

Rabbit foot no longer for luck



CHRISTIAN MCPHATE
STAFF REPORTER

I was playing guitar the other night, singing about a bunny named "Incompetence." Incompetence was a lonely little bunny, so cute, and so fuzzy with long ears and a little white tail.

The "wascilly wabbit" loved to bounce around the offices of the federal and state governments, thumping the heads of congressional leaders with his large feet of stupidity.

It was a pretty good song. And while picking out an extremely difficult 3-chord pattern on the acoustic, my mind began to wonder on the different foreheads the bunny of incompetence had visited while hopping through the halls of Congress and the administration.

I was not so surprised to see that the bunny has made frequent visits to the administration, for how else could one explain the incompetent decision of firing not one but seven president-appointed US attorneys in the past several months.

This compared to the three forced out by previous administrations over the past 25 years.

Former US attorney for San Diego Carol Lam obtained a guilty plea from Rep. Randy Cunningham

and sent him to prison for more than eight years on bribery charges involving defense contractors.

And she indicted former No. 3 CIA official Kyle Dustin two weeks ago in the defense-contracting scandal that could still reveal more corrupt politicians.

Too bad the Bush Justice Department fired the appointed attorney. Thank you, bunny of incompetence.

Both parties of donkeys and elephants respected H.E. Cummins III, former US attorney, for his distinguished record, but he was pushed out to allow the election of former Karl Rove deputy J. Timothy Griffin.

The problem? Griffin had little legal experience and only qualified for the job because of work he did for the Republican National Committee, according to a report in *The New York Times*.

The reason? Incompetence did one too many thumps on the foreheads of the puppet masters behind the Republican Party.

Thank you, bunny of incompetence.

In fact, Incompetence's large feet of stupidity have thumped a majority of our congressional leaders on the forehead.

Recently, I visited the congressional directory on Yahoo and found that out of 100 senators and 438 representatives, only five senators and 27 representatives answered the what-religion-do-they-follow

question correctly with Christian as the stated religion.

Eighty-two senators and 368 representatives answered with the church they attend on Sundays, including the President who stated his religion as Methodist.

In addition, 13 of the senators were Jewish and 43 representatives were a majority Catholic with two Buddhists and one Muslim.

Thank you, bunny of incompetence.

The sad reality is that the bunny of incompetence has visited all facets of our society, hopping from town-to-town, city-to-city and state-to-state, thumping the foreheads of many of our leaders.

With the disaster in New Orleans, the bunny did a triple thump on federal, state and local governments.

On the cracking down of oilmongers, warmongers, moneymongers, Incompetence has done a quadruple thump and is still going.

And with global warming, the bunny of incompetence has done a long history of thumping, beginning during the Industrial Age and continuing right on through the Information Age.

Throughout our history, the incompetence bunny has left his large footprints of stupidity across the minds of many men and women like Jesus in the poem "Footprints in the Sand" only instead of carrying one when times are tough, the damn bunny thumps on one's forehead a few more times.

Will someone just shoot the damn bunny already!

Campus Voices

Q: Would you use the psychology clinic on campus?



"I probably wouldn't go because I commute. I only come to school for class."

— Angela Fortin, 19, junior, undecided



"I have no need to visit it. I'm perfectly sane."

— Melissa Baleisis, 24, senior, elementary education major



"I wouldn't go. I tend to stay away from people like that. They're crazy. I'd take counseling from anyone else. Those people have more problems than the people they treat."

— Shivel Brunett, 22, sophomore, radiology major



"I don't think I'd go because I'm a stable person."

— Alonzo Galan, 20, sophomore, undecided



"I'd go because it's free."

— Paul McBroom, 19, sophomore, mathematics major



"It depends on what the problem is. I probably would go if the problem was bad enough."

— Dominic Cobb, 20, freshman, mathematics major

Geraldo brings shame to journalists



KONNIE SEWELL
COPY EDITOR

Just who does Geraldo Rivera think he is?

This man is a joke. How dare he call himself a journalist.

Rivera is shameless and an insult to real journalists — and real journalism students — everywhere.

I feel sick just imaging anyone thinking of him as the best our field has to offer.

Who hired this douchebag? Oh, that's right. Faux News did. Never mind.

River's been tarnishing the profession of Woodstein, Edward R. Murrow and Walter Cronkite for years.

I don't think anyone who used to host a trashy talk show can really call themselves a serious reporter later in life. It's like if Jerry Springer tried reporting during Hurricane Katrina. The man has no integrity.

Good investigative reporters are supposed to remain anonymous. Their stories are never about themselves.

That's why this profession exists: So that other people can have their stories told.

But Rivera continually ignores this rule. He likes to make everything about himself. He likes to place himself in the story. He's nothing but an attention seeker.

He's had plastic surgery on TV and he's been very public about his sexual liaisons.

He made a huge deal about shaving off his moustache if Michael Jackson was found guilty and then gloated about the verdict for ages.

Attention-seekers make the worst

journalists because they can't get over how "great" and "brilliant" they are.

They're not so great. Just obvious and egotistical.

Geraldo Rivera is an entertainer.

He doesn't care so much about getting his facts straight as he does giving the people what he thinks they want.

He once reported he was in the middle of a friendly firing zone in Afghanistan, when in reality he was some 300 miles away from the zone.

He also claimed to have been at the scene of the deaths of American soldiers, but this later turned out to be false.

Has the man (or his superiors) never heard of accountability?

Real reporters know that the stories they're going to tell might not always be the most exciting, but they have to be told because people need to know about them.

Real reporters know they have to get their facts straight, and real reporters know this could mean double-checking several times. Real reporters know if they make a mistake, they have to order up a slice of humble pie and apologize for it.

They don't just shrug and say, "Whoops. But, anyway, check out my badass moustache! It always stays put, even during the rain and the wind!"

Rivera is so full of himself he won't bother to check his facts, or let journalistic ethics and professionalism keep him in check.

Why did he draw that map in the sand when he was in Afghanistan in 2003?

Because he thought he was just one of the guys, I suppose. *Hey, me and my moustache are cool with you guys, right?*

This put the military's operation and even the soldiers themselves at risk.

If Rivera believes he's well-intentioned, then he's stupider than I thought. He puts real war correspondents to shame.

More recently, Rivera's had a field day with the death of Anna Nicole Smith.

On TV he's referred to her as being talentless and a floozy. He's called her a whore and has basically disgraced himself with his ugly speech.

Let's not forget that she was a human being who had faced many hardships during her lifetime. Let's not forget that she's deceased and that there's a fine line between poking fun and just being mean-spirited.

No one's perfect. And if Rivera is going to call someone out for their moral behavior, let's not forget that his current wife is his fifth one.

Perhaps worst of all, he's outlined how he thinks Howard K. Stern is responsible for Smith's death and the death of her son Daniel last September.

I'll agree that it's highly suspicious how Stern claims to be the father of Smith's baby girl but refuses to take a DNA test, but Rivera gave no solid evidence for his reasoning. Journalists are not conspiracy theorists.

He's blasted Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert for "amounting to nothing." How ironic, considering those two men actually make the country think. We can hardly say the same for dear Geraldo.

This man thinks he's breaking the next Watergate every single day and he also believes he's God's gift to you and me. *Hey, pissants, me and my 'stache are on TV! What have YOU done with YOUR worthless lives lately?*

It's time someone woke up and fired Rivera. When you get right down to it, he sucks not just at his job, but at life.

Letter to the Editor

Hi,

I'm responding to a letter sent to the editor in your last edition of *The Wichitan* on Feb. 14, 2007

I would like to know what exactly the reader was referring to as a "slave auction."

If this is what I think it is, how has MSU allowed this?

Secondly, I would like to know what is done about Sofia Rodriguez's actions or should I say

"non-actions"

For the record, I like going to this school but the segregation is really obvious and baffling to me, especially since in my country we don't have this issue

Thank you,

Michelle Watson