

THE Sandy Post



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If You Write Things Like That

Casual acquaintances of ours have stopped us in recent weeks to talk about articles, and of all things, about newspapers in general. Surprisingly enough these folks have some pretty decided views. Some, perhaps, would do well as an editor themselves.

The question made many times went something like this: "How do you think you'll ever be popular if you write things like that?" To an editor this can be a moving query. Returning each time to the "salt mine" (office) we tried to piece together a few thoughts on the matter. In fact, we even took time to check into the reflections of other editors to be reasonably assured our thoughts of what a newspaper and its editors are, or at least should be, are in line.

From this standpoint, then, we provide the following article by a colleague:

"A newspaper has only two jobs, to print the news in its news columns and to make vigorous, intelligent comment upon the news on its editorial page. It should not go about its task with the idea of making friends, although if its job is done well it will, inevitably, make many friends.

"A newspaper should listen patiently to all its critics, searching their comments, however bitter they may be, for the still, small message of truth whereby even our enemies show us the higher way.

"We should be chary of praise for

it is deadening to the soul, though pleasing to the ego. Discount much of what our friends tell us, though acknowledging their thoughtfulness.

"Always we must be uncomfortable with ourselves: Have we done our best? What have we left undone or incomplete? Whom have we slighted, by omission or commission? How can we give the reader a better paper than he received last issue?

"We must be guided by an affection for the community we serve. We must help to improve it. We must be sympathetic without allowing our tolerance to erode our judgment. We dissent for reasons of principle but never for perverseness.

"We must be fair, which means the occasional eating of crow. As a business, we must be economically strong yet we must risk offense to some of our customers in order to do our job.

"Intimidation we cannot countenance. Courage we must have. Humility we must remind ourselves to have more of for the man with a printing press is pretty near to a supreme judge but with no more than his ordinary share of the brains meted out in natural distribution of matter.

"And with it all, a generous mixture of humor to laugh at ourselves. Serious business should never be conducted by humorless people."

In conclusion, if we print things like THAT, you'll have a NEWSPAPER beyond name only. —J.C.

The War In Viet-Nam

If you want to get completely discouraged over Viet-Nam, just try to figure out our ultimate aim there.

About all we've been fed so far is the hoary maximum that "Communism must be stopped."

Ignoring for the moment the military idiocy of a massive ground war in Asia, just what are we trying to accomplish?

Are we trying to throw the Viet-Cong completely out of South Viet-Nam? This is patently impossible unless we want to garrison every square mile of the country.

Are we trying to prop up the current regime in Saigon? Regimes come and regimes go, the average Viet-Namense is interested only in food and security. He couldn't care less about internal politics.

Are we striving to set up a containment policy for Red China? Are we really aiming at a preventative war before Peking gets the Bomb?

We don't have enough men to garrison all of Asia, we never will.

Are we attempting to bring peace to a troubled land? We'll never do it by killing off literally millions of people.

But supposing the LBJ-McNamara policy does prevail. Let's fly off into fantasy and suppose the Viet-Cong collapse, Hanoi surrenders, Red China stays home and confines itself to sabre-rattling, and Russia remains aloof. What then?

How do we propose to fill the leadership vacuum left by the French? How do we convince the Viet-Namense, who now defect to the Communists whenever they can, that our way of life is better?

About all we're doing now is propping up the latest of a dreary succession of discredited military dictatorships. This is the wrong war, at the wrong time, in the wrong place. It should make quite a memorandum for LBJ.



The MOUSETRAP

When the famed historian, Charles A. Beard, was asked if he could summarize the great lessons of history, he replied in four short sentences:

1. Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad with power.
2. The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine.
3. The bee fertilizes the flower it robs.
4. When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.

When I listen or read the news reports on Viet Nam my own thoughts revert back to this historian's remarks, along with those of many others. This week we have a letter on Viet Nam from a local man. After this letter was submitted and I had read through it I just happened to turn on my car radio and a voice was passing out some of the very same type of information on our country's involvement in that Asian country.

It makes you wonder about the fellows in Washington who are guiding the destiny of our nation. Are they on the level? The man on the radio went on: "here are remarks from a southern leader in Congress, etc., and then he added, "...you'll not see these remarks printed in any newspaper." My first reaction, of course, was why? Was he saying that our top men in Washington are really "wolves in sheep's clothing?" I am not qualified to give an answer but this fellow sure backed up the remarks of our letter writer. Take time to read the full letter, whether you agree or disagree. Thank goodness for people who are willing to speak out once in awhile...and, they're not a troublemaker just because they do so. It is just easier to tag them with such a term, especially so, if they happened to step on our own calloused toe.

I read an item recently that stated: "A preacher is sort of a mental trucker, picking up ideas here and there and delivering them where they are needed."

An editor works somewhat along this line, only he doesn't speak it, he prints it!

Always interested in the progress of the community and always watching for little tidbits that make a reflection on it I found this item by another Oregon newspaper: "The level of culture in any community cannot be measured wholly by that community's libraries, concerts, orchestras, theaters--although these, and the support given them are a partial yardstick. The level of a community's culture can be measured fully only by the individual who aspires to the best in human conduct and thought, doing so either quietly and through their own resources, or publicly and through community resources."

It is always the editor's right to edit material that comes in. This includes its columnists and I refer to a mention of changing copy found in the Snooper's column this week. Yes, I did change items that stated specific names of alcoholic drinks in past stories submitted and except, for the opportunity to get your point across to readers, will do so in the future.

Two things that I, personally, do not feel have any place in a newspaper is the naming of various drink concoctions

and the use of profane language. Neither have a place in The Sandy Post as long (or maybe I should say short) as I am the editor. This, too, could lead to a long dissertation on my part and others for the stand that I take. However, rather than going places so quickly, that subject needs tabling until such time as the crusading spirit on temperance.

I leave the matter to you, and the readers, good judgment. One good place to discuss it, though -- I feel -- is in church. I will be preaching at the Gresham Nazarene Church, 21512 SE Stark, on Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. My tentative sermon topic is: "Condemned or Justified." Please accept "Mouse's" humble invitation to attend the service.

Softball is quite a sport! And I like to play a competitive sport such as this for relaxation between the hustle and bustle of producing a newspaper edition each week.

Consequently, once a week--most of the time--I engage in a Portland church league. Last Monday night I was the victim of a stampede.

Have you ever wondered what it -- as like to be met at home plate by a 230 pound, muscular college age young man on the hoof? I found out! Well, for one thing, the ball arrived at the same time of the collision and it went in one direction; the ball glove in another; my glasses in another; and myself in a fourth direction.

It's like the story of the football player who when running with the ball was greeted with this remark by two big bruising tacklers: "Make a wish, buddy, you're going for a ride!"

To make a long story short, I ended up several feet to the rear of home plate on my neck and shoulders and my feet rolling towards higher heights coming to a stop in the backstop screen. Should I be acting somewhat stiff and sore the rest of the week you'll know why.

Oh yea, we lost the game but had plenty of fun doing it.

ting to field a ball.

Other sidelights were Harry Byles, umpiring at first base (stretched on towel in his swim suit); Lou Langois played first base but his injured leg restricted his activity; and Jim Duff served thirst-quenchers to the outfielders between pitches. I thought they said this was a women's bowling league?!

Ambulance

7-12-65 -- Audrey Adler, Sandy to Emanuel, Att. -- Wessellink, Cochran, Sadie Klein.
7-12-65 -- Ed J. Nagel, Shorty's Corner to Gresham, Att. -- Wessellink, Cochran.
7-12-65 -- Teresa Nagel, Shorty's Corner to Gresham, Att. -- Wessellink, Cochran.
7-12-65 -- Walton Nagel, Shorty's Corner to Gresham, Att. -- Wessellink, Cochran.
7-15-65 -- Elton Hemmers, Lolo Pass to Gresham, Att. -- B. Fischer, Sadie Klein.
7-16-65 -- Rose Moody, Alder Creek to Gresham, Att. -- D. Richardson, G. Sandblast.
7-18-65 -- W. S. Owens, Sandy to Gresham to Emanuel, Att. -- E. Carpenter, F. Richardson.

7-18-65 -- Jerry Gilly, Gresham to Emanuel, Att. -- E. Carpenter, F. Richardson.
7-20-65 -- Elton Hemmers, Sandy to Gresham, Att. -- D. and F. Richardson.
7-21-65 -- Linda Dembo, Shorty's Corner to Gresham, Att. -- E. Carpenter, F. Richardson.

7-25-65 -- Dry run, Att. -- Burdick, Pursel.
7-25-65 -- Pattie Otis, Sandy Trailer Court, Gresham, Att. -- Pursel, Burdick.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VIETNAM

Dear Editor:
The following is submitted for publication.
Yours truly,
Wilbur Sulzbach

The war in Vietnam is our daily headline fare and has been for years. Now it is growing ominously into something that carries a threat to us and all people. I am one of those who think our country should not be fighting this war, for the reasons which follow. Congress has not declared war though our constitution is quite explicit about the duty of our representatives to do so if a war is to be fought. We are in a war that is immoral and unjust. We kill, burn, and destroy for no high principle. Our wargods, our intervention, our bombing raids, and our chances of winning will not bear critical examination in the light of reason and humanity. We are in a war in which much is concealed and in which our ideal of being fully informed does not hold. The Vietnam war has divided our country, alienated friendship around the world, and left us with the lukewarm backing of a few nations dependent upon us for our riches and strength. We are in a war started by a Republican president and a secretary of state who specialized in brinkmanship, and continued by two Democratic presidents. The war has escalated into an ugly thing that threatens your life and mine.

The above indictments are what has put lines of care in the face of our president and has caused such concern as to bring people to meetings of protest all over our country. On June 8, for example, 18,000 people met in Madison Square Garden under the auspices of SANE, an organization which justly fears nuclear war. In the paragraphs which follow I have presented some of the evidence which bears out the conclusions made in the second paragraph above. Much more could be presented should space and reader's patience allow.

Congress has avoided full debate and a declaration of war for good reasons. What nation should we declare war against? We kill S. Vietnamese in great numbers, though we call them Viet Cong to distinguish them from the Vietnamese we support. We cannot declare war against the S. Vietnamese. We are killing people and destroying the resources of North Vietnam. Should we declare war against them? At 8000 miles away does this tiny country represent a hazard to our security?

An immoral factor about the war in Vietnam is the fact that the government we support is our puppet. We selected Diem, then living in the United States,

to take the place of Bao Dai, the playboy prince the French had tried to use as a figurehead for holding on to S. Vietnam after losing the main share of Indo China. The Geneva Convention (convened after Ho Chi Minh had defeated the French at Dien Bien Phu) decided that free elections were to be held in Vietnam in 1956 so that the people could decide their government. When the time came our government refused to allow the elections and backed Diem in this stand. Soon afterwards a civil war broke out in S. Vietnam with Diem's troops on one side and the Viet Cong on the other. Our reason for refusing to allow the elections was obvious. Ho Chi Minh was very popular as the leader who resisted the Japanese (we helped him then), led a brief period of independence, fought the French and defeated them. He would have won the election and Vietnam would be united today. Instead we backed Diem with \$500,000,000 per year, sent in military advisors and the CIA to help him stay in power and also the succession of generals who followed Diem by coup d'etats. We armed a large army for Diem and those who followed him. We have devised the military plans and adopted buddy systems of leadership in the army to get the force we set up to fight. Can anyone doubt the the S. Vietnam government is our puppet and would not last more than a few days should we withdraw the props of massive aid and direction. Rich men in Saigon are getting richer as our money pours into that city. The villagers get fried alive by our napalm and their sons join the Viet Cong. Our side and their side use torture as standard practice. S. Vietnamese have had over twenty years of warfare to make their land a land of sorrow. Our country has financed more than eighteen of those years of war. Our State Department, Sec. McNamara, and Pres. Johnson say we are in the war because the "legitimate government" has asked for our aid. This is a sophistry we should not swallow. When we put Diem in power and he asked for our millions and our soldiers, were we really not just asking ourselves? What morality is there in continuing to speak of the succession of coups and ruling generals as legitimate governments. In the light of our ideal

New York City, N.Y.
July 19, 1965

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Exchange Student
'64-'65

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