening and week-end use of meeting rooms

If your organization needs office or meeting space in the Illinois Valley, consider the amenities we offer and call 592-6139 #303.

Illinois Valley Family Coalition

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