

## Reagan crusade like class warfare

Recent moves by the Reagan Administration may make it more costly for the general population to communicate by phone or mail, and we think that's a crime.

The new administration dogged giant AT&T, until the giant monopoly agreed in anti-trust litigation to divest itself of 22 local phone companies nationwide. Apparently, Ma Bell was subsidizing local phone service costs with revenue from more lucrative pockets including long-distance service, anyway.

The net result is that new local ownership, without such subsidy, might need to charge you more to call across town.

Also last week came the announcement that President Reagan had overruled Postal Service recommendation to continue subsidy for many second-class permit holders. Hurt are the nation's smaller newspapers that send the hometown news to

neighbors each week.

Originally, the mailing subsidies for newspapers meant government support of dissemination of general news. It was thought on Constitutional grounds that the American public should be informed by a vigorous, free press.

Newspapers won't be hurt so much as the masses. Nor will the phone company be hurt so much as the general public. We're talking about little people who find a \$9 phone bill stiff enough now, and even a \$9 annual subscription to a paper like The Post tough to pay.

It almost seems like class warfare, the way the Reagan Administration is taking wild aim. But what could we little people expect of a president who tries to starve Polish workers in an economic boycott meant to teach Russian aggressors there a lesson?



## Testimony could fix danger bridge

The county traffic safety director and sheriff's office say widespread trouble with accident-prone Salmon River Bridge near Brightwood is news to them.

It's not news to many motorists who have lost control of their vehicles that veer wildly to the left when starting up the bridge eastbound on Highway 26 during icing.

There's no government file to warn officials of bridge danger at almost any speed. Police Traffic Safety Commission and Division of Highways simply don't keep record on "near-collisions" at specific locations, where no injuries or substantial property damage occurs.

Apparently many motorists have lost control of the wheel at the dangerous bridge, but none have reported it. The Post has learned of many minor accidents at the bridge that fit this description.

Clackamas Co. Traffic Safety Director Patsy Faulkner said her nine-member advisory commission would be interested in checking into the matter. Local commission member is Gresham Police Sgt. Kent Leary of Boring. She said that formal complaint to the regional traffic engineer also might prompt a site engineering study. Sometimes, she notes, regrading of a tricky stretch of road can render a danger spot harmless.

The Post urges area motorists who have experienced "near-collisions" there to write or call Regional Traffic Engineer Ron Failmezer. His address at Division of Highways is 9200 SE McLoughlin Boulevard, Milwaukie 97222. His phone number is 653-3100.

Your testimony could save a life next time that little bridge freezes over.

## Let utility cut bad trees

by JACK TRAVIS  
of Sandy

The result of "danger trees" falling on power lines has caused most of the power outages experienced so far this fall and winter.

A "danger tree" is defined as any tree or large clump of brush that could fall on power lines. The fall could be caused by old age, disease, wind, snow, ice or being hit by a motor vehicle.

Inspection of "danger trees" should be done by experienced foresters. Power companies should have such persons on their staff or contract for the service.

It is not pleasant to have power cut off from one hour to six days, as Clackamas County residents have experienced during three of the last four winters. It is inconvenient, dangerous to our health and expensive when food is lost, because the deep freeze and refrigerator are not operating.

Using temporary heating and cooking alternatives is bothersome and expensive. To those of us who rely on wells for water and livestock use, there is little we can do except hope and pray power will be restored quickly. People should not have to suffer prolonged power interruption.

Portland General Electric annually pays a half million dollars in premiums to insurance companies to cover the company in restoring power. The half million comes out of our power bills.

Would it not be better for the power companies and the general public to work together to drastically cut the cost of insurance necessary? The power companies soften their losses through insurance, but the user gets nothing to soften his inconvenience and probable loss of food during an outage.

To remedy this cause of potential outages, the general public must make a choice between interrupted power and trees.

Whose responsibility is it to guarantee trees will not cause an outage? The main distribution lines are the responsibility of the power company. The lines into homes and businesses from streets and roads should be the responsibility of property owners.

Bonneville Power Administration is criticized for having excessively cleared rights-of-way. Yet in the last big windstorm this season with thousands of



Guest editorial

residents out of power because of fallen danger trees, Bonneville had only a few trees fall on their thousands of miles of lines throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho and parts of Montana and Utah. There were no power failures.

Power companies are interested in good public relations. They avoid making an issue of asking to cut down "danger trees." In order to insure constant power service, the companies must ask land owners to approve requests to remove "danger trees." On the other hand, the property owner should cooperate by allowing "danger trees" to be removed.

Responsibility for "danger trees" on the power user's own property from the street or road to the house is the land owner's. If he doesn't want trees to be cut, he should pay to have the line put underground.

Why can't the power companies put their lines underground? It is being done in new subdivisions for short service lines. Putting transmission lines underground, however, costs up to seven times the cost of overhead lines. Technology hasn't been developed yet to put high voltage lines underground for any distance.

Property owners, please ask or allow power companies to cut on your property. We would have fewer power outages. Power companies report that customers tell service men to cut any tree during winter for power restoration. During times when the wind isn't blowing and snow and ice aren't piling up is when service men have most time to cut "danger trees."

(NOTE: Jack Travis is a retired Bonneville Power Administration official who specialized in right-of-way matters.)

## Letters to the editor:

### Street crime, new politics scorned

#### Koreans kinder?

Let's say something in favor of Chu Yul Choi, whose family tries to accommodate the shopping community of Sandy.

Choi was a policeman in Korea. By very nature of this office, he was accorded respect and courtesy from citizens there. In this country, his family wants to abide by our laws. They are, however, harassed and humiliated.

If Choi had allowed (criminal suspects) to take a half-case of beer (from Jim's Big Apple), he'd be in trouble with the law. ("No dispensing alcoholic beverages after 1 a.m.")

In his attempt to coincide with city and state ordinances, he asked for the beer to be returned. For his conscientious behavior he was clubbed from behind and nearly killed.

In these hard times of rampant unemployment, we might expect some

crime, but the near-death of a man for 12 cans of beer is too horrible to contemplate.

Dolores Yarbrough  
Sandy

#### AuCoin changing?

Are we going to have another two years of AuCoin? I hope not!

Do Oregonians truly watch his voting record in relationship to his promises? If Oregon voters would do this, one would be surprised to find that sometimes Les AuCoins' newsletters don't coincide with his voting record. If seems now this liberal legislator all of a sudden has become conservative.

One should read his last newsletter to Oregon voters. Do I detect shades of conservatism? It seems so. I wonder just how fiscally conservative he will continue to be, if he gets elected again. Could it be that he would revert to

his old ways, after he has another two years wrapped up? Hmmm.

Let's take a look at his recent vote on building U.S. Naval vessels, where the House voted overwhelmingly in favor of HR 3464 to provide that these vessels would not be built in foreign shipyards. The vote was 366 for with 21 opposed, and guess who voted with the 21 against? Les AuCoin. (Could it be we have no shipyards in Oregon and Washington, not to mention California?)

Even (Rep. Ron) Wyden voted in favor of this bill to not build our U.S. fighting vessels in foreign shipyards. My hat's off to you, Wyden, our junior legislator from Oregon. Wyden also is liberal, but not so liberal as to send American shipbuilding jobs to foreign countries, as AuCoin voted to do.

I've never been able to get a straight answer to numerous letters out of Les AuCoin yet. Come on, Les.

What's your excuse this time?

Robert J. Haueter  
Pacific Northwest Agencies  
Portland

#### Governor thanks

Dear Oregonians:

Thank you for your interest in helping balance the state budget.

Since my call for a special legislative session, I have received over 3,000 letters from Oregon citizens expressing their feelings about my proposed state budget. Whether highly critical or very supportive, most of the letters offered constructive suggestions.

I would like to respond to each letter individually, but because of the large number of letters received, I find that time and dollars are too short. Therefore, I have chosen, with your understanding, to respond

through this and other Oregon newspapers.

As you probably know by now, I have proposed to the Oregon Legislature a plan to balance the state's budget primarily with budget cuts along with various revenue measures. The only tax increase I have proposed is a small increase in the beer and wine tax (4 cents on a six-pack of beer; 13 cents on a bottle of wine).

I believe my approach to this problem is the best one for Oregon during a time of economic recession. I do not believe it is the time to cut property tax relief to pay for state programs.

Again, thank you for taking the time to give me your comments about our state budget problems. Your ideas, concerns and support helped, as I made my decisions regarding these critical issues.

Vic Atiyeh  
Governor

## Personally speaking:

### We shot every Nazi in Missoula

I couldn't begin to guess how many Nazis and Japanese died in the back yards of Missoula during the early 1960s.

Heated battles waged for hours on end as our neighborhood battalion worked to eradicate the imaginary horde which threatened the very life's blood of our community, 20 years after a couple of atomic bombs and thousands of American soldiers had been spent accomplishing the same thing in World War II.

We were celluloid soldiers. Basic training was massive doses of "Combat" and "12 O'clock High." Extended maneuvers were a trip to the Wilma Theater for "The Longest Day" and "The Guns of Navarone."

The bleary-eyed hours of preparation showed, too, in our uncanny ability to liberate an entire alleyway in a matter of seconds and the fact that no one in our group ranked below captain.

No garbage can was safe from our incendiary devices which were actually over-sized rocks thrown with a lot of screaming and carrying on.

We were a special lot, armed with some of the finest weapons Mattel's armament company could produce—exploding hand grenades and machine guns that kept their firepower as long as the caps stayed dry.

We were also equipped with blood-curdling yells that could kill the weak-livered enemy at 50 paces, because we were specially-trained.

Despite the heat of summer, there was no room for soldiers in swimming suits in that man's army.



by DAN DILLON

Wear a swimming suit to war and you automatically became a jungle scout, sacrificing your flesh against the cherries and plums that were munitions when the caps for the grenades got wet.

War waged throughout the neighborhoods of Missoula unhindered for a couple years until word came that other soldiers, "advisors" actually, were falling in a little, Southeast Asian land where no one yelled, "Bang, bang."

When one casualty was the older brother of a fellow combatant we retired war and discovered baseball.

However, there were only so many infield flies that could bounce out of our mitts, so many 0-for-whatever batting percentages, and so many banishments to centerfield where only the strongest Pee Wee leaguers could loft the ball, before television's new fare started to look more at-

tractive.

"The Man From U.N.C.L.E." and "I Spy" became de rigueur.

The movies' James Bond was nobody's fool and the comics' Dick Tracy taught us, "The nation that controls magnetism will control the universe."

Yes, James Bond was nobody's fool. One look at the exotic places he visited and the latest sophisticated weaponry he had at his disposal indicated that he was one person whose lead should be followed.

We became celluloid spies. Bond, however, hung out with too many bikini-clad hotsy totsies and, in those days before the great hormonal tidal wave, torturing spies who threatened the very existence of our right to torture spies seemed a lot more sensible.

And we could torture spies. The Chinese water torture and bamboo shoots under the fingernails were sissy stuff.

Any spy we caught in our neighborhood was going to find himself with his socks soaked in the lawn mower's gasoline, walking across hot charcoal briquets.

Our enemies ended up being smarter than we were or else they didn't hang around our neighborhood too much, because we never caught one to try out our tortures on.

Trench-coated shadows became our new enemy and we turned to the latest weaponry: attaché cases.

The deluxe model could fire rounds into unsuspecting nemeses without opening the case; genuine plastic bullets aimed knee-high flew out just by squeezing the handle.

Should it fall into enemy hands,

a carefully-placed cap triggered the exploding device if they attempted to open it without the key. There were still problems with keeping caps dry, but as super-agents we seldom worried about keeping our attaches in safe hands.

What we did have trouble with was our attention span.

Before you could say Ilya Kuryakin and Napoleon Solo, we men from U.N.C.L.E. were spies who went back into the cold.

After our retirement, GI Joe and then Star Wars action figures became the rage among school-aged boys. Our gang passed them up.

Besides, it seemed, something is probably lost in the translation if you let dolls do your fighting for you.

The tidal wave was beginning and interests shifted.

It's been a long time since those days in the Montana DMZ fighting the Nazis and, later, the Cold War. It's been a long time since I'd thought about booby-trapping the neighbors' gate so it would slam shut and catch their kid by the ankle.

So it was like a post card from an old friend when, the day before Christmas I was sitting on my friend's front steps, waiting for a ride to the airport and saw two young soldiers hiding behind a Buick across the street.

Soon, I saw the plastic barrel of a machine gun pop up over a fence. The gate slid open and the little trooper marched into a near-deafening volley of "bang, bang, bang."

As soon as I saw it, I knew. Just like some old soldiers and spies I remember, their caps were probably wet.