

that term is working perfectly, isn't it, ass-clown?

Well, take care, ass-clown. Love you, man. Really.

I don't care one way or another if you publish this letter or my previous letter. But I am going to contact your advertisers and ask them each to make a statement (or decline to make a statement) about your Mexi-caricature and THEN I'm going to ask you to publish that letter, and you won't. And that's OK, because you're an ass-clown. No offense, man, I love you. Really.

Jock Doubleday
California

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter comes from an email conversation with Jock Doubleday, a California author and lecturer with some Eugene connections. An ass-clown, according to UrbanDictionary.com, is "one who, through the fault of his parents' conception, is a skid mark on society's collective underwear."

DEAR GAZPACHO

Regarding "¡Ask a Mexican!," I'm glad you are carrying the column and especially pleased that you printed the cover story interview (11/29) with its author, Gustavo Arellano. While, like many, I was initially disturbed and repulsed by it, the interview opened my eyes to the overall context and intent of Arellano's writing.

I emailed him with a question and he responded quickly. He helped me discover I'm not a bowl of cold soup. ("Gabacho" vs. "gazpacho.")

G.B. Koerner
Eugene

RUSSIA AND IRAN

The perception of U.S. hegemony should be waning now. As Corvallis' sturdy demonstration groups convene for passer-byers outside the Benton County courthouse, Russian warships have entered Syrian ports-of-call. Mooring alongside their Iranian comrades, the message is clear: An attack on Iran is an attack on Russia.

Analysts in Jerusalem suggest the military buildup is a two-fold signal. First, that Russia isn't going to sit on its hands as the West, including Israel, threaten military action against its multi-billion-dollar investment in Iran's energy infrastructure. Second, that Russia is seri-

ous about motivating the Arab-Israeli peace process, particularly in light of the current Israel-imposed stranglehold on the Gaza Strip.

This signal was pre-empted weeks ago during the Annapolis conference when the Russian Foreign Minister announced to former Israeli PM Ehud Barak (now defense minister) that Russia will be supplying the nuclear fuel to the Bushehr electrical generating plant in Iran, as previously arranged.

Thus, in the week following, Russia moved several warships and nearly 50 fighter jets into range, putting its money where its mouth is, between Israel and Iran. And as the Hamas government celebrates its 20th anniversary in Gaza, it has one more thing to be happy for. Whereas the U.S. maintains Hamas as a terrorist organization, Hamas maintains its diplomatic ties with Moscow.

A million people demonstrating in the streets around the world could not keep the U.S. from invading sovereign Iraq. Many pray now that warships, tactical missiles, and fighter jets will keep it from invading sovereign Iran.

Thomas R. Estes
Corvallis

ASK AN ATHEIST?

Bob Saxton (12/13) thinks "EW should add a Latina column to balance the sometimes over-the-top cutting wit of the [Gustavo] Arellano Mexican column."

Why stop there? Ask an Unemployed Legal Immigrant, Ask a Black Person, Ask an Asian, Ask a Homeless Person, Ask a Kid with Meth-addicted Parents, Ask a Small Family Farmer, Ask a Transgendered Person, Ask a Prescription Drug-addled Senior Citizen, Ask an Atheist, Ask an Anti-war Activist and Ask a Full-time Bicyclist.

The above groups, and many abused others, should be on the same page, but we're not. We're too busy trying to drum up sympathy for our own group's plight. But even so, the massive outpouring of concern (for and against) Arellano's column is puzzling to me. This successful and superficial Mexican has found his money-making niche with a Southern California style of entertainment and information. Don't like the column? Don't read it. Isn't the EW about information AND

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