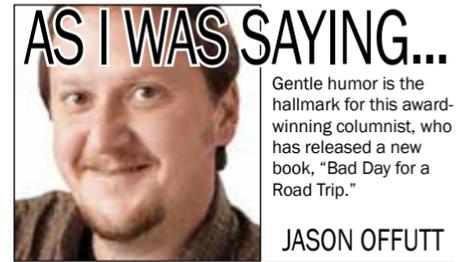


OPINIONS



'Bloody Mary' tastes good to 11-year-old

A person never realizes how much the past influences their current life until it shows up one day and slaps them across the face.

I've been a farm hand, journalist, photographer, a small-town mayor and now a university journalism teacher. My former professions come to the surface occasionally, though I rarely get the chance to demonstrate the proper technique for milking a cow.

I stumbled into a few other professions.

Back when I was Young Adult Jason, I was loud, obnoxious, immature, enjoyed beer and laughed at fart jokes. So, basically I was the same as Current Adult Jason but thinner with more hair. When Young Adult Jason looked for a part-time job, he asked himself, "In what job would my character traits (i.e. problems) not be a liability?"

And he became a bartender.

It's nice, I tell young people who rarely listen, to have a second skill set to fall back on when life crumbles around you. Bartending is much better than milking cows.

This is why, when I fix beverages at home, I can't just pour liquid into a cup. That's boring.

"What are you drinking?" the Girl, now 11, asked while I stood in the kitchen in front of a countertop littered with ingredients.

I held up my Mr. Spock pint glass full of something thick and red. "Blood." It never occurred to me I should be drinking something green. (Nerd alert: In the TV show, "Star Trek," Spock's blood was green.)

She shook her head because once a girl turns 11 Dad is no longer funny.

"What is it really?"

"Tomato juice."

She perked up. She'd never had tomato juice. I gave her a taste, which she liked, then asked for her own glass.

"Sure," I said "But I think you'll like it better if I fix it like mine."

I opened the blender and poured in tomato juice, Worcestershire sauce, hot sauce, a stalk of celery, freshly ground black pepper, the juice from a lime wedge and a dash of salt. I hit "liquefy" and watched the magic of whirling blades turn all those flavors into liquid deliciousness.

"Here you go," I said, and poured it into a glass with a few ice cubes.

She loved it. Of course she did. I'm a professional.

"What's our daughter drinking?" my wife asked after passing her in the hallway.

"Tomato juice."

"Then what is this?" she said, sweeping a hand toward the mess on the counter.

I smiled because, like any good cook, I feel the need to explain not only the ingredients I used, but the reason for each and how they complement each other, no matter how much my wife doesn't care.

"So, you fixed our 11-year-old a bloody Mary?"

What? "No?"

She frowned and walked away.

"There's no vodka in it," I called after her.

It didn't matter. Maybe when I relive a past profession, I should probably stick to milking cows.

AN EDITORIAL

Vote for Amendment 1, Clean Mo.

Everyday Missourians decided to do what lawmakers lacked the integrity to do, try to clean up Missouri politics by putting Amendment 1 on the Nov. 6 ballot, and voters should vote for the initiate, called Clean Missouri.

Reasons to vote for Amendment 1 include bipartisan support from those outside of the lobbyist-befouled halls of Jefferson City. Among supporters are a leading Republican, former Missouri Sen. **Jack Danforth** and former California Gov. **Arnold Schwarzenegger**; and present U.S. Sen. **Claire McCaskill**, a Democrat, state Sen. **Rob Schaaf**, a Republican, and Reps. **Martha Stevens** and **Nick Marshall**, a Democrat and a Republican.

More important than who supports the measure is what the measure will do. A "yes" vote would make changes to the state's lobbying laws, to campaign finance

limits for legislative candidates, and to the legislative redistricting process.

Regarding lobbying, Missourians have long opposed lobbyists giving gifts to lawmakers. Some who receive those gifts have told us, dismissively, they cannot be bought with free tickets to games and dinner nights on the town. If not, then they should long ago have placed a ban on such gifts. But they did not. Amendment 1 would end the freebies.

Missourians are opposed to rich people, like St. Louis billionaire **Rex Sinquefeld**, being able to write out million-dollar checks to candidates. Anyone who does not understand that he wants something in return for the money – the assurance about where a candidate will stand on particular issues, such as the right-to-work law – is naive. Neither Sinquefeld nor Democrat billionaire donor **George Soros** should be able to throw their dol-

lars around to, in effect, buy legislative influence. Amendment 1 would do what Missourians want – set limits on campaign donations.

The third point involves redistricting. Anyone who understands how lawmakers gerrymandered the last legislative district maps can see the problem, including here in Ray County. Then-Sen. **David Pearce** had served in his home county of Johnson and several counties south. After redistricting, he lost all of the counties to the south and became the senator for Ray and several counties to the north of Johnson County. Amendment 1 offers a fairer way to redistrict.

To reduce the influence of lobbyists, to reduce the influence of money in campaigns, and to reduce the influence of lawmakers during redistricting, Missourians should exert their own influence by voting yes for Amendment 1.

THE WAY WE WERE

OCT. 29-31

1918

- By order of the Health Department, schools remain closed because of the flu.
- The Richmond News apologizes for scarcity of news and timeliness of publication. Editor **George Trigg** and Associate Editor **Ernest Dale** are both ill with the flu and have been absent.
- Mailing boxes for members of Army Expeditionary Forces will be available at the courthouse Nov. 5.

1968

• **Norma Dale** reports the Ray County Red Cross Chapter collects ditty bags from organizations and individuals and will send them overseas to the GIs.

• AD: Jackson's Hardware and Appliance. GE Automatic Washer, \$159.95.

1993

- **Erin Dana**, Richmond High School girl's tennis, is the Athlete of the Week.
- **Alicia Wright** and **Troy Sims**, both of Lexington, announce their engagement.

Richmond News

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