



EX ANTE

OUR MISTAKES

In our Winter 2023 issue we demonstrated a whole new way to foul our own works. Faithful reader (and tchotchke collector) Ilya Shapiro promptly pointed this out:

I much enjoyed the most recent *Bag*, as I always do. And I was delighted to find a certificate for a Sherlock Holmes puzzle; with two young boys in the house – plus baby twins, but they’re not really into 19th-century detectives – one can never have enough rainy-day/non-TV activities. But I was dismayed to find that the puzzles can only be redeemed concomitant with the redemption of bobblehead certificates (or snow-globe certificates, but my subscription isn’t extravagant). Why would that cause dismay? Well, some of us are diligent in making such redemptions, eagerly rushing across the River Styx ... whenever the opportunity arises to pick up the latest tchotchke to add to the pantheon. So I don’t currently have any certificates to redeem and fear that all the puzzles will run out before the next bobblehead pickup potentiality presents itself. In effect, you’re rewarding tardiness and, going forward lest a similar situation occur again, incentivizing laziness. A clear moral hazard.

The weirdness Shapiro correctly identified as weird was a different error from the one he suggested. We wrote the certificate that way intentionally, late at night, as the fun finishing touch on an issue we were about to put to bed. Our fuzzy late-night thinking was that mandating a simultaneous bobblehead pick-up would reduce the workload for the nice people who

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actually redeem the certificates. It was an idea that soon felt, in the light of day and after some sleep (and after reading Shapiro’s sharp analysis), like mandating a parking space for every tenant in a highrise. In other words, our good intentions would burden those nice people, not help them.

So, we tweeted – and Shapiro retweeted – our chagrin and a course correction. See page 179.

And we also managed a more conventional – and thus either more or less embarrassing than the certificate business – mistake. The ever-vigilant and sharp-eyed Rachel Davies spotted a misspelling on pages 155 and 157 of the same issue. “Famlies” should be “Families” in the running heads on those two pages.

Thanks to Shapiro, and to Davies. Please keep up the good work.



JUSTICE GINSBURG: THE CARD

Questions have arisen about the significance of the details of our Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg *Supreme Court Sluggers* card. Here are answers to some of them.