

her and others.

It was not my intention to offend with "Pesky Immigrants" (5/25) but to point out that many people think the current view of building walls between the U.S. and Mexico is wrong, and that the immigration policies being considered are poor. I really did a bad job of it. SORRY.

*J.K. Larkin
Eugene*

BUNNY IN THE INKBLOT

The reader response to J.K. Larkin's satirical piece "Pesky Immigrants" (5/25) brought to mind sage advice from Mark Twain: "Never try to teach a pig to sing. It wastes

your time and annoys the pig."

The reader (6/8) who admitted that he had reread Larkin's piece "umpteens" times without comprehending it unwittingly made the most honest and true statement of all of the detractors. These people were very upset about a style of writing that they obviously did not understand. Accusations flew: racism, bad writing technique, Northern European elitism (this accusation itself a racist statement). When confronted with a Rorschach Inkblot Test, it is very revealing what some people will see. I frankly was amazed at the racism that these readers found in Larkin's writing. I saw a bunny.

There are individuals who still believe to

this day that Randy Newman has it out for Short People. Or that he personally wants to Keep The Darkies Down. What the satirically challenged did not understand about "Pesky Immigrants" is that it was not Larkin's view that Latinos are only good for manual labor; it is the view of much of America. Writing that an attitude exists is not to accept it as your own.

Satirists must live with the fact that they will often be misunderstood and frequently accused of promoting the very attitudes that they satirize. That must be why Randy Newman composes movie soundtracks now. Better money, less hate mail.

Further angering these self-styled critics

was the casual, comfortable style that Larkin writes in. He often makes sweeping statements without backing them up with proper citations and hard facts. He fence straddles. He jumps the fence. He pretends there is no fence. That makes it very hard to give the party-approved responses to this kind of random writing. This forces independent thinking on the part of the reader, an experience that infuriates some people. Especially after they have reread the article umpteens times and still were unable to come up with a single original idea of their own. Singing lessons are wasted on some people.

*Michael Backus
Eugene*

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