

Humor at the Speed of Life

James Kazad — (Remembrances of life before COVID)

I'm spending in right field. I think Patsy Sullivan from DeSoto, Texas, summed it up best when she asked:

Have you quit yet?

As I told Patsy, I'm not a quitter. In fact, I expressed this to my teammates during a recent huddle, when we found ourselves down by two runs heading into our last at bat, which inspired me to throw my hand out and chant, "I WON'T QUIT YOU!"

After an uncomfortable moment in which all 13 of my teammates guzzled beer simultaneously, we decided to stick with "RUNS!" as our chant. Afterward, we also decided I would be required to submit all chants on paper before any team huddles.

Craig Pearson of Lake Powell, Ariz., wanted to know how we're doing in the league standings. Currently, we are 3-3 after losing to our local radio station's team. I should mention that KXCR is undefeated, thanks to a hard-hitting line-up, ironclad defense and a team of players committed to avoiding any mistakes that could send them back to Cuba.

To our credit, we did manage to keep things close — at least until KXCR's timely clutch hitting sparked a 12-run rally late in the bottom of the first inning.



Until then, it was pretty much anybody's game. Nancy Smythe of Atlanta, Ga., asked how I'd rate my personal performance so far this season. I can answer that question in two words that, coincidentally, just happen to be my official softball nickname: "Rally Killer." That's right. When our team is tired of running bases during a two-out rally, I'm the man they turn to. In our last game, the outfielders actually left on a beer run when I came to bat. I'm happy to say I made them regret that decision by connecting on a line drive that knocked over their bev-

erage cooler.

To answer a question from Pete Schuster of Cleveland, Tenn.: We're not the best team; we're not the worst team. However, I'm pretty sure we're the only team with a certified horticulturalist in the line-up.

This is very helpful because, in addition to being a good ballplayer, this individual also knows that chopped beach grass, distributed evenly within a beverage, can cause a person's throat to swell shut for as long as three to four inn...

I mean approximately an hour.

Hey, he only mentioned this so we could recognize the symptoms; just in case one or more of our opponents suddenly drop to the infield clutching their throats; possibly even during the play-offs.

Until then, I'll keep standing in right field with my glove held high.

Who knows? Something might even land in it?



Answering your painful questions about my softball season

Last summer, I joined a men's softball team after not participating in anything athletic since (conservative estimate) the golden era of dodgeball in the early '70s.

In response, I received letters and emails from readers offering encouragement, support and, in an isolated incident, a lucky athletic cup from someone named "Derek."

Admittedly, I was curious as to what qualified this particular cup as "lucky." His response should be a lesson to us all regarding the dangers of continuous baseball usage. "I used to get hit — there — almost every game," Derek explained in a note. "Sometimes two or three times. But my [censored] never got hurt."

Though he didn't mention it, I suspect Derek also has a "lucky" batting helmet.

Regardless, many of you have expressed an interest in knowing how the season is going, whether I've had a hit yet, if jock itch has been an issue, and how much time

Attention Hunters!

Now is the time to select your 2021 hunts

Complete your Controlled Hunt Applications Online at MyODFW.com

Don't wait to apply this year.

Apply Now at MyODFW.com



Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
877-557-1912

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!
Offer valid February 15 - June 6, 2021

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

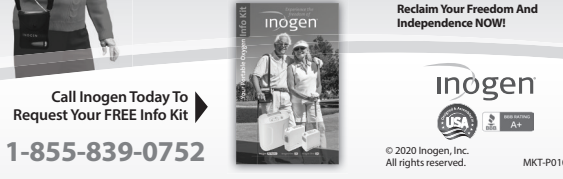
*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel

Introducing the INOGEN ONE - It's oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!



LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-536-8838

15% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE
10% OFF SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS
5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS*

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST | Promo Number: 285

BEST OF HAWAII FOUR-ISLAND TOUR

12 days, departs year-round



FROM \$2,599 \$2,349*



1-888-817-0676 promo code N7017

*Free date changes anytime up to 45 days prior to departure for land tours, up to 95 days prior to departure for cruise tours. Deposits and final payments remain non-refundable. Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 6/30/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

To our valued readers: Help small businesses affected by coronavirus right now, including ours.

Businesses of all sizes have been hit hard in this challenging new age of social distancing and self-isolation, but the blow has been catastrophic for small operations that rely on in-person transactions. There are many ways to help, like purchasing gift certificates or memberships, and yet there are many service-type businesses that don't have that option.

As we look to a new year, we're celebrating what connects us as a community, and what we can do to support our local businesses!

THAT'S WHY WE CREATED THE SUPPORT LOCAL TOGETHER CAMPAIGN.

The Support Local Together campaign will help local businesses who have to choose between promoting their business and paying the electric bill. It will also help support the *Cottage Grove Sentinel*, who has seen a strong decrease in advertising revenue, but an increase in readership.

IT DOES TWO THINGS.

1. Funds advertising dollars for local businesses

Your financial support will go directly to fund advertising that our local businesses need to stay top of mind.

2. Supports local journalism

By becoming a supporting member, you are helping to replace some of the advertising revenue the *Cottage Grove Sentinel* has lost due to the pandemic.

HERE IS HOW TO SUPPORT:

- Call 541-942-3325 x 1200
- Make a donation of your choosing.
- Choose a specific local business that you would like the advertising credit to go to, or leave that blank and we will designate it to a business we know needs help.

Our community is small but generous and we recognize there are many great organizations, like ours, that could use your help.

We believe the vast majority of our readers have always shared our view of the value and necessity of a strong local media and are willing to provide support equal to two or three cups of coffee a month to secure its future.

Thank you in advance for doing your share to secure a strong local economy in the community we are proud to serve.

Gary Manly
General Manager
gmanly@cgsentinel.com
541-942-3325 x 1207

Yes, I would like to become a 2020/21 Support Local Together Sponsor
Call 541-942-3325 x 1200

Mail sponsorship form to: **Cottage Grove Sentinel Supporter**
PO Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other Amount _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check Credit Card

Name on Card: _____ Expiration date: _____

Number: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____ 3 Digit Security Code: _____

Do you have a specific business you would like to sponsor:

List here: _____

We will send a gift card to the business(es) of your choice with your name. If would like to remain anonymous please check here.

***This sponsorship is not tax deductible.**

COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL
UNITY WITH OUR COMMUNITY

