

COMMUNITY COLUMNIST

Some folks need a reality boot

Now that *Survivor VI* has run its course, leaving the dreaded Heidi and the disappointing Christy as flotsam and jetsam of the air-waves, it's time to feed our "reality TV" jones by requesting a few local offenders to leave the tribe.

Corporation Commissioner Jim Irvin: You played hard, you kept coming back when everyone thought you were down, you survived scathing editorial exposés and apparently overwhelming evidence. It's true, you weren't elected in order to give up your office. But you weren't elected to pillage the public trust either. It's time for you to go.

Tempe Smoking Ban Opponents: I smoked for more decades than I care to remember, so I feel your pain. I saw the smoke signals on the wall. I gave it up. It was tough. I feel better. It's that simple. I don't blame anyone for smoking, but anyone who does must know in their heart of hearts that it's time to extinguish the flame. So if you're still pushing some petition around to reinstate smoking, give it up. It's time for you to go.

"Dr." Bob Martin: Local AM radio's sleazy answer to Deepak, the chiropractor who once claimed to be a "physician licensed in three states" (he spent four months at a medical school in Grenada), puts the "snake" in snake oil salesman. From coral calcium to HGH, this guy's four-hour infomercial on Saturday mornings has more hokum per minute than your average Internet Viagra e-mail. I once heard him hawking his eye



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Special for The Republic



Jim Irvin



Joe Arpaio

drops to a listener who was worried about glaucoma with this counsel: "You can go blind, or you can get (product name). The choice is yours!" He is big on "age-defying nutrient supplements" (someone get a hold of Ponce de Leon!) and shamelessly pimps his "nutritional tests," which, according to actual experts, "yield absurd conclusions and invalid advice." But don't just take my word for all this, check <http://www.quack-watch.org/12Web/drbob.html> and see for yourself.

Sheriff Joe: The inestimable Joe is currently making a bid to surpass Evan Mecham and J.D. Hayworth. Yes, he can shoot down small aircraft with his 50-caliber belt-fed machine gun, threaten to arrest comedian "Joe Arizona" for wearing a mock-sheriff's outfit (with pink long underwear) and allow his second-in-command to temporarily resign in order to double-dip the taxpayers. But does he have

what it takes to launch His Bombasticness past the likes of the former gov? Frankly, I'd love to see him give up his slot as America's Toughest Sheriff and take on some re-campaigning. Now if we could only get Montini to run against Arpaio.

Bishop O'Brien: This one's a little tougher, particularly in the light of the hit-and-run incident. Not tough in the sense of knowing the right thing to do. Tough in the sense of my having spent 18 actual years in Catholic schools (and not, as some besmirchers have claimed, because I had to repeat several times). Over the years, I've defended the church in the face of ignorant detractors who seem to think that eating fish on Friday is part of canon law. But really now, this whole business had gone waaay too far. Unfortunately, the bizarre traffic incident may simply mask the issue of deep-seated corruption in the U.S. church. I believe that the current crisis will make the Reformation look like a parish cakewalk. Thomas O'Brien told a *Republic* reporter, "If a priest abuses a child, I have to know that. You wouldn't want me not to know, would you?" Well, it is now abundantly clear that he did know and enabled the abuses to continue. It was just time for him to go.

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