

Bob's Corner

There seems to be a shortage of clowns, the professional ones. And yes, I know what some are thinking; that with me around, who needs one more clown.

But that's part of the problem, as I see it. Not that some consider me a clown, but that the term has become derogatory. We hear people described thusly with a sneer: "That guy's a clown!" or "He's just clowning around." Or even, "Who hired that clown?"

This topic came to mind early this month when Alan W. Livingston, who created *Bozo the Clown*, died at age 91. Memories of *Bozo* -- and there's another belittling term that's come into being -- emerged because of a record album my Dad bought me when I was in second or third grade. We went to a "music store" in Downtown San Diego and could hear the album in one of those small listening rooms that used to be provided.

Remember record players with needles? My album had 78 rpm records. That probably sounds like ancient history to younger readers, but that's what we had.

As for real clowns, who wore floppy, flamboyant and colorful costumes, well, there just don't seem to be too many around these days. Besides their loud attire, those clowns sported massive makeup (think the *Joker* from *Batman*) plus fright wigs, gigantic shoes and large fake noses, often bright red.

Older folks will remember Emmett Kelly, who worked in a famous circus as *Weary Willie*, based on Depression-era hobos. His expression was sad; his clothing was tattered, and he always looked as though he needed a shave. Kelly died at age 80 in 1979.

Many might recall *Clarabell the Clown*, who was *Howdy Doody's* mute buddy. (For the younger folks, *Howdy Doody* is a famous puppet.) *Clarabell* had some sort of noise device on his belt, which he used to communicate. Sort of. One of those who played *Clarabell* was Bob Keeshan, who later became *Captain Kangaroo*. He died in 2004 at age 76.

Besides the costumed clowns, which could include Pinky Lee and his bizarre checked suit and silly hat, there was Red Skelton. Among his roles, he played a sort-of clown, *Freddie the Freeloader*. Skelton died in 1997 at age 84. Pinky died in 1985 at age 93.

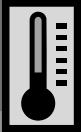
And although some will disagree, the following could be classified as clowns: Soupy Sales, Paul Reubens (Pee Wee Herman), Buster Keaton, The Marx Brothers, Peter Sellers, The Three Stooges, and W.C. Fields. And let us not forget, although some would like to, Abbot & Costello, Martin & Lewis, The Keystone Cops, and Jim Carey.

Actually, being known as a "Bozo" can't be all that bad. Look at how long most of those guys lived.

Hope you enjoy this. I was just clowning around.

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Illinois Valley News

www.illinois-valley-news.com

An Independent Weekly Newspaper

Co-publishers: Bob & Jan Rodriguez

Editor-in-Chief: Michelle Binker

Entered as second class matter June 11, 1937 at Post Office as Official Newspaper for Josephine County and Josephine County Three Rivers School District, published at 321 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523

Periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction OR 97523

P.O. Box 1370 USPS 258-820

Telephone (541) 592-2541, FAX (541) 592-4330

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

Volume 72, No. 5

Staff: Zina Booth, Brenda Encinas, Scott Jorgensen and Millie Watkins

Advertising sales: Kenny Hix

Website design and maintenance by Ashgrove Visual Arts

Member: Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

DEADLINES:

News, Classified & Display Ads, Announcements & Letters

5 P.M. THURSDAYS

(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until noon Fridays 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.)

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Typed, double-spaced letters 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.

Extinguished visitors
From Carol Ronan, executive director, Illinois Valley Family Coalition, Cave Junction

I appreciate James Reddy and Kameron Ismail from Illinois Valley Fire District, as they provided the Illinois Valley Family Coalition staff and tenants with training in the proper use of fire extinguishers and fire safety.

Having great equipment isn't much good if we don't know how to use it. They gave a very informative presentation, showed a video and allowed us to put out actual fires using the extinguishers.

Knowing what to do and practicing those techniques will be so helpful if we are faced with a real fire emergency. We appreciate our fire district for selflessly giving their time to help keep us informed and safe.

I'd highly recommend these two volunteers because of their knowledge, high degree of professionalism, and obvious commitment to our community.

"Voluntary" service is not
From Paul Grad Cave Junction

One of the most dangerous proposals for the future of American liberty is our new President's plan for "universal voluntary service". This oxymoronic piece of Orwellian Newspeak would require that all high school and college students annually "volunteer" quite a long chunk of their time for various "public service" projects under the guise of a "mandatory national service requirement." It should be patently clear that when you "require" someone to "volunteer", that volunteering is not voluntary at all, but nothing but "involuntary servitude," which was outlawed by the 13th Amendment. As a so-called constitutional scholar, I'm surprised that the President is either unaware of this amendment, or its meaning.

The President's plan is being insinuated into the fabric of American politics through the introduction of a bill, H.R. 1444, which would set up another commission, to study the desirability of promoting a "mandatory national service requirement," and issue a report in two years time. This Bill is being introduced by Congressman McDermott (D-WA), and co-sponsored by Congressmen Moran (D-VA), Ruppertsberger (D-MD), Kennedy (D-RI), and Van Hollen (D-MD). Of course, we can be sure that the Congressmen will indeed then find that it is in our "national interest" to overthrow the 13th Amendment, which outlaws "involuntary

servitude." Lest the President and the Congressmen forget, that used to be known as "slavery" before the Civil War.

It seems to me that this is a blatant attempt to re-impose a draft on the youth of America, an involuntary servitude which government has absolutely no right to impose, except in time of war when America is under threat from invasion. And under those circumstances, we should all be volunteering.

And why is it that we have this curious notion that the youth of a society owe some of the best years of their lives to the elders of the tribe, when it is the elders who have created the mess that the youth must live in? It seems to me it is us folks older than 30 who should be the first ones being forced into such an unconstitutional draft. The youth of America need their time to be either educating themselves, or working for pay, to cope with the economic mess which the older generations have created for them. They should not have their chance for their pursuit of happiness further curtailed by the unconstitutional dictates of big government.

Of course, the draft is the epitome of the collectivist mentality which says that the life of the individual is the property of the state, and less important than the state as a whole. In this view, the individual exists merely to serve the state. But in contrast, we find the Jeffersonian-Libertarian view, embodied in the Declaration and the Bill of Rights, that the state is the servant of the individual, and exists only to further and to guarantee the "Rights of Man", which Jefferson codified in his Bill of Rights. And it also includes the belief that one is owner of ones own body, not the state. This is the fundamental property right, the right to self-ownership, for which the American Revolution was fought.

The collectivists, including the Nazis and the Communists, say that the individual exists merely to serve the state, or the "national interest," and must obey whatever dictates they promulgate, even if unconstitutional or inhuman. But Libertarians know that there is no state other than the individuals that make it up, and it is in the defense of individual liberties that government finds its true function. This is the Jeffer-

sonian insight that makes our government different from every other government in history, and it is this key principle which the President's national service plan, and the dangerous bill by the five Democrats, would overthrow.

Ayn Rand put the crucial question of our age succinctly in her novel, *The Fountainhead*: "Has man any right to exist if he refuses to serve society?"

The Marxist-Leninists and the National Socialists say no. The Jeffersonians and Libertarians say yes.

The youth of America should not passively let themselves be forced into involuntary servitude by the fiat of the anti-Jeffersonians in our government. They should non-violently resist this unconstitutional usurpation of their inalienable rights to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" through the courts, and dedicated jurists should spring to action to defend them. And the public must speak up for them too, for ultimately it is only in the court of public opinion that unconstitutional usurpations can be stopped in their tracks.

Let's oppose President Obama's unconstitutional Draft and the proposed Bill H.R. 1444.

Help children read
From Ken Rich Cave Junction

Recent figures show that we need to rebuild support for our library here in the valley.

Rather than an ideal operating budget we might focus on smaller steps to get the doors open, and begin lending

books, which was the original purpose. With children on vacation, this would be an ideal time to begin the rebuilding process.

We already have a qualified librarian and an assistant. With two computers, an automated book check-out, and a volunteer staff there is no reason we could not do this at a reasonable (minimal) cost.

Other amenities such as computer services would be dependent on future fees or incomes. Membership dollars returning to the valley will add incentive. We need to encourage children to read.

Dog donor
From Crystal Costa Cave Junction

This is one of the hardest things I've had to do in a long while. I'm sure that many are aware that I have been stuck on the streets here for about one year.

Recently some life-changing events have opened my eyes to a better way of life "again." I have found myself ready to face a new chapter and start a new, more productive life.

Unfortunately, this means going where the support and resources are. In order to accomplish this I need to find my pup (*Mister*) a permanent or preferably temporary home.

Mister is a very loyal, smart, friendly, loving, house-broken, good with children and thrives on pleasing. He needs someone who will love him and give (spoil) him everything he deserves. He should adapt to any situation

(Continued on page 3)

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