

# Rhodes: 'Maybe we were a bit negative'

It's been an interesting year, to say the least. I've been accused of simplistic patriotism, of being an anarchist, of hating humanity, of not possessing love, or all of the above. I've enjoyed the epic poems asking where my love was or if I was an Iranian. Most important (and most often) I was accused of being negative. Rubbish! Impossible! Nonsense!

So what, my first editorial slammed the ABC television network for running "Midnight Express" against the first presidential debate. If they ran "Jaws" I probably wouldn't have complained. The idea of running a "Shot Down in Flames" column, whose sole purpose was to rank supposedly innocent organizations such as ASG, American Citizens for Honesty in Government and Amway, it wasn't negative. Well...maybe...

Okay...it wasn't exactly the greatest (or most intelligent) idea. So what it was literally begging for a malice suit. But it wasn't negative at all. You ask me what good did the "People are Snakes" article do? Well...er...well...I lost my job that day and lousy events were occurring in a domino effect, so that was the only way of expressing my anger. It was either that, or attack some pretty young lass. Also important in the decision making was the fact that 17 inches of space needed to be filled on the editorial page. The many articles screaming about the then-presidential candidate Ronald Reagan weren't really negative..okay, a good 99 44/100 percent were.

The pompous stand I took on the flag incident, a little over-wrought I'll admit, at least caught the conservatives' eyes. The revolu-

tionaries were a little miffed. So it too was a little negative, but hey, Will Rogers would have like it, and you can't do much better than that. My tuition tax credit editorial negative? Oh no, no, no, no—okay yes. But that was to get the jest of the argument across, that the tuition tax credit bill will hurt the public school system by forcing it to compete with private schools that have an infinite advantage moneywise. Yeeeeesssssss...it was a little negative.

Yeah, one of my last editorials, saying that humanity should be wiped off the face of the earth, was in fact, a little negative, but if we only wrote positive editorials, people wouldn't get the incentive to improve their performances, or change themselves.

As for "Politics Make Strange Deadfellows," I lunched with Hal Prince the other day, and convinced him to take it to Broadway next season right after Eugene O'Neil's new musical opens, so I really don't care. Still, I get complaints that the paper is negative. I'm tired of hearing it! You want something positive? Okay, then take this:

Freude, schöner Gotterfunken  
Tochter aus Elysium  
Wir Betreten Feuertrunken  
Himmliche, dein Heiligtum!  
Deine Zauber binden wieder  
Was die Mode Streng geteilt:  
Alle menshen werden bruder  
Wo dein sanfter Glugel weilt

Wem der grosse wurf gelungen.  
Eines Freundes Freund zu sein.  
Miche seinen Jubel ein!  
Ja wer auch nur eine seele  
Sein rennt auf dem Erdanrund!  
Und wer's nie gekonnt, der stehle  
Weinend sich aus diesem Bund.

Freude trinken alle Wesen  
An den Brüsten der Natur;  
Alle Guten, alle Bosen  
Folgen ihrer Rosenspur.  
Küsse gab sie uns und Reben,  
Einen freund, gepruft in Tod;  
Wollust ward dem Wurm gegeben,  
Und der Cherub steht vor Gott!

Froh, wie seine Sonnen Fliegen  
Durch des Himmels pracht'gen Plan,  
Laufet, Bruder, eure, Bahn,  
Freudig, wie ein Heldzum Siegen.

Seid umschlungen Millionen.  
Diesen Kuss der ganzen Welt!  
Bruder! Überm Sternenzelt  
Muss ein lieber Vater Wohnen.  
Ihr sturzt nieder, millionen?  
Ahnest du den schopfer, Welt?  
Such' ihn überm sternenzelt!  
Über sternem muss er wohnen.

Happy? You better be! Because I don't want to hear any more about this negative shit again! Thanks Ludwig, you saved me once more.

## feedback

# Proposed city a critical economic issue

### To The Editor:

"Don't cheat the future!" So say the proponents of the June 30th ballot issue that could carve the State's fourth largest city out of North Clackamas County. It could be the most important economic decision the area will have to make.

For over a year, a large group of citizens has been working to convince voters in the city of Milwaukie and in the surrounding 11 Service Districts that consolidating into a single city is the most economic way to provide the full range of services citizens have been demanding.

What is consolidation? It is the replacing of the 13 forms of government in the area with a single, new government. It is the distilling of 60 elected officials and 12 separate budgets into one mayor elected at large

and six city councilors elected from districts, responsible for a single budget. It means streamlining government to allow for more efficient and focused policies, planning, and spending within the area.

The new city, as proposed, will provide all nine municipal services for a tax rate of \$3.85/1,000 TCV. This would reduce the city of Milwaukie tax rate from the requested \$5.55/1,000. In the unincorporated areas, Fire Districts, to provide a single service, now have a tax rate of: RFD No. 1—\$3.58/1,000; RFD No. 71—\$3.40/1,000; Oak Lodge—\$2.23/1,000.

How is it possible to provide all city services at such a low rate? There are two main reasons. First, this city of 56,766 will have access to a wide range of funds the area is

not eligible for as it is now constituted. The proposed tax rate will only generate 27 percent of the funds needed to run the city. That means 73 percent of the monies are available from sources other than property taxes.

Second, the new city has an excellent ratio of industrial lands to other land uses. On the average, for every \$1.00 a city spends to deliver services, it gets back in revenues from Industry \$2.79, Commercial .85, Single-family .86, Multi-family .77.

Each area in this proposal has different reasons for wanting consolidation. Since Milwaukie is a mature city and has few industrial acres left to develop, it has to grow to continue to spread its costs. But to grow, it must cut into the taxable lands of surrounding Service Districts. A single city would ease the territorial fighting that now takes place and relieve the financial pressure on Milwaukie.

Oak Grove has the highest crime rate in the county and wants greater police service. The recent Sheriff's Levy, according to County Sheriff McAllister, will only return services to the 1977 level, which was inadequate. Of the 32 new sheriffs the levy will provide, only 17 will be assigned to patrol. The rest will go to the jails, courts and detectives. The city of Milwaukie alone must pay \$777,000 for the county area to be policed.

The industrial lands need a city structure to help finance the development costs of that area. In the past, the developer bore the cost of streets, water, lighting, etc. Given the costs and the economy, this is no longer possible. The whole area benefits when the industrial land is used. City structures offer the greatest latitude in addressing these developmental needs.

Collectively, the unincorporated area citizens want a wide range of services: parks and recreation, youth and senior activities, better planning, storm drains, better animal control, libraries, swimming pools, etc. Since counties, by State law, are rural in orientation, they don't have the financial flexibility to deal with urban needs. The total property tax revenues for the county are \$3.2 million. It cost \$3 million to finance one county function—assessing and collecting taxes.

Given the economy and the financial pressures on all levels of government, it behooves the citizens of this area to look seriously for the best way to plan for and finance our local needs. A city of this size makes sense. A city of over 50,000 becomes an "entitlement" city and as such has direct access to road funds and to urban renewal funds. Smaller cities do not. A single city staff can accumulate the necessary statistics to plan for the best use of funds within this area. A city

of this size also has the political clout to fight its case before Metro, Portland, State Commission and federal agencies.

The various districts within this area will have, for the first time, direct political representation. Each area will have its own elected representative on a city council responsible for the planning and spending of all local funds. Although Milwaukie will no longer be a city, it will preserve its identity as a political entity within a larger economically healthy city.

This proposal does not solve all of the areas' problems, but it does offer a strong solution to most of them. Its merits should be weighed heavily. There is a strong move to create a smaller city in the Clackamas/Southgate area should this proposal fail. It would be detrimental to the city of Milwaukie because it could no longer grow. It would abandon the entire Oak Lodge area to relying on the county for urban services. The county has repeatedly said it is not in a position to provide those services. This proposal is a one-time opportunity.

Be an informed voter. Learn all the facts. Vote June 30th!

Ann Nickels

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