

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEW

Fence proves both sides can work together

Wolves reintroduced themselves to Oregon. Ever since, there's been a lot of debate about what to do about them.

They aren't usually predators of people, though don't try to make friends. As for ranch cattle, wolves can treat them like a buffet.

Nobody knows that better than rancher Ted Birdseye. His Mill-Mar Ranch of 275 acres in Butte Falls has had more losses to wolves than any other rancher in Oregon, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting. Eight of his cows and two of his dogs have been killed by wolves. It's the Rogue Pack at work.

Is that bad luck? The cost of doing business? Something the government should compensate him for?

Oregon has a compensation program. It has paid out money to help ranchers hire riders, buy radios, hang flags from fences and compensate for losses of cattle, sheep and working dogs. That seems absolutely justified if government



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Photo

A rancher is trying something new to keep the wolves away — something never before attempted in Oregon. And he's doing it with the help of some unlikely partners.

and Oregonians want this natural predator to return.

What's good is that people who want wolves to thrive in Oregon are working so hard to help Birdseye's ranch from being the place the Rogue Pack goes for meals. A school group came to his ranch

and helped him remove some bone piles, according to OPB. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wolf biologist John Stephenson has spent nights at the ranch to try to keep wolves away. He helped Birdseye put up flagging on its fences. Birdseye even tried those inflatable dancing

men you see on car lots.

Thanks to Oregon's compensation program, federal grants and contributions from environmentalists Birdseye is getting 3 miles of electric fencing around his ranch. It cost more than \$46,000. Made from recycled steel posts spaced 90 feet apart, with eight strands of high-tensile electric wire running between 1-inch fiberglass rods, Birdseye said anything that touches the fence "is supposed to get the shock of its life." It is powered by a 3-foot-by-3-foot solar panel and battery.

"My big concern is I just hope it works," Birdseye said. "If it doesn't work, I don't know what the other options are."

The same kind of fencing has worked in Montana to keep wolves out.

The return of wolves is a welcome sign to some and a bad sign to others. But it is great to see different ends of the spectrum of views cooperate. Prevention of wolves killing livestock is key for people on all sides of the issue.



YOUR VIEWS

Triebelhorn right on all counts

I think Doug Triebelhorn hit he nail on the head regarding every aspect he addressed in the Other Views article in the *East Oregonian* on Nov. 19. Kudos to him, and I am sure hundreds of other Pendleton residents agree whole-heart-

edly. He voiced very well the opinion and feelings of us.

Seems like politicians and the city just keep asking for more. Why don't they live on a budget like we do? Pendleton should tighten its belt and not ask for more taxes.

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OTHER VIEWS

Disney+ ruins classics with new trigger warnings

I adored the story of "Cinderella" as a child. The prospect of having a man so in love with me that he'd crisscross the Kingdom searching for my size 6½ foot was heady stuff. It never occurred to me that Cindy was oppressed by the patriarchy or that she should just buy her own darn pair of shoes.

Similarly, I was untroubled by the fact that Snow White was victimized by her stepmother or lived with a variety of short men to whom she was not married. While the scenario seemed to present a negative view of both blended families and female sexuality, my 8-year-old psyche survived unscathed.

I emerged from that Disney-centric childhood with happy memories and a deep appreciation for the power of imagination.

Sadly, the current employees of Disney must think of me as some aberration, because they have decided to provide disclaimers with their new streaming service, Disney+, which hit the market last week. Whenever someone clicks on classic content, they will find this language under the Details tab:

"This program is presented as originally created. It may contain outdated cultural depictions."

The disclaimer is aimed primarily at works that contain racial and ethnic stereotypes, like the Siamese cats in "Lady and the Tramp" and "Dumbo," which includes a version of black face. (It's worth noting that Disney+ is not streaming "Song of the South," a film that has been widely criticized for racist portrayals of black people.) Given the focus on cultural sensitivity in today's society, it's not difficult to understand why Disney would want to neutralize the negative impact of its masterpieces without actually tinkering with the works themselves.

In fact, Disney deserves credit for not censoring the films and cartoons, and tailoring them to meet 21st century sensibilities. John Legend and

Kelly Clarkson recently recorded an updated version of the Christmas song "Baby It's Cold Outside" in recognition of the #MeToo movement and out of a desire not to offend those who said it conjured images of rape. But instead of improving the flirtatious holiday standard, they sexualized it even more by adding the line "It's your body and your choice," making what was a clever back-and-forth between two adults into a primer on consent.

At least Disney isn't making "Cinderella" open her own shoe manufacturing company or celebrating Snow White's sexual liberation with a scene where she distributes condoms to the dwarfs.

Perhaps that cautionary language could be helpful to parents who think that some of the imagery might confuse their children, particularly in this day and age where gender is a matter of opinion, race is still a controversial subject, and sexual stereotypes are forbidden.

But I can't get my head around the idea that the stories that gave me such joy as a child are, to some people, harmful enough to warrant a cautionary warning. It's one thing to acknowledge that we made mistakes in the past, and to seek a reckoning with our history. It is quite another to caution people at the outset that the magnificent piece of art that they are about to see is actually riddled with racist, sexist, and "phobic" tropes. This sets the viewer up to actually watch out for those troublesome details and threatens to ruin the viewing experience.

Isn't it at all possible that the little girl who sees the handsome prince on bended knee with the crystal slipper will both sigh with delight and one day grow up to be president? Must every childhood memory be tweaked so that it fits the evolved narrative?

Can't we just enjoy the movie?

Christine Flowers is a syndicated freelance columnist.



CHRISTINE FLOWERS
COMMENT