

This Confusing World

By Hap Hansen

If I were to write some letters of complaint, here are a few things I would complain about.

Why, at the grocery store check-out line, where a prominent sign is displayed reading 'Ten Items Only' do some customers queue up to that line with a grocery cart filled to the brim with 30 or 40 items? Why doesn't the clerk say, "Next line, please?" They say nothing because the store doesn't want to upset that customer. Apparently, they don't realize they have upset several customers in that line who have ten items or less and now must wait for an inconsiderate grocery shopper.

Why do newspaper reporters make big news out of some Federal employees who refused to enter an office because some mouse droppings were found inside? Please. No more of this kind of nonsense reporting. What if our farmers and ranchers refused to venture outside until the Federal government got rid of all the mice, rats, snakes, flies and mosquitos on their property? One of the oldest and best clichés is, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!" Every job contains some risk. Perhaps those Federal employees who were terrified of a few mouse droppings because of a one-in-a-billion chance they contained the Hantavirus, should consider less hazardous occupations. How about being a coal miner, a skyscraper window cleaner, a traffic cop, a bridge painter or a nuclear waste dump cleaner-upper?

Fortunately, I grew up and reached adulthood in a world where one could hug his child or grandchild without fear of deprogrammers forcing painful memories of abuse on some who may or may not have been abused, and where a coach could pat a football player on the butt following an outstanding tackle. More and more schools are initiating a 'no-touching' rule. Don't put your arms around a student, do not pat them on the shoulder, certainly no hugs and perhaps no hand-shaking. Obviously, there are teachers who have stepped over the line of human decency, and into the quicksand of student intimidation and sexual suggestion, or worse. They should be rooted out, punished and forever forbidden from holding a teaching certificate. No-touch, emotionless coaching is probably here. But what coach could refuse a 'high-five' to the athlete who had just made the game-saving tackle?

I know I'm getting older, but it seems the world is getting more confusing and complicated. The complaints I have described would constitute just the first of my many potential letters of complaint.