

Letters To The Editor And The Facts

Readership studies reveal that the "Letters to the Editor" column is one of the most popular features in any newspaper. The average reader may glance only at headlines in much of the newspaper, if he is in a hurry, but it is seldom he will pass up letters written in by various correspondents.

Newspapers seek to encourage public expression. They have various methods of printing letters and use differing forms. They are called "Readertorials," "The Mailbag," "The Public Forum," or, as is done by The News - Review, "Reader Opinions."

These various headings are used to provide immediate identification of the column and to promote readership.

The column often is challenging, inspiring, thought - provoking; sometimes irritating, trite, repetitious. Yet, it is the desire of every editor and publisher to use just as many of these expressions from the public as space will permit.

A writer in the Eugene Register-Guard recently had a rather exhaustive "critique" of that newspaper's policies.

The editor, this writer asserted should "check doubtful facts," refuse letters in which the "facts" might not be correct; should stop correcting spelling and grammar; spare organizations from "unfounded criticism," etc.

It long has been the policy of The News-Review to insist upon truth in "facts." The News - Review, however, has not attempted to curb "ideas." Ideas may differ, but facts are facts.

A News-Review contributor to whom a letter once was returned because of obvious inaccuracy of facts, replied in a most hostile vein claiming that a writer was justified in such inaccuracy as a means of conveying an idea. The News-Review seeks to avoid such distortion. Writers normally express appreciation for having an error of fact called to their attention.

It also is the policy of The News-Review to correct spelling and grammar.

People employed in the editorial department of The News-Review are trained and experienced in their work. Words are their "tools." Not many of these reporters and editors would be qualified

to handle a plow, repair an automobile, engage in plumbing, or run a locomotive. But the people who engage in farming, mechanics, trades, professions, or are just plain retired, are full of ideas. Often they would like to comment, expressing an idea or discussing a current subject, yet they feel inadequate in the use of words. So, just as editors are not familiar with the "tools" with which correspondents may be expert, they feel the responsibility to use the "tools" with which they have developed ability on behalf of those concerned with writing a letter for forum use.

The writer to the Eugene newspaper holds to the theory that the reader should be permitted to judge the educational level of the author by having the newspaper print a letter exactly as received. While there may be cases in which the educational level of the writer is a factor deserving of consideration by the reader, most editors consider it unfair to permit grave errors in letters from writers honestly and sincerely seeking to convey an idea, even though such idea may differ from the newspaper's avowed policy.

It is the policy of The News-Review to refuse letters addressed to specific individuals, deliberate "gripe" or "revenge" letters, letters in which individuals seek to place matters before the public when such matters are correctly for adjudication by the courts, letters of extreme length, or letters containing libelous statements. Too, The News-Review demands that all letters must be signed by the name and mailing address of the writer. Anonymous letters are tossed in the wastebasket.

This would indicate that many letters are rejected. Such however, is not the case. Most writers show good taste in their letters. Only on rare occasion is it necessary to return a letter or to refuse publication for some reason.

Although every newspaper often receives letters in which the spelling or grammar needs expert handling, every editor worth his salt finds value in the ideas of people—and often from people who may perhaps be lacking in some of the higher refinements of a literary education.

THE LIGHTER SIDE:



Floral Profanity Method Suggested

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Most of us have a few profane friends whose language causes us to cringe or blush, depending on whether we are cringers or blushers. If you have friends like that then you might be interested in a new swearing technique I heard about recently. It suggests a way you can help your friends not only clean up their language but make it smell better as well. Under this method, the person who uses of swear words gives you offense is persuaded to substitute the names of flowers for the objectionable terms.

No Crude Connotations The floral word simply amounts with innocent little appellations that can be used to form epithets that are expressive and yet devoid of crude connotations. The first step in the rehabilitation of your foul-mouthed friends is to coach them to exclaim "great jumping geraniums!" when they are startled or amazed. If we can get them in the habit of exclaiming "great jumping geraniums!" the next step will be comparatively simple. The next step is to change their naughty manner of expressing astonishment. Recommended substitutes are "Well, I'll be a fringed milkwort" and "Well, I'll be a double daisy."

Will Establish Pattern By this time a pattern will have been established and they will soon be registering "exasperation or disgust with "Oh, horse chestnut!" rather than something more graphic. The second phase of botanical cursing is likely to be more difficult, however, for it involves the names your friends call other people. Break them in gently by suggesting that they should "take that, you dastardly dogbane!" when punching someone in the nose. They can let off steam that way while remaining within the bounds of verbal propriety. Then they can work up to "unhand me, you hybrid hyacinth!" or "don't get gay with me, you perennial pawpaw."

When your friends are in a pet because someone has done them wrong, admonish them to say "I wouldn't be caught dead talking to that hydroponic hydrangea." They likewise can get their point across by denouncing their antagonists as a "Virginia creeper."

If you can indoctrinate your friends in the floral method of profanity, it won't be long before you can associate with them without embarrassment, even in mixed company. But be sure to warn them that when they call someone "A son of a sea grape," smile.

Tax Commission Retains Values For Timber Land SALEM (UPI) — Timber land values in Benton, Lane, Linn, Columbia and Washington counties will remain the same as they were in 1962. The State Tax Commission Monday removed higher values which its valuation division had ordered. The decision came after three days of fact finding hearings held last week. It announced further studies would be made to work out the forest land valuation problem before making future adjustments on the land values in Western Oregon. Tax commissioners said while they believed the higher land values which were originally ordered would have been sustained in court, enough doubt had been raised in the hearings to justify the additional study. Timber owners and forestry experts had strongly disputed the proposed increased land values. In Linn County the commission established forest land zones and values for the first time this year. Upon completion of the county's reappraisal program, they were set at levels in line with the increased values of the other four counties. The Linn County values will now be reduced to the levels of those in previously reappraised counties.

Reader Opinions

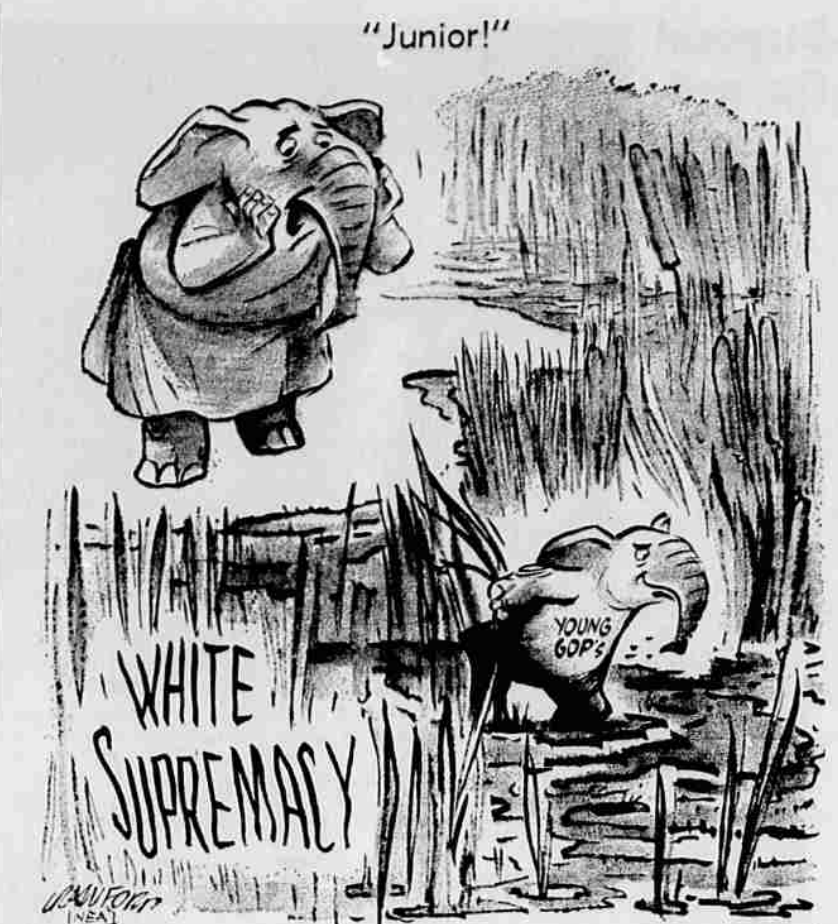
To The Editor: Mr. Hamilton beat me to answering the League of Women Voters on their refusal to debate the U.N. with the Birchers. They say: "The purpose of the League is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government." I would ask how can members of an organization be informed enough to promote political responsibility if they will not study both sides? They apparently, must not study as individuals, but do what they are told to do, and believe all that they are told by their national leaders. May I infer that they do not study the U.N. enough to know its sinister intentions to destroy our American Nationalism? May I quote from UNESCO Publication 365: "As long as the child breathes the poisoned air of nationalism, education in world-mindedness can produce only rather precarious results. As we have pointed out, it is frequently the family that infects the child with extreme nationalism." In simple language this means patriotism toward our nation is fostered in our homes and this evil thing must be countered. UNESCO, I am sure everyone must know, is part of the U.N.

The John Birchers have been called everything (by the Communists and their fellow travelers, the misguided idealists), but they do study both sides. They are individuals are not committed to any movement, party, or idea by the head of the organization. The California Legislature recently concluded a thorough investigation of the John Birch Society in California. In their report they said "The John Birch Society is neither secret, Fascist, subversive, un-American nor anti-Semitic." They repudiate all the epithets and added "We have found the average member to have been concerned about the advances of the world Communist movement and the advances of Communist subversion in this country. The John Birch Society has provided the only militant program of study and action through which the frustrations of these people can be released."

If the League of Women Voters really wanted to understand the problem instead of going along as fellow travelers they should welcome this opportunity to study the truth about the "House That Hiss Built," for their own personal information and the protection of the American way of life, for themselves and their posterity. Stacy Adams Box 427 Yoncalla, Oregon

Court Reverses Judgment Against I. B. Hill Estate SALEM (UPI) — The Oregon Supreme Court has reversed a \$9,608 judgment against the estate of the late Dr. Irvin B. Hill, superintendent of Oregon Fairview Home. The suit against the estate had been brought by Pauline Elizabeth Jarrett, who charged Hill was negligent in giving a leave of absence to a patient who assaulted her. The court ruled that Multnomah County Circuit Judge Alan F. Davis didn't have jurisdiction to enter a judgment against Hill's estate. It noted that only the legislature can waive the state's immunity and that an action against an agency of the state is actually one against the state. The court said Hill could only have been held responsible as superintendent and not as an individual. The trial court should have dismissed the suit, the court ruled. In other action today, the court reprimanded Eugene attorney Eugene C. Venn for improper conduct. He was found to have communicated directly with an adverse party who was represented by counsel. Venn is a former Lane County district attorney.

League Should Welcome Opportunity For Debate



Giap Streamlined Guerilla Warfare

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst
When France lost the battle for Indo-China with the fall of Dien Bien Phu in 1954, the guiding genius behind the Communist attack was Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap. Giap, whose tactics gave new meaning to guerilla warfare, now is the defense minister of Communist North Vietnam and chief strategist for the Communist Viet Cong in South Vietnam and the Communist Pathet Lao in Laos. Like Mao Tse-tung, the Red Chinese leader whose tactics he adopted and improved upon, Giap has set forth his theories of war in a book. "Guerilla warfare causes many difficulties and losses to the enemy and wears him out," Giap writes. "To annihilate enemy manpower and liberate land, guerilla warfare has to change gradually to mobile warfare." The change is made, he says, when scattered bands of guerrillas can be grouped for swift, hard-hitting attacks over a set battlefield. "Guerilla warfare causes many difficulties and losses to the enemy and wears him out," Giap writes. "To annihilate enemy manpower and liberate land, guerilla warfare has to change gradually to mobile warfare." The change is made, he says, when scattered bands of guerrillas can be grouped for swift, hard-hitting attacks over a set battlefield.

Confirms Situation Arthur Domen, a UPI veteran at reporting the war in Laos, says this is about what the situation has become there today. The Geneva accord by which it was hoped to turn Laos into a neutral state, gave the Pathet Lao Guerrillas army status by recognizing that there were three armed forces in Laos, the Pathet Lao, the royalist forces under Gen. Phoumi Nosavan and the neutralist forces of Kong Le. In the past year, according to Domen, it has been discovered that the Pathet Lao possess armed camps with their own supply dumps and field hospitals. In the strategic Plain of Jars which provides access not only to South Vietnam but to Cambodia and Thailand as well, they have fought in unit strength up to a battalion, carrying relatively heavy weapons and working with radio equipment. Giap's advisors work right up with Pathet Lao training units. In addition to forming units.

WASHINGTON WINDOW Afro-Asian Popularity Bid Appears To Be Losing U. S. By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press International
The United States seems to be withdrawing from the United Nations popularity contest for the smiles and approval of the Afro-Asians. The Afro-Asians almost have owned the U.S. proxy in U.N. Assembly votes. There was that unbelievable assembly resolution on colonialism for which the United States voted in November 1961. The resolution demanded independence across the board everywhere except in the Soviet empire of captive nations. The belief of — or not aspect of this resolution was in a paragraph stating "that inadequacy of political, economic, social or educational preparedness should never serve as a pretext for delaying independence." The United States voted for the astonishing proposition. It was for some time the habit of the United States to vote against its NATO ally, Portugal, and in support of Afro-Asian complaints against Portuguese colonial policy. But in December 1962, the United States balked at an Afro-Asian - Soviet resolution proposing punishment of Portugal. The United States, thus, began to withdraw from a popularity contest with the Soviet Union for the love of African and Asian nations, some of them but lately born and scarcely measuring up to status as states.

Turn On Heat The Afro-Asian heat was turned on last month on South Africa at a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, of the U.N.-sponsored International Labor Organization. The Afro-Asians demanded expulsion of the South African delegation. U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor George L. Weaver headed the general idea and announced that he would urge the U.S. government to seek the expulsion of South Africa from the United Nations. This pop-off by an official of the Labor Department did considerable violence to established U. S. policy although no one seemed to notice. G. Meenen Williams, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, repudiated Weaver, finally, in a statement made at Monrovia, Liberia, in which he said the United States would oppose exclusion of South Africa from the United Nations. Meantime, there was a London dispatch reporting that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Harlan Cleveland had been talking with British officials about colonialism and the United Nations. Cleveland and the British agreed that extremists had taken over the U.N. Special Committee on Colonialism and, further, that the committee's extremist attitude was hindering the emancipation of colonial peoples. Would Resist Pressure More significantly, Cleveland was said to have told the British that the United States would resist the Afro - Asian pressure group demands for exclusion of Portugal and South Africa from the United Nations and other international bodies. Both the United States and Great Britain are members of the Special Committee on Colonialism. Cleveland's conferences in London may lead to resignation of both from committee membership. The American people have not been paying much attention to the United Nations as these developments came along. Cleveland's London talks attracted little attention. The Afro-Asian pressure groups and their allies in the United States will know all about it when the assembly convenes next autumn. Look then for some political efforts in the United States to restore the U.S. proxy to the Afro-Asians.

TOOK IT HARD LINCOLN, England (UPI) — Employees of the Lincolnshire Road Car Co. went on strike for two hours today in protest of the firing of bus driver Roy Baker. Baker, 35, killed himself last week, five hours after losing his job.

In Days Gone By Taken from the files of The News-Review
40 YEARS AGO July 16, 1922
Rock Creek was one of the most popular resorts in the county over the weekend. A total of 130 cars was ferried across the stream. Twenty-two cars were lined up at one time Sunday evening. This heavy traffic proves the necessity of a bridge at Lone Rock in the near future.
10 YEARS AGO July 16, 1953
AFL retail clerks struck and picketed markets in Albany today. Failure to reach a pay agreement brought the strike on. The present hourly pay is \$1.40 for men and \$1.30 for women and a 48-hour week. The union is asking \$1.75 for both men and women and a 40-hour week.
25 YEARS AGO July 16, 1938
A study of fish life in the North Umpqua River, Steamboat Creek and numerous tributaries in that area is to be made soon. The ob-

Resolution Will Oppose Force In Racial Struggle

LINCOLN, Neb. (UPI) — The annual Governors' Conference will be asked next week to deplore the use of physical force by either side in the racial integration struggle, it was disclosed today. The disclosure came from Nebraska Gov. Frank B. Morrison, chairman of the resolutions committee of the conference. The conference opens in Miami Beach, Fla., Friday and continues until Thursday. Morrison said the resolution opposing use of physical force on either in the preservation or elimination of racial barriers would be introduced by Gov. Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon. The resolution will ask the conference to acknowledge "the fact that the color barriers that do exist require action by each governor to provide leadership in resolving the conflict resulting therefrom." Morrison said Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York would introduce a resolution calling for the governors to appoint a special committee on civil rights.

What does Webster say about it? His Collegiate Dictionary ignores the word. But in his Unabridged he says: "Hootenanny: Originally in the sense of DINGUS, THINGUMAJIG. A laudatory epithet. Assimilated in form to 'Hooten' Annie' — a meeting of folk singers, especially for public entertainment."

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Day's News

By Frank Jenkins
Mishmash in the news: The Kingfisher (Oklahoma) Chamber of Commerce has just voted to tell the U.S. Post Office Department that the town of Kingfisher DOESN'T want a new post office. Instead, if favors improvements on the present building that will cost only a fraction of the proposed \$110,000 new building. The chamber said it opposes spending tax money for unnecessary items and would like to see the national budget "in the black for a change."

And — A few weeks ago — Congressman Al Ullman, of the 2nd Oregon District, told the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce that he thought chances were good to get a \$50,000 appropriation for another study of the algae problem in Upper Klamath Lake. In view of the fact that the algae problem in Klamath Lake has been surveyed and resurveyed and then surveyed some more, the project aroused no enthusiasm. So, apparently, it has been dropped.

Question: Do you reckon the dangerous heresy to the effect that IF WE DON'T GET IT SOMEBODY ELSE WILL, might be deceiving? Let's put it this way: If the time should come in the U.S.A. when reckless spending, just to let spending, LOSSES votes, we will get economy and lower taxes.

From Portland: Sol Maizels, operator of the Aladdin Theater, has assembled the first foreign film festival for Portland. He has decided to call it an Art Film Hootenanny. That leads the Oregonian's film critic to ask: "What's an Art Film Hootenanny?" He then proceeded to answer his own question. Like this: "Well, it seems that everything involving more than two people or two things is a hootenanny these days. It started with folk singers, and it's spreading to other areas. Four people get together for cards, and it's a Pinochle Hootenanny. Two guys take their girlfriends for a moonlight drive, and it's a Whoopee Hootenanny. So now we have a Film Hootenanny. It was inevitable."

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The Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Tuesday, July 16, the 197th day of 1963 with 168 to follow. The moon is approaching its new phase. The morning stars are Jupiter and Saturn. The evening star is Mars. On this day in history. In 1790, Congress established the District of Columbia on the Potomac. In 1862, David Farragut became the first admiral in the U.S. Navy. In 1945, the first experimental test of an atomic bomb was conducted in New Mexico. In 1851, Leopold III, of Belgium, abdicated after serving for 17 years. A thought for the day — Russian author Fyodor Dostoyevsky said: "Man is a pliable animal — a being who gets accustomed to everything."

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