



You Know He's Wrong

Jean-Pierre just doesn't get it!

By VICTOR CHARLTON

I used to think my old friend, Jean-Pierre d'Aubaine, president and publisher of the Ravensgate Oregon Journal, was just a bad journalist. That's part of why I left that newspaper. His latest editorial ("Who really protects the public, anyway?" June 11, 2002) shows that he's not just bad, but that he's unprofessional and irresponsible to boot.



VIC CHARLTON

You Know I'm Right

Jean-Pierre wonders why the crime rate is so high in his fair community, and why so many superpowered beings are needed to police it? One wonders if he's ever stopped to consider the *reason* there are so many *crime*-fighters here to begin with? Could it be that...gasp...there is a great deal more crime *here*, than just about any place in the nation? Might there be so many problems, so many deep and dark secrets, so many plots, plans, and corrupt dealings, that more lawmen than usual are needed to deal with it? Maybe there's a *reason* the crime is so bad! Maybe there's a *reason* the Feds hang out here as if it's their second home! The last time I spoke out like this, my apartment ended up looking like a blast furnace, but I'm sure that's just a coincidence, too. It probably has nothing to do with the fact that organized crime here has such a stranglehold on the city that it often looks as helpless as the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in spring training.

I'll try to simplify things, not for the educated readers of this paper, but so

that simpler minds like that of Mr. D'Aubaine can follow along. If two firemen are called to a small kitchen fire in a home, everything is considered normal. Likewise, when three-dozen firefighters are sent to deal with a three-alarm blaze covering several city blocks, people understand that an appropriate response to the threat has been assigned. One does not normally jump to the conclusion that too many firefighters are being used. Nor does one usually use circular logic to suggest that, since the fire is so big and the response so great, the firemen themselves set the fire. What a *responsible* journalist would do is look into *why* so many firefighters (read = superheroes, for those in kindergarten and Mr. D'Aubaine to follow the analogy) are needed in the first place!

I've got some advice for you, Jean-Pierre. Enroll in Journalism 101 down at Oregon State University at Ravensgate, as you've forgotten how to objectively follow the news. A good journalist will give the facts, rather than spewing their cynicism and paranoia at the public, exhibiting their twisted confusion and warped paradigm that suggests that those who serve and protect the public are somehow the ones to be feared.

Maybe the reason the Mayor doesn't do things the way Daddy wants is not because she's independent, but rather because she (like most people) has a clue about how corrupt and tainted this fair city is. Of course the Ravensgate Crime Commission (RCC) is a fallacy and a myth. You just go on telling yourself that enough times, and maybe someday someone will believe it. There *is* no organized crime and dirty business going on behind the pearly gates and on the golden streets of this heavenly metropolis. Fair citizens of Ravensgate, I encourage you to carry on with your daily lives, doing your best to ignore any exploding buildings, the crackle of gunfire, or the

sounds of chaos around you. The fact that your town resembles Lebanon in the Middle East more than it does Lebanon, Oregon, shouldn't trouble you at all. The RCC is only an "urban myth" (says one of the richest and most powerful men in the city), so pay it no mind!

The fact that I happened to call my old boss, Jean-Pierre, around the same time that all hell broke loose on the city streets surely points the finger at me, doesn't it, old buddy? Oh, FYI, I called another colleague moments before the World Trade Center was hit on 9/11 too. Better look into that one as well, as I'm sure there's a grand terrorist conspiracy lurking behind that phone call also.

Regarding the Shield Law, all I'll say about that is that your buddies in the ACLU will be pretty upset that you're attempting to trample over another journalist's "rights". Way to point the finger in another direction when the heat starts getting too close to home, old pal. Since you're into old adages, let me remind you about the saying that every time you point your finger at someone else, there are four more pointing back at yourself.

Let me close by reminding everyone that every single time (over the last century) someone has dug to the bottom of the immense cesspool that is Ravensgate politics and corruption, things are found to be run by those with the power, who just so happen to be those who have all the money. In all of that time, from the late 1800's to today, two family names top that list: Throckmorton and D'Aubaine. I'm sure that's just a coincidence too, and another of those silly "urban legends".