

Monologue

Idle Hands

By J. Dana Haynes

Tom McCall is dead. In the next few weeks, we'll all hear and read various eulogies for the former Oregon governor and newsman, and most of them will remember McCall as a great man and a great Oregonian.

That may be true. I don't know, since like most people, I never met the man. But I do know some of the things he stood for, including conservation and ecology.

When times are tough, as they are today, such niceties as the ecology seem to get sidelined. It's a natural enough reaction. After all, when Alcoa Aluminum lays off a thousand workers, one cannot expect the boards of directors to worry about the ozone layer. Likewise, when the timber industry is looking at an unemployment rate of nearly 25 percent, it may seem excessive to expect loggers to leave an untampered radius of 100 yards around an eagle's nest.

But that is exactly what people like McCall ask for. The current recession (or depression, or whatever nice, neat buzz word you prefer) is effecting all of us. And there is some logic to the idea that making America economically strong should be our number one goal.

The question is: At what price?

We would all like to see gasoline sell for 59 cents a gallon again. But will that be the end result if Secretary of the Interior James Watt successfully opens up the entire coasts of the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf of Mexico to drilling?

We would all like to see Wall Street's "30 Industrials" start hiring again, especially since recent studies show that every increase of one percent in the unemployment rate correlates to more than 300 suicides nationwide. However, will these jobs start opening if Anne Gorsuch of the currently ill-named Environmental Protection Agency refuses to persecute even the most blatant polluters, for fear of aggravating the Dow Jones?

We would all like to see the United States cut down its deficit, which in the up-coming year will be the highest in history according to the President's own advisors, who tend to be the most optimistic crystal-ball-gazers of all. Ronald Reagan is especially worried about the deficit, as he wags his finger at the Democrat-controlled Congress when they threaten to leave social spending intact.

But please remember, the President who wants to slash spending is the same man who has virtually given the Pentagon carte blanche and who has worked rigorously for the Dense Pack, MX missile scenario: a plan so blatantly silly that it was not the military's Plan One, or Plan Two, but Plan Thirty (we can well imagine what some of the better plans were, if No. 30 was not quite as good as No. 29, which was slightly less efficient than No. 28, which was . . . ad nauseum).

When one picks up a newspaper, or turns on the evening newscast, a great deal of the reporting will be on the sagging economy, which many people suspect will get much worse before it gets any better.

However, let us not forget that, as melodramatic as it may sound, this planet is a very fragile thing. Already more than 100 lakes in the U.S. and Canada are lifeless, due to "acid rain." In response to that, the administration of Mr. Reagan has suggested three to five years of study, and no immediate action whatsoever.

Tom McCall was one of the few people in government who seemed to worry about things like clean air and water. This state is filled with breathtaking beauty in its deserts, mountains, coast line and rivers. McCall was aware of that, and was aware of how easily it could be destroyed.

He agreed as does nearly everybody, that the economy must improve. But McCall always remembered the price.



Dialogue

Print article out of line

To the Editor:

At the risk of being harassed, we feel compelled to protest the sermon which appeared in *The Print*, Vol. XVI, No. 9, Dec. 8, 1982, titled "A Christmas Message" on the following grounds:

1. A school newspaper for a public institution should not be used as a vehicle to quote the Bible--to espouse the tenets of a particular religious doctrine (Note that case law prevails here.)

2. On a humanistic level, the choice of style used in the article--quoting Scripture used to reflect a particular religious

doctrine--is in poor taste and inappropriate to the school setting. It is bound to be offensive to any number of individuals at a public institution with such a varied religious and social population.

3. And finally, we protest on the grounds of Christian discrimination. For example, the quote, "Right now, I challenge every one on this campus who professes to be a Christian to make this pledge and ask what would Jesus do?" from this article offends us in a discriminatory manner. There are many facets to Christian belief and how to act on these beliefs. This quote denigrates those who feel themselves to be Christians, but whose views take a different interpretation.

Judy Peabody
Cyndi Pucci

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Evaluation system OK

Letter to the Editor:

It's very possible there are students and faculty who are not familiar with at least one of the formats for student evaluation of their instructor.

I would like to explain this format and comment on its effectiveness, the format is very simple--it asks only three specific questions:

1. What do you like about Mr. or Ms. instruction?
2. What do you feel Mr. or Ms. could do to improve their instruction?
3. What specific suggestions do you have for improving the course/program.

These questions are replied to after a consensus agreement and therein lies the key to its effectiveness, what the students are telling you (good or otherwise) is the opinion of your entire class.

The results of these evaluations for this instructor have led me into areas of self-improvement and permitted me to enjoy the fruits of positive reinforcement. That's the kind of fuel that keeps me warm long after my day ends here on campus. To all my students I thank you for that! Sincerely,
Jim Henderson

Clackamas Community College

