

Jams and Jellies

In 2006, my wife, Holly, and I moved to Coeur d'Alene from the Washington, D.C., area. The purpose of the move was for Holly to be



Uyles Black

Guest opinion

closer to her mother, who has been a resident of Hayden since 1984. Being a loving son-in-law to my favorite mother-in-law, I declare that I share this affection, which has nothing to do with her will. (My mother-in-law thinks my quip is funny, so any too-serious reader can lighten up.)

Family matters aside, Jeanne settled permanently in Hayden and still lives there. As mentioned, we settled initially in Coeur d'Alene, later moving to

Hayden, because it was a shorter distance to Holly's mother's home.

There were actually two reasons for the move. The second reason was that Holly had purchased a puppy and the condominium unit where we lived did not allow animals of any kind (except humans, of course). Thus, we found ourselves shopping for a more private and accommodating dog house. It turns out the new dog house was much larger than our condo unit and could house several canines, but we settled on one dog. The new home fit our needs and placed us a short distance from my mother-in-law, Jeanne.

The travel time to and from Holly's mom via Coeur d'Alene was not long, about 25 minutes, but the new route was only about 10 minutes.

With either passage, I noticed how little

traffic congestion there was in the Coeur d'Alene/Hayden area in comparison to the traffic in D.C. and also in the Los Angeles area, where we spent time with our relatives.

Having lived in the D.C. area and traveled around LA since the mid-1960s, the growing populations translated into more vehicles, more highways, and much more congestion. I could have sworn that the linear increases in traffic resulted in exponential increases in congestion and delays.

The increasing bumper-to-bumper, creep-along commutes became more exasperating — and I consider myself a person not prone to exasperation. More of my time was being taken up on stop-and-go roads. I recall shouting to myself more than once, "These [expletive excluded] traffic jams are driving

my brain to jelly!"

But I had no way out until I gave up and entered another profession which took me away from car jams ... to airport jams. But at least I was not behind a wheel, and the airplane pilot could shout his own frustrated delay-induced profanities unbeknownst to me.

By the way, I have since sworn-off driving through the LA area, unless our son, who lives there, is in dire straits, such as suffering from CO2 sickness.

After a few months of driving around the nearly congestion-free urban area of Coeur d'Alene and Hayden, it was remarkable how my feelings about driving changed. I actually enjoyed it. Of course, the beautiful scenery helped, as did the near absence of road-rage drivers.

Once, to the puzzlement of Holly and

our dog, Milli, I shouted behind the wheel of our car, "Thank God, I'm free at last!" As I thought to myself, "And my brain is firming up."

Unfortunately, I fear we are witnessing the D.C./LA traffic syndrome forming itself in the Coeur d'Alene/Hayden metro area. U.S. 95, Northwest Boulevard, and Government Way have become semi-gridlocks during certain times of the day. It has become worse as more housing developments are being built.

I am not an authority on urban growth and its effect on the quality of life of citizens. But this I do know: Our quality of life is deteriorating because of the rapid pace of building housing developments. The area's infrastructure is in danger of not keeping up with the granting of building permits.

If you wish, call me a

carpetbagger: Once I stake out my claim, I lobby against any more dog houses (large or small) being built. You can tell me: "If you don't like the growth, go back to D.C." I can't do that. My mother-in-law does not care for the East Coast.

I am living happily in the Coeur d'Alene/Hayden area, with this plea to our city leaders: Manage growth! Make it gradual and controlled, and deny permits for Trump-Tower-like megaprojects.

As things are going now, Northwest Boulevard will soon resemble LA's Sunset Boulevard on Oscar night.

Uyles, Holly, and assorted dogs are currently varying their residences between Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, and Palm Springs. Uyles can be reached at The Coeur d'Alene Press and welcomes your correspondence.

LETTERS

from A4

DALTON: Why recall is necessary

The recent mailing from Dalton Gardens Mayor Roberge does a fine job of misrepresenting the claims made by opponents of the Streeter subdivision debacle. Opponents of the misguided council decision DO NOT claim this decision would force connection to a sewer system, or that "anyone could now build on all back acres without street frontage." Why would the Mayor misrepresent the legitimate concerns of residents? Was this accidental due to not understanding concerns, or was it deliberate?

As another misrepresentation, the Mayor has now proclaimed the Streeter decision to be one of "property rights." Let the facts speak for themselves — the Streeters are free to enjoy all the property rights as they have for the preceding 40 years, after paying a tax rate for unbuildable back pasture land.

The City originally made essentially the same arguments AGAINST developing this property based upon their own legal advice. Now the City is in the curious position of arguing against their own previously presented

arguments!

This recall is not about property rights or the character of the Streeters of those on Council. This recall is not about how long someone has lived in Dalton, if they are hardworking, or about living on inherited property as the Streeters are desiring to sell those properties.

With this situation and that of Wilbur Avenue and Fourth Street, Council has actively promoted stealth urbanization schemes in Dalton against the desires of residents; it is regrettable that a recall is necessary to stop these plans.

MIKE CHASE
Dalton Gardens

TRUMP: Issues with statement

"Look, America's done some bad things too..." (My thoughts regarding the wall are the same as the President then.)

What was he referring to as unworthy of a great free society? Here's my short list of what he was referring to:

- The Patriot Act
- Leaving oil behind in Iraq
- Being in Iraq in the first place
- Collusion which resulted in electing Obama who he believes is a Muslim born in Indonesia
- The Kennedys, Clintons, Bush, and other political dynasties
- Allowing his party to include losers, liars and former POWS
- Involvement in the political election of

sovereign nations for national interests

•Being the world's judge, jury and executioner

(The President's rhetorical pomposity on the social media platform he despises is as hypocritical as a socialist/enviromentalist

caught speeding to an anti-oil rally.)

STEVEN REYNALDS
Coeur d'Alene

VALENTINES: Joy to the elderly

Your Valentine's Day

story of the Hayden Meadows Green Thumb Club was so refreshing, and positive; it literally made our day! Knowing there are young people who are learning how to brighten the lives of the elderly in our community and teachers like Vern

Harvey helps to offset some of the depressing news we are faced with on a daily basis. It's delightful and obvious by your photos that the children are experiencing the joy in giving!

ROBIN NEAR
Post Falls

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