



mike lee

cheshire fortnightly

WHERE CHRISTMAS MEANT MORE

"Good afternoon, Dead Meyer complaint department."
"The Baby Stillborn doll I got my daughter for Christmas doesn't work."
"What's wrong?"
"It's alive."

This is my third year in college, and during my annual year-end "Grab the Gifts and Go" sweepstakes (thanks for the mini-tape recorder, Mom and Dad), I had a chance to discover the destabilizing effect my absence has had on my family: They turned middle class on me.

This shocked me more than the day I found out a close friend was an Amway distributor. Sure, the hints were there for the reading — the flocked Christmas tree, the garage converted into a family room and the like — but I subconsciously chose to be ignorant.

The truth arrived with the Monday mail last week. There, dirtied up the mailbox, were issues of Good Sam's Hi-way Herald and Scouting magazine.

I broke down and cried. How could my family do this to me —

your standard liberal socially-conscious college student?

I confronted them with the evidence later that evening, before they could escape to the Elk's club for New Year's Eve festivities.

"But those were supposed to arrive in a brown paper wrapper," my father blurted as he turned the key in his late-model Chrysler. Backing down the driveway, he nearly scraped the seven-mpg motor home.

Defeated, I returned inside to read the two propaganda sheets.

The Good Sam recreational vehicle club — conveniently run by Trailer Life magazine — publishes Hi-way Herald to bolster RVers' "right to recreate." In the latest issue, on the same page as a Camping World ad ("It's always fair weather when campers get together"), Wayne Kennedy's "Dateline: Washington" column says those behemoths on wheels are not the gas hogs we make them out to be. Rather than being the pariahs of gas consumption, Kennedy argues, motor homes are "the champions of highway maintenance."

The criminals? Fuel-efficient cars and gasohol. Really.

"The improved fuel efficiency of motor vehicles tends to erode

(gas) tax receipts for highway purposes," Kennedy writes. That dilly is further pickled by programs that encourage gasohol use by eliminating gas taxes on the fuel, he adds.

"What do all the facts mean to the RVer? The next time someone looks at your RV with disdain for digesting a lot of gas, think for a minute. Your driving is probably contributing more to building and improving America's roads than your critic's is."

Hmmm.
I put it down and picked up the Scouting mag. On the cover was a picture of 10-year-old Jason Roger Sherman, "Cub Scouting's Goodwill Ambassador" (the mailing label covered the rest).

Jason is no "goody-goody," admits the article inside. "He often neglects to make his bed in the morning and has to be prodded to do his weekend chores. No angel he."

I quickly turned the page.

I found an article of anecdotes submitted by readers, with this letter submitted by Charles W. Abbey of Troup 50, Fort Rucker, Ala.:

"During a troop progress review recently in our town in southeast Alabama, we were questioning a lad about his knowledge of the precepts, skills and beliefs of the BSA. It is customary in our troop also to require each boy to demonstrate his knot tying ability as

part of his readiness for the next scout progress award.

"It was my turn to question the boy and the the interview had progressed to the knot demonstration. 'What is your favorite knot, son?' I asked, trying to put him at ease.

"His little brow wrinkled in deep thought. 'I think Tuesday, sir,' he replied.

"Fortunately for me, your basic Yankee, I realized he had mistaken 'knot' for the Southern pronunciation of 'night.' We moved on to the timber hitch without further comment."

I felt sick. When I showed the story to my mother the next day, she chuckled lightly to herself.

Welcome to the middle class, Lee.

Black guerrillas turn in arms

SALISBURY, Rhodesia (AP) — More than 18,500 black guerrillas have turned themselves in at cease-fire assembly camps and British Gov. Lord Soames expressed optimism Sunday on an end to Rhodesia's seven-year bush war.

"What this last week shows us is the promise and hope of Lancaster House is beginning to be understood and accepted where it counts: On the ground," Soames said in a television address. Lancaster House, in London, is where the Rhodesian cease-fire accord was signed Dec. 21 after 15 weeks of negotiations.

Soames' spokesperson, Nicholas Fenn, said Patriotic Front guerrillas "had made a real effort" to comply with the cease-fire, although it was known that some remained outside the 39 assembly areas. He gave no estimate on the number

of guerrillas still in the bush, but the cease-fire terms declare they will be considered criminals if they do not report to the camps.

Fenn and Maj. Gen. John Acland, British commander of the 1,300-member Commonwealth monitoring force, were clearly enthusiastic, but refused to call the truce a total success. They did not report any ceasefire violations.

Fenn also told a news conference that Soames had authorized South African troops to defend Beitbridge, the most important border crossing point on the South African-Rhodesian border.

"With this single exception" all South African units were

withdrawn "after lengthy discussions" with South Africa's white-minority government, Fenn said.

Former Prime Minister Abel Muzorewa, who resigned under terms of the truce, opened his campaign for the Feb. 27 elections with a rally in a Salisbury black township, drawing a crowd of about 60,000 persons.

His main opponents, guerrilla leaders Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, have not yet returned to Rhodesia from their bases in Zambia and Mozambique, but are expected within the week.

Under terms of the cease-fire pact, forces are to remain in the camps and barracks during the election campaign.

Burrows, Horton, Huss announce candidacies

State Rep. Mary Burrows, R-Eugene, has filed for re-election to the Oregon House from District 41. The district includes the University, as well as the downtown Eugene area, the Ferry

Street Bridge area and areas north of the city.

Lane County District Attorney Pat Horton also filed for re-election last week.

Burrows, a 47-year-old homemaker and four-term legislator, is the first candidate from either party to file for the District 41 seat.

Horton, 37, a member of the district attorney's staff since 1967, was elected to his present office in 1972 and re-elected in 1976.

The district attorney position is non-partisan, although Horton is a registered Republican.

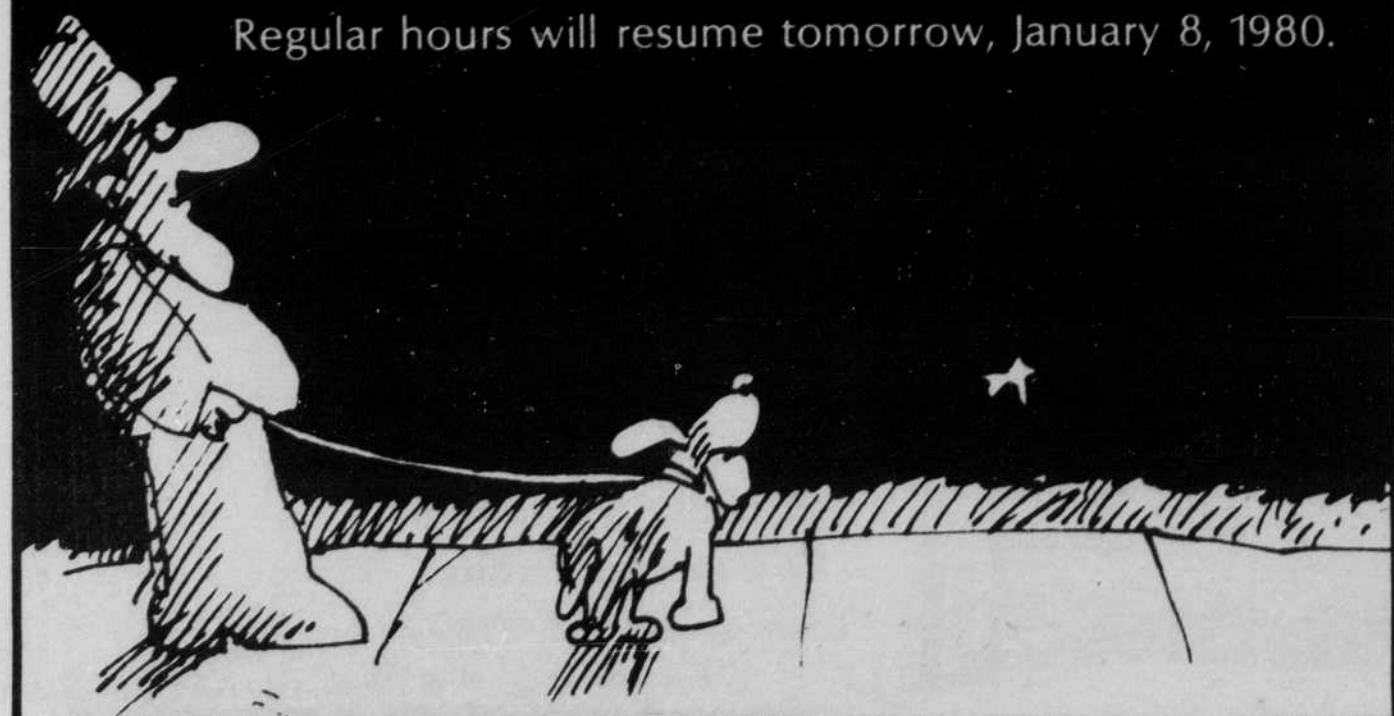
In the state, Rosalie Huss, a longtime conservative activist and wife of ousted state Republican chairer Walter Huss, has announced her candidacy for the GOP nomination for the United States Senate. Huss, 58, is challenging U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood for the Republican nomination.

Shop late tonight

at the Bookstore:

8:15-8:00 pm

Regular hours will resume tomorrow, January 8, 1980.



DIRTY LEGS

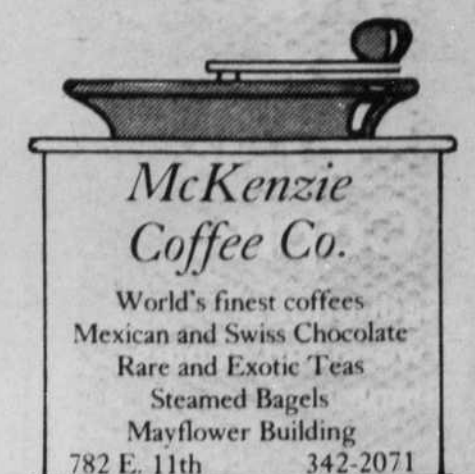
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