

Bob's Corner

It's been said that cats consider humans warm furniture, and we continue to find that a true statement.

For example, when I lean to clean the litter box for our two garage live-in kitties, *Bubba Big Foot*, the 16-pounder, likes to use my back as a rest stop. He jumps onto it from the



cat tower. He'll even run in from outside when he knows I'm available. It's sort of endearing, but a bit tough on shirts -- and my back. His companion, who turns out to be his mother, *Maui the Fero-cious*, doesn't care for touching.

In fact, she practices hissing a lot, and generally appearing upset and distressed for some unfathomable reason. She doesn't even like *Bubba*, who was her first-born in 2002 after Jan rescued her pregnant (the cat, not Jan) from outside a church during the Biscuit Fire. We also have a stray cat on our back deck, known unofficially as *Gray Kitty*. He often gets chased away from the outside food dish by mean *Maui*, who seems to prefer that dish to the one in the garage, even though they both contain exactly the same brand of food.

It's important to us to bring in the outside dish before it gets too late at night. Otherwise we get a family of raccoons as dinner guests. Raccoons are OK; you know, they're so cute, but we really don't want them around much because of their ferocity and disease characteristics.

But about litter boxes. Cats have a wonderful talent for getting litter outside the boxes, no matter how they're constructed (the boxes, not the cats) or how big they are (the cats, not the boxes). In fact, in cleaning the two boxes, I have often wondered if our indoor felines are somehow smuggling in friends to use the box. It seems incredible that two cats could ... um ... put so much into that sort of effort.

Bingo the Dingo (remember, he's not really a dingo, but we like the sound of the name) still lives on the front deck, and has command of the front yard. He got himself into one of our sharp grassy plants the other day and managed to scrape off some hair on his left upper back. More or less.

We heard him around 3 a.m. making a weird noise, like a yapping yip with some yodeling thrown in. Went outside, and there he was trapped in the plant. Got him out, but he still goes under the plant despite his experience.

He's taken to "yelling" at us when he wants a treat, even when it's not treat time. He peers in the front windows, and lets us know something's up. (See "weird noise, like a yapping yip with some yodeling thrown in" above).

Cats and dogs are kinda' fun to have around. Good pets all -- litter boxes and yodeling nevertheless.

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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.

Asks Raffenburg to resign From Harry E. Abrams Cave Junction

I thought I would share that I phoned Josephine County Commissioner Jim Raffenburg on Monday, April 7, and asked him to resign.

Since we are being told that he is trying to save the county money, then we would not have to go through this recall expense.

He asked me if I had read the articles in the *Illinois Valley News* and I told him I had. I also told him I had read the piece on the Web under the *NewsWithViews* banner. I said that I still wanted him to resign. I do not see that any of these articles support his claim that he refutes the piece in the *Grants Pass Courier*.

After something less than two minutes of him telling me how wrong I was in pursuing this recall, he hung up on me. I don't think that is the way to end that type of a conversation with a constituent.

Corruption stains U.S. flag From Catherine Austin Cave Junction

This is an update to my March 12 letter, regarding an incident at Illinois Valley High School, during which my daughter's lack of participation in the Pledge of Allegiance brought public criticism from Assistant Vice Principal Patty Dickens-Turk and Librarian Ed Faircloth.

After apparently consulting with the school district and legal counsel, IVHS Principal JoAnn Bethany informed the student body, during another assembly on April 3, that participation in the Pledge of Allegiance is completely voluntary, and that people may freely choose to not participate for a variety of reasons (religious, etc.), and that no one needs to perceive it as disrespectful.

Thankfully, there are still some constitutional protections that still function, even with regard to the Pledge of Allegiance and the U.S. flag. At least we have not yet totally mandated participation by the state, like those countries that Americans are taught to hate.

Count how many times the flag is used in photos with politicians and corporate leaders. How often is it used on TV? If President Bush speaks with a dozen flags around him, does it make him more truthful?

So as long as we see our country's flag being flown on a pirate's ship (of corporate thieves, lying politicians, and trans-national elitists) we will not follow the flag into battle, but instead do our civic duty by standing down to this corruption.

Honoring conscience From Ellyn Coley Cave Junction

I want to add a couple ideas to those expressed by Paul Grad ("Collectivist pledge," Letters, April 9).

As long ago as the 1920s, the U.S. Supreme Court said that children could not be made to salute the flag if they had a religious objection to doing so.

Then (Vietnam area) it was said that one could be a conscientious objector without belonging to any organized religion. Miss Austin

was obeying her conscience, which the trials at Nuremberg said everyone must do.

Catherine Austin has a brave and wise child.

From Debbie Wilson Simply Debbie's Nails At Northwest Hairlines Cave Junction

A few weeks ago I was invited to present my career as a Nail Technician to students at Lorna Byrne Middle School as part of their Career Day.

They did present it as a "Manicurist" rather than "Nail Technician," as they were worried that the students would think it was something to do with pounding a nail. Actually a Nail Technician is trained to work with manicures and pedicures for health and appearance. It is a very large and successful industry all over the world for men and women.

I had a wonderful time that day. We have some great kids growing up in Cave Junction who are intelligent, funny and inquisitive. I appreciate Lorna Byrne Middle School for giving them a chance to see choices in productive careers for their future, and for letting me be part of Career Day.

Earth Day doomsayers From Sally C. Pipes Pacific Research Institute San Francisco

With all the reminders to recycle, shrink our carbon footprint, and reduce our consumption of goods, just about everyone feels guilty on Earth Day (Tuesday, April 22).

Indeed, if you listen to the three presidential candidates, you couldn't be faulted for thinking that a cabal of greedy oil executives was bent on putting the future of our planet at risk. But planet Earth is doing just fine. And it's the world's richest countries -- led by the United States -- that are doing the most to preserve and protect the environment.

During the past 30 years, air pollution emissions from U.S. manufacturers have fallen by approximately 60 percent, even as real manufacturing output has increased by 70 percent, according to a recent study from the National Bureau of Economic

Research.

Data from the Environmental Protection Agency show that there's been a 60 percent reduction in levels of sulfur dioxide, the chemical that causes acid rain, in the eastern United States since 2000. And there's been a 50 percent drop in emissions of nitrogen oxide, a prime contributor to respiratory illness.

In Los Angeles, air-quality regulators have noted a significant decline in health risk from air pollution. In the 1970s, L.A. residents went through nearly 200 high-risk pollution days each year. These days, the city has fewer than 25 annually.

There's good news on the ground, too. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recently reported that the United States has been gaining wetlands at a rate of some 32,000 acres per year during the past decade. U.S. water resources have enjoyed a resurgence as well. Rare fish species have returned to the Detroit River for the first time in nearly a century.

But what about global warming? Isn't the United States single-handedly turning Greenland into a tropical paradise?

Not really. Al Gore's *Inconvenient Truth* looks to have been little more than

"convenient fiction." U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions actually fell by 1.5 percent during 2006 -- a first for a nonrecessionary year.

Meanwhile, Europe's finger-wagging on climate change hasn't matched its actions. Between 1997 and 2004, the last year for which relevant data are available, GHG emissions from Kyoto Protocol signatories increased 21.1 percent. Emissions from nonKyoto nations, by contrast, rose only 10 percent.

And from the United States? Just a 6.6-percent increase.

Unfortunately, the public dialogue on this issue is dominated by environmental doomsayers who ignore these facts. And they're spearheading all sorts of dangerous regulatory efforts. All three presidential candidates have promised to push for restrictive anti-global-warming measures if elected.

Case in point: the increasingly popular goal of reducing worldwide GHG emissions by 80 percent by 2050. At least a dozen U.S. states -- including New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts -- have signed onto the program, either through an executive order or non-binding resolution.

(Continued on page 3)

6th Annual

Hope Mountain Barter Faire

volunteer Round Up

April 19, 2008 - 6:00 pm

6:00 pm - Potluck Dinner - Main dish provided

Bring a dish to share!

7:00 pm - Meeting: 2008 Barter Faire update and sign up for volunteer positions for this year's Barter Faire!

8:00 pm - Games and Fun - Delicious Desserts!

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