

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## OUR VIEW

# Tools for keeping wolves away from livestock

Just about the last thing a visitor to Ted Birdseye's ranch would expect to see is "Tube Man."

You know, one of those inflatable air dancers that flop back and forth and are featured at used car lots across the country.

Birdseye, whose Mill-Mar Ranch is in Southern Oregon, has not one but two of the crazy-looking contraptions. The idea is not to sell 1985 Buicks but to keep wolves away from his livestock.

Wolves in the past year have taken a heavy toll on Birdseye's herd, killing or injuring at least seven calves and one guard dog.

Such attacks would drive a rancher to try just about anything to keep wolves away from livestock.

The idea for the "Tube Man" came from the environmental group Defenders of Wildlife as a non-lethal means of keeping wolves away from the herd.

Birdseye has tried other means of keeping wolves away: flashing lights and hanging fladry — tiny flags — on fences. He has even had U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wolf coordinator John Stephenson camp on his ranch.

The "Tube Man" had been used with success on a ranch near La Grande after wolves killed several llamas.

"It's always struck me as something



University of New South Wales/Ben Yexly

The eyes painted on the rumps of cattle in Botswana are designed to ward off marauding lions, helping to save the livestock and the lions from farmer retaliation.

wolves would be particularly skittish of," Suzanne Stone, senior Northwest representative of Defenders of Wildlife, told EO Media Group reporter, George Plaven.

When it comes to keeping wolves away from livestock, any and all means should be tried. Air cannons, special lights called Fox Lights, noise-makers — even drones equipped with lights, pepper spray and noisemakers — can be part of the toolbox for

ranchers and others who are pestered by predators. Some ranchers have success training their cattle to stay in herds instead of running.

In Botswana, Africa, researchers have even painted eyes on the rumps of cattle to keep lions away. Called the iCow, it causes the predators to give up their hunt, according to the Australian Geographic magazine. It does it by tapping into the fact that lions quit hunting if the prey looks at them.

In the experiment, the researcher found that none of the 23 cows with eyes painted on their rears were killed, while 39 others without the eyes were killed.

In another experiment, the magazine reported the Australian researcher is testing whether use of dingo territorial scents might keep predators away from cattle.

Other, less scientific research has involved hooking up a motion sensor to a sprinkler to keep mountain lions away from livestock. According to mountainlion.org, when a predator shows up, it gets a good dousing to let it know it's not welcome. Another idea the website reported on involved using Christmas lights to create "evil" eyes that scare predators away.

One wonders whether other low- and high-tech tools might work. Motion sensors are readily available at hardware stores. In fact, they allow trail cameras to photograph wolfpacks in the wild. Combined with "Tube Man" and other devices, they might just be enough to scare off wolves intent on attacking livestock.

The idea is to keep trying. Wolves are smart, and they are vicious, but there has got to be a way to keep them away from livestock.

And if all else fails, there's always a rifle — when and where it's legal.

## OTHER VIEWS



## Tone-deaf harassment training at Legislature is unacceptable

Mail Tribune

The Oregon Legislature is off on the wrong foot in its attempt to address a toxic culture of sexual harassment. It's unclear who's at fault, although the federal government shutdown may have played a role. The important thing is to get newly instituted staff training sessions back on track, and quickly, before disillusioned staffers give up and refuse to attend. Training last fall reportedly went well, but last week, staffers who attended a session conducted by a trainer from the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission walked out, saying the trainer appeared unaware of the culture of harassment that has become a major issue in the Capitol for more than a year.

The trainer reportedly joked about those who file harassment complaints, saying, "as you all know, snitches get stitches." At another point, the trainer responded to the topic of inappropriate touching in a dismissive manner, saying "we all know this is bad; we don't need to talk about that."

It was inappropriate touching that ended the

career of veteran State Sen. Jeff Kruse, R-Roseburg, after two female lawmakers accused Kruse of inappropriate behavior two years ago, including groping them in meetings. Kruse denied the allegations, but resigned his seat.

Then, last year, the state Bureau of Labor and Industries declared the Legislature a hostile work environment after an investigation. Legislative leaders have appointed a Committee on Culture to address the issue.

But before that committee can make any headway, it must fix what appears to be a tone-deaf approach by at least one trainer provided by the federal EEOC. According to one report, the trainer who conducted last fall's successful session was unavailable because of the federal shutdown. State officials requested a different trainer for this week's session, and representatives of the EEOC visited Salem to meet with legislative leaders on Friday.

Regardless of the reason for last week's disastrous training session, there can be no excuse for it. If the EEOC can't provide appropriate training, the state should look elsewhere.

## OTHER VIEWS

# Navigating the male-female work relationship

We're seeing a backlash from the #MeToo movement, with many male bosses saying in surveys that they are less willing now to mentor junior female colleagues, go to dinner with them, travel with them — generally treat them as co-workers rather than as land mines.

Male anxieties about mentoring women seem to me overblown. Sure, there are risks of misunderstandings — women navigate this turf every day — but common sense can usually mitigate them, and gender separation won't work any better for us than it did for the Taliban. We should all be adult enough to maneuver through the middle ground between leering at a colleague and avoiding her.

Here are a couple of real-life work experiences I've had. How do you think I should have handled them?

It's 1993 and I've sneaked into a remote part of the Xinjiang region of China with a female intern, June Shih. After a horseback ride, we get to our "hotel," which has only several large yurts, each with more than a dozen beds.

The lodge manager opens one yurt and turns on the electricity and heat. I ask the manager for a separate room, but he points out that there are another dozen beds available in this yurt; he doesn't want to open up another.

June says she doesn't care. What do I do?

I was conflicted, for it seemed absurd for the two of us to take up two giant yurts when there was zero risk of actual impropriety. On the other hand, I dreaded word getting out that I had shared a room with an intern.

In the end, I persuaded the manager to open up a second yurt. It

was within shouting distance of the first, which allayed my concern that June might not be safe alone in an unlocked yurt. If she had been a colleague on a more equal footing, we might have stayed together, but the gap in power between us made me particularly cautious.

This week I reached out to June to ask if her memory jibed with mine. She said it was the best trip of her life, but she didn't remember any crisis over accommodations — and thought that even if she hadn't said so, she might have felt "weird" if we had shared a room. "I remember more that it was freezing cold," she told me, "and I slept with all my clothes on and about a foot of stinky wool blankets on top."

It's 2006 and I'm traveling in the Darfur area of Sudan with my female researcher, Winter Miller, who persuaded me to let her

use her own money and vacation time to join the trip for her own writing (she later wrote the play "In Darfur"). We're also accompanied by a male video journalist, Naka Nathaniel.

The problem is that the first night we're in an upscale hotel in the Chadian capital, which is more than Winter can readily afford. Do I let Winter sleep on the extra bed in my room to save money?

This really pained me. I wanted to help but feared stories about me sharing a hotel room with my researcher. Fortunately, Naka rescued us by letting Winter stay on his extra bed; at least she did not work for him, and they were simply colleagues.

I reached Winter, now a playwright in New York, and here's her take: "At the time, I wanted you to be a hero and pay for an additional room. However, I thought you were overreacting; I trusted myself to be around you and I trusted you to be

around me."

Did I choose right in these cases? Wrong? I'm not sure. The challenge is less about maintaining propriety than about the image of propriety. I know I wouldn't do anything improper, but I don't want to leave the slightest room for innuendo.

That's why men sometimes say they don't dare mentor women; tongues will wag.

To me, that's ridiculous. Bosses should manage these issues just as they handle every other kind of risk — conflicts of interest, volatile personalities, data safety and so on.

There's abundant evidence that companies with more senior women have a higher return on equity. This seems to be because more diverse teams do better and also because the companies willing to promote women are more innovative in other ways. The upshot is that managers who don't mentor women don't just hurt those women; they also sell their own companies short.

Men and women alike will periodically hug someone who isn't ready to be hugged, or will make a ribald comment that leaves someone uncomfortable. But occasional awkwardness is preferable to gender apartheid.

In my journalistic career, I've worked alongside women covering war, genocide, riots and famine. Often there are no toilets, no places to change, no privacy, but men and women manage to make the situation work through mutual respect. If people of goodwill can make those "work places" succeed, a modern office building should be no problem.

Frankly, if we men need help sorting all this out, we can ask a woman. They've always managed this terrain, mostly avoiding both anxiety and lust and relying on simple common sense.

Nicholas Kristof is a columnist for the New York Times.

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