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Life Should Mean Life

Will the recent spate of brutal and senseless murders here in Oregon lead to reimposition of the death penalty?

We doubt it but what well could happen is a redefinition of just what a judicially imposed "life sentence" really is.

Lately, it seems that if someone is handed a life sentence, more often than not it means seven years. Lenient parole boards often feel a murderer is once again safe to be free after what seems a most minimal term.

Few people, we think, really want to go back to the death penalty. But even fewer want to see perpetrators of particularly vicious slayings turned loose after a few years.

When a judge imposes a life sentence, he usually has had good reason for doing so. Why then, are so many life sentences terminated after a

relatively few years?

Charges filed recently in Salem against Richard Marquette have brought dissatisfaction to a boil. Marquette, of course, had been convicted of a particularly brutal murder in the early 1960s and now, after serving 12 years, is charged with another.

He has not yet been tried so any comments on his guilt or innocence are totally inappropriate. Nevertheless, the very fact that he has been charged can't be overlooked.

Criminal justice is a terribly complex and terribly difficult field. A very high percentage of parolees do make good on their release. But we don't think public opinion will long support the concept of minimal terms where brutal and senseless crimes are involved. A life sentence should mean life.

A Break for the Independents

Neither political party has much charisma these days. More and more people are truly "Independent", and they'd like to register that way.

Only here in Oregon, if you register as an Independent, you disenfranchise yourself, at least as far as the primary elections are concerned.

In Oregon's primaries, Democrats vote only for Democrats, Republicans only for Republicans, and Independents only for Independents. There is no cross-over voting in Oregon.

An Independent, obviously, has nothing to say about the nominees for the general election. They are decided on a strictly partisan basis.

Many states have open primaries where anyone can vote for anyone. The suggestion that Oregon do likewise has often been made and just

as often rejected. It's not likely to happen this time.

But the legislature currently is also considering a bill which would allow Democrats or Republicans in the primary, thus giving them some voice in the final outcome.

The bill has merit. Many, many people are truly independent in their politics and forcing everyone to identify himself as either a Republican or a Democrat (or some other organized group), penalizes the independent.

We think this country needs a whole lot more truly independent voters, a whole lot more who vote the man or the issue, not the party. We'd like to see HB 2381 given a chance.

A Glimmer of Hope

The forest industry has been badly battered by the recession but there are hints that things may be getting better.

Some lumber mills are reopening, unemployment in the industry is declining, prices are going up, lumber is in demand again.

Much of the improved picture is seasonal, spring always sees an improvement in the lumber business. But there are growing indications that the housing market is opening up, finally.

Obviously, problems remain. There is a big backlog of new homes, still unsold. There is the possibility that massive federal deficits could soak up savings and loan money which might otherwise go into the housing market. Yet, most people in the lumber

industry are now saying they're "cautiously optimistic." Even though no one is expecting a great year, almost anything would be better than 1974.

The lumber slump peaked in January and the Western Wood Products Assn. says things are getting better. In mid-April, 190 mills were limiting production compared to 318 in January.

Locally, there has been little activity in new homes or apartments the last few months. But there is continued interest and activity in land, land which might be used for future housing developments. There is a general feeling that the housing industry is reviving.

Nothing could do more for the economy of the Pacific Northwest.

MHCC hopeful Don Curry wants more responsiveness

A desire for understanding of school district administrative policies and more responsiveness to community needs has prompted Don Curry to run for the Zone 5 position on the Mt. Hood Community College Board.

These same aims motivated him to run for the Lynch School District Board seven years ago. He has served on it since 1968 with two years as co-chairman and two years as chairman.

"As an experienced board member, I can recognize the difference between what is nice and what is necessary," Curry said. "I am well aware of the fact the MHCC appeals not only to college age youth, but to everyone, and should provide

community college programs at a reasonable cost to the student and taxpayer."

Curry has lived in the MHCC district 18 years. His wife, Joan, is a legal assistant to a Gresham attorney and active in garden club work. They have four children: a married daughter, Cindy, 22; twin sons, Robert and David, 21; and a daughter Kathleen, 11, a Lynch Terrace student.

Curry attended school in Utah, and had two years at Multnomah College in Portland. He served in the Air Force during World War II.

For 15 years, he worked for the Pacific Coast Bottling Company, serving as a sales manager. He now is a sales

representative for the Spear Beverage Company.

Curry serves on the Portland Rose Society Board of Directors, is a charter member of the Centennial Lions Club, member of Gresham Elks Lodge 1805 and has been an active worker in the construction of Gardens of Enchantment, a five senses garden for the blind at Oral Hill Park in Sandy.

He returned Friday from the National School Board Association annual meeting in Miami Beach, Fla.

Curry's opponents for the Zone 5 position are Bob Davis and Kenneth Johnk.

Oregon HB 2579



"Let's see, now. We lock up the records first, and then release the prisoners!"

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Firwood's Neighbors Inc. would like to remind its members that the Oregon Safety Code implemented by the Workmen's Compensation Act requires that by June 1, 1975, all employers with two or more employees must be able to provide immediate, on-the-spot, first aid to all employees.

The ruling, which covers all businesses, including agriculture, further stipulates that the employers provide trained help who have received the American Red Cross certificate for successful completion of the 8 hour standard course covering the Multimedia System of First Aid. Further information indicates that in addition to the first aid training, a kit containing material authorized by the Red Cross must be maintained, and that no substitutions of materials or medications will be permitted.

According to Fremont Sprowles, County Extension Agent, the segment of the statute (ORS 654.005 through 654.155) dealing with agricultural workers is included as an integral part of the Oregon Safety Code for Places of Employment.

Relief or appeal of the statute can be made to the Workmen's Compensation Board through an additional section of the statute, ORS 654.065. However, for ease of understanding, Sprowles suggests that a booklet covering excerpts of the Workmen's Safety Code may be available by application to the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Any additional questions regarding the specifics of the statute can be answered or referred by contacting Mrs. Marian Keefer, Nurse Consultant, Oregon Health Section, Oregon State Health Division.

Mary-Elizabeth Blunt, President
Firwood's Neighbors, Inc.

To the Editor:

People in Orient School District have made inquiries as to my position in the upcoming May 6 election regarding candidates for school board positions and the issue of unification.

Unification as presently presented is not what I consider to be in the best interest of the taxpayers of this district. It will raise taxes approximately \$2.00 per thousand according to the Multnomah County IED office.

In my opinion it will also further remove board members from the Orient taxpayer. While there are arguments for bigness and a unified grades one through twelve system there is no guarantee that the people involved will work together anymore effectively than they presently do.

As to the schoolboard election, I have watched the three candidates Al Ross, Position 2, Doris Fisher, Position 4, and Sam Bacon, write-in candidate for position 5, go out into the district to become acquainted with the people.

These three candidates are very energetic, responsible people who have made it a point to become knowledgeable of the school budget, issues such as unification, and problems which are voiced by the people of our community.

The three candidates, while anything but carbon copies of each other, are willing to speak out and discuss issues and possible solutions to problems of the district. Being an effective board member requires more than attending the meetings and paying the bills.

To the contrary, I see each board member needing to devote the necessary time to not only become aware of the problems but to also have the convictions to make decisions and see them through. Ignoring problems obviously does not make them go away. Reviewing all the facts and gathering all the information eventually must lead to an end result. This end result should represent the best interest of the children and the taxpayers of this community.

Robert G. Skipper
Orient School Board Chairman
Rt. 4 Box 1170
Gresham

To the Editor:

We awoke Monday night to our dogs barking in the woods towards the Bull Run Reserve. The next morning the two females were back but the German Shepherd male was missing.

I assume they were on the trail of a wild animal and that the missing male had become lost in the woods.

I talked to a man who had just driven through the Bull Run who said he spotted three "wild" dogs in a clear cut area behind our house.

I seems that dogs have run away or have been abandoned have formed packs and roam the mountain area. We keep tight control on our dogs as we raise them both for show and breeding.

Out dogs do become angered when other dogs come near our place. I think these "wild" dogs came very near our place and our dogs chased them. The male either became lost or followed them if one of the "wild" dogs was in heat.

My concern is that he will be mistaken for one of these dogs and be shot or will eventually become wild and join them.

He is a large all black German Shepherd male answering to the name "Dux". He has some markings only on his feet.

He looks very intimidating, but is very gentle and has an excellent temperament, especially with children. He was lost in the Marmot area and I would appreciate a call.

Too bad there isn't some way we could eliminate the "wild" dogs, but after talking to the Sheriff's Office I can see it is impossible.

They don't concern themselves with dogs and the County Dog Control only can be reached during the day and it sometimes takes days to answer complaints.

Ginny Brewster
668-6286

To the Editor:

I want to state that the Cottrell Concerned Citizens' Committee's main objective is to be granted a meeting with the Cottrell School Board to ask questions concerning teachers nonrenewals. In the course of our inquiry other irregularities have come to our attention which we would also like to discuss with the board.

However, our intention is not to encourage dismissal of administration personnel at Cottrell School, which seemed to be implied by the April 28 article in the Post and Gresham Outlook.

Laszlo Pomazi
Route 3, Sandy

Goodwill truck to visit area

The Goodwill Industries truck will be in the Damascus, Boring, Sandy and Estacada areas on Tuesday, May 20 to collect donations of furniture, small appliances and household goods from homes and businesses.

Persons interested in giving these repairable items to Goodwill should call 234-0321 to arrange to have the materials picked up.

Contributions of repairable items create work and on-the-job training for the physically and mentally handicapped at Goodwill Industries' main plant in Portland. It is a non-profit organization.

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Hamburger is American slang for hamburger steak reputedly first made in Hamburg, Germany.

MHCC observes 'Rites of Spring'

Mt. Hood Community College students will celebrate the annual Rites of Spring Thursday and Friday this week.

A kite flying contest, May Pole dance, frog jump, salmon bake and wrist wrestling matches have been planned for the noon and afternoon hours with the spring weather permitting.

The May Pole dance is set for noon Thursday in the mall and is sponsored by the folk dance club. Other types of folk dances will also be performed.

Starting at 11 a.m. Thursday interested kite flyers will gather on the grass area by the lake for competition. Various prizes will be awarded.

The annual frog jumping contest is planned for Friday noon in the mall. As in past years, several hundred onlookers turn out for the event sponsored by the college radio station. Community people are invited to enter a frog in the competition. Meanwhile, wrist wrestling matches will also be happening in the mall.

The concluding activity of the Rites of Spring is a salmon bake set for Friday afternoon. The menu will include corn, potato salad, bread and a beverage at a cost of 75 cents. Interested community people are invited to view or participate in all the activities Thursday and Friday.

CITIZENS COLLEGE FORUM

Ron Wayman, Oregon's "Marketing Student of the Year", left for Florida yesterday to compete for the national title. Wayman was recently honored with the state title and the option of going to the national meet, if he could cover his own expenses. Several area businesses had faith that he might take the national title so they helped him with expenses. J.C. Penney, Murray McBride & Assoc., and Snelling & Snelling donated part of the money for Wayman's trip. The State Board of Higher Education also chipped in. He should be returning Saturday or Sunday, hopefully with a national honor for a deserving Mt. Hood Community College student.

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Final rehearsals came to a close this week as drama students prepared to present

three one-act plays tonight, Friday and Saturday evenings. "Goodbye to the Clown", "The Leader", and "Nuclear Theatre" are the three student written and directed plays scheduled for 8 p.m. performances each of the evenings. Community residents are invited out to the college's studio theater for some fine entertainment created by the students.

Construction of the Allied Health wing of the college got under way last week. Clearing and developing the foundation is the first facet of the building. Todd Construction Co. is working on. The nearly \$3 million facility is expected for occupancy in September 1976. The building will house all of the allied health programs which are now housed in trailers and modules on the east side of the campus. Funding of construction comes from a bond issue passed by district residents last year, and a small grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

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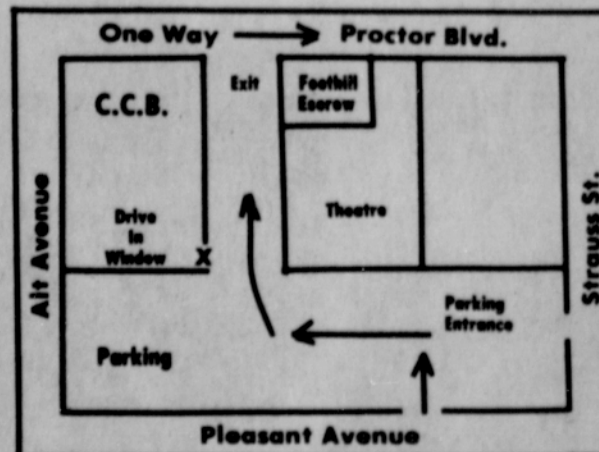
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