

# Editorial and Opinion

## Roses to Society of St. Paul

Sandy's nationally-honored St. Jude's Home for long-term nursing and residential care is a public-service facility which deserves public praise and support.

For 20 years, the Society of St. Paul has served the health care needs of people from this area without regard to ability to pay. The Episcopal order continues to operate one of the finest facilities in the country, too, despite recent short funds in Medicaid reimbursement. While actual per patient daily costs run \$24.31, the

government reimburses the home at a top rate of only \$22.43 per bed per day.

We commend the Society of St. Paul and St. Jude's Home on the occasion of their 20th anniversary, and also for the home's perseverance and faithful adherence to high quality despite lack of public financial support.

Truth is, private gifts to the Home come only around Christmas time, which seems odd for a place that brings Christmas to the masses daily. (VB)

## Tax revolt has ramifications

Oregon's so-called property tax revolt - apparently destined for the November ballot, seeks to balance the tax burden of government and social services evenly on the shoulders of all. While emphasis on other forms of taxation such as state income tax would appear more equitable, one has to worry about the long-range effects of peeling one layer of civic responsibility (leadership, if you will) from the property owner. The landed gentry traditionally set the pace for this country's development. Their community pride and authorship built schools, roads, libraries and parks.

True, their number is dwindling, as a large percentage of 20th century countrymen turn to maintenance-free apartments where young people simply turn the key on their way out the neighborhood. As land dwindles and property values rise here, a new age steeped in public apathy toward government and limited civic involvement greets a growing landless class.

When society creates the sort of chasm where lower middle class Americans and young people can

no longer feel the pride of home ownership, will they respond to society with gestures of civic pride and responsibility?

When denied children, pets and parties by the special set of rules governing tenants, will this new class of landless citizens respond with pioneer spirit to the special problems facing their new age?

Perhaps. Actually, we're gambling that they will with passage of the tax-limitation initiative, because social tax increases of any sort under the proposal will require a two-thirds majority of all registered voters.

Some day down the road, of course, most Americans will probably live in apartments. Our concern now is that lack of ownership doesn't convert into lack of civic concern. We hope, too, that property owners who face some escape from taxes don't see this relief as an escape from civic leadership. Even after the house is built and paid off, there remains serious quality of life considerations such as street lighting, water and sewers, schools, libraries, parks and social services. Someone must pay the price. (VB)

## Buffoonery at Labor Department

Berry pickers have fought in berry wars in the fields - pelting friends with the juicy projectiles - as long as there have been pickers and berries.

In recent years, however, the berry war has stretched across the continent, involving Northwest growers and Washington, D.C., bureaucrats.

Department of Labor officials denied waivers to Washington and Oregon growers that would have allowed 10- and 11-year-old pickers into the fields.

A series of protests followed and after several days of "it's-OK, it's not-OK" to pick, a federal judge granted a temporary injunction that allows the young pickers to work.

Labor officials, in denying the waivers, said farmers did not provide adequate documentation that the pesticides used in the fields where the 10- and 11-year-olds work would cause them no harm.

Generations of pickers have worked in those fields. No proof has

ever been established that pickers were harmed by pesticides. And how much difference is there between 11-year-olds and 12-year-olds? Pesticides will injure the younger one and not the older?

Greater harm is probably being done by not allowing the children who want to work the opportunity for experience. The younger a person starts picking, the better he gets - and the more money he earns - as he gets older.

Labor officials seem to disregard the economic harm done to the growers who can't get their crop picked before it perishes on the vine. Berries are a delicate crop that must be harvested fast before a change in the weather, such as this year, causes the berries to rot faster than they can be picked.

Regulations regarding pickers should be developed at the local level, not in Washington, D.C., by bureaucrats who've probably never stooped over a row of berries in their life.



## Letters-to-the-editor

To the Editor:

The One Way Theatre held a picnic-auction on July 2. We had high hopes for this first fund raising project as we needed to raise money for our next production, "The Impossible Years" (in November).

We were grateful for the wonderful reception we received from Sandy Area Merchants when they were approached for donations for our auction. The assistance along with the many donations from friends of our One Way Theatre helped us raise over \$400.

Jim Wilhite volunteered to

be auctioneer and his enthusiasm urged participants on to some very good "buys".

We feel a renewing sense of purpose knowing that Sandy merchants are supporting our endeavors. The very real labor of love involved in beginning a theatre such as this is made easier by the knowledge that civic pride extends to us.

We will do all we can to make Sandy as proud of us as we are of Sandy.

Marlene Tebo  
Secretary-Treasurer  
One Way Theatre  
Sandy

What other editors say

## Congress gets message, but-

After years of runaway growth in the federal budget, Congress clipped a measly \$800 million off the magic beaststalk this month.

The reason for that overdue act of thrift is the recent passage of a tax limitation by California voters.

The final results are not in on the impact of the California measure, where \$7 billion were slashed from the budgets of local schools, cities and counties dependent on property tax. The result may be chaos, as officials have been predicting, or it may have no serious consequences.

It now seems certain the most fearsome tax-dragon of all, the federal government, has heard the song of the taxpayers' sword. Now the Congress is taking action to avoid feeling the pain of living with it in our means.

For a moment last week, it even looked as though Congress would deny itself

some vital benefits such as free haircuts, plants for office and other such indispensable perks.

But the message has yet to penetrate that deeply. Congress is not convinced the tax limitation is anything more than another result of California's excessive sunshine and free spirits.

So now, as Oregon and other states face a tax limitation measure in November, there is no doubt Congress will be watching. Getting the message through may be the most worthwhile point of the tax limitation movement.

It is sad that taxpayers must cut the services from which they derive most direct benefit in order to be heard at the source of greatest waste.

For years, poll-takers and individual voters have been telling Congress to reduce spending. Most members have been elected, at least in part, on promises to reduce

waste and spending. But Congress has never responded. Battered federal agencies have grown annually. Inflationary budget deficits have been accepted by Congress as a part of the national scene, not something to be concerned about.

Now perhaps the message is getting through. But the messenger will be the local taxing districts fighting to provide essential services with badly eroded funding sources. The messenger will no doubt survive, but in many cases may be a hopeless cripple, unable to meet the real needs of people.

The tax limitation in Oregon would reduce budgets here by 42 percent.

If Congress cut the federal budget 42 percent, few people would have problems with property taxes. That is not a message the feds want to hear.

—Lebanon Express

## Cruel and unusual

If you are one of those persons who is puzzled by the meaning of criminal justice, try this one on for size.

A sheriff in Tennessee is being sued by two inmates because he wouldn't let them have television in their cells.

One of the prisoners was sentenced to death two months ago for murder. The

other has been in jail 14 months for armed robbery.

They prepared their own, handwritten brief, according to a news service story, that was filed in circuit court alleging severe mental strain and violation of rights under the Eighth Amendment. It is the latter that prohibits "cruel and unusual punishment."

The two prisoners are asking the court to order the sheriff to pay each of them \$120,000 in damages.

Which leads us to wonder what kind of price they would put on the matter if they decide their mattresses are too hard.

The News Guard  
Lincoln City

## Time to think about digital watches and the 'sad children of the '60s'

by Arlie J. Hoover

This morning I read the newspaper faster than usual. I think my new watch caused it. I just got rid of my old digital watch and got a new, traditional, watch for my birthday. Traditional, you remember, means the kind of watch that shows the whole day, from 12 to 12.

For several years now I've been struggling to survive with a digital watch. I remember when I first got it (as a gift), I liked the shiny gold bracelet and the attractive red crystal and it was fun to punch and watch the numerals flash in the little window. For a few days. But soon the new wore off and for some vague reason I began to dislike digital watches. I can list all kinds of practical things wrong with them.

For instance, it's impossible to tell time at high noon on a bright sunny day. The light of your little old wrist computer just can't overcome the candle power of the sun.

Furthermore, there's no way you can "sneak a glance" at the time with a digital watch. In the middle of a boring interview, you have to make a conspicuous motion with your right hand and punch the little beggar to get the time, all of which may embarrass your guest.

If the preacher in church is prolonging a boring sermon your daughter has to reach over in an obvious gesture, push up your cuff and punch to see what time it is.

Reach, push, punch, and stare - it's all so much wasted motion.

Digital watches are expensive, at least if you, like me, are accustomed to buying a \$15 Timex every five years. My digital batteries wore out in six months, even though they were supposed to

watches I don't like, something deeper than dollars and batteries and wasted motion.

But, the more I muse, the more I begin to see that there's something more about digital last a full year. At six dollars a battery, that's pretty expensive chronometry!

There's something philosophically misleading about a timepiece that shows only the present minute of time. If you can't look at the entire

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face of a watch and consider a full 12-hour day, it's difficult to think of the day as a whole, synoptically.

Man transcends time. This is one of the many ways in which he differs from the animals. Reviewing the past and planning the future are uniquely human. With a digital watch, you have to think hard to review the time you've already spent or to plan the time you're going to spend. It's extra labor to "think back" or to "think ahead" when all you've got is that bare, naked instant blinking red at you.

What if all our calendars showed just one day at a time? Would we be able to plan effectively?

It struck me as interesting that the "Now Generation" was the very group that went ape

over the digital watch. You remember the Now Generation, those sad children of the '60s? Many are still with us, though a bit older now. They were the ones who coined the phrase, "Never trust anyone over 30!" They were the ones who demanded everything now, Paradise Now, Peace Now, Out of Vietnam Now, Equality Now, Sex Now.

They didn't seem capable of waiting for anything. They scoffed at the good old puritan idea of "deferred gratification." They made an idol of the Naked Instant and burned a lot of old values on its altar.

The naked instant! ... that sounds almost immodest, doesn't it? What's wrong with an instant being naked?

What's wrong is that the naked instant is a giant abstraction. Strictly speaking, it doesn't exist. As St. Augustine noted, try to catch the present moment and it slips immediately into the past. The present moment is an indefinable point that is continually pressing into the future and receding into the past. Deify it and you deify a non-entity.

Could it be that digital watches testify to people's desire to make time stand still, to arrest the relentless onward march of time? Eternity—achieved with the punch of a button! The ultimate in technology!

The Now Generation seems to have an aversion to both sides of the naked instant. They hate history and they fear the future.

They hate history. They complain when it's required to graduate from college. They seldom take it as an elective. They declare it "irrelevant."

They fear the future. They advise against having children. They won't use a marriage ceremony that says "till death do us part." Sometimes they won't even get married. They fear long-range promises and commitments. They preface all covenants with the proviso, "As long as..."

Should we coin a new word for this mental disease of the Now Generation? Let's call it "chronophobia," which means, "fear of time."

Yes, it certainly feels good to be able once again to see the entire day on my watch. The only trouble is, I keep punching the stem of this new-fangled timepiece and nothing happens!

Arlie Hoover is dean of Columbia Christian College in Portland.

Another view:

## Keep watch on Michigan

By our count, some 26 states permit the sale of alcoholic beverages to people under 21. Most use 18 as the minimum age, but some use 19 and at least one (Delaware) uses 20.

The rest of the states, including Oregon, retain the traditionally standard minimum age of 21.

Proposals to lower the drinking age have come before the Oregon Legislature any number of times, and one undoubtedly will come around in 1979. In that connection, we note that an initiative petition is being circulated in Michigan which would raise the drinking age there, now 18, back up to 21.

In past debates on this subject here, Michigan often has been cited by both sides. Those who want to keep the

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