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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page, the editors of the Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy. A newspaper is a CITIZEN OF ITS COMMUNITY.

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First You Need Something to Trade

Fidel Castro, the man who wasn't there, grabbed most of the headlines from San Jose, Costa Rica, where President Kennedy met with the presidents of six Central American republics.

President Kennedy talked with the other presidents about how best to use any money that comes to Latin America through the Alliance for Progress program.

This is encouraging. But it is in itself no answer. More than just trade is needed. The nations also need something to trade. They need increased productivity as well as increased distribution.

An underdeveloped society is a society without adequate capital resources (for capital is what is left over after primary needs have been satisfied, and in underdeveloped countries most people never satisfy their primary needs).

Making It Official

Before they play the No. 1 ranked collegiate basketball team of the nation Friday night in Louisville, Ky., Oregon State University's "surprise" western champions will receive official congratulations and encouragement from the State Legislature.

Fervently, Oregon sports fans will be hoping that this may help inspire the Beavers to victory over Cincinnati University. A Friday night win would mean that the plucky OSU team would be at least assured runner-up honors in the national championship tournament at Louisville.

The Legislature, beset with all its problems, must be excused for being a bit tardy about congratulating OSU for winning the western division title last Saturday night. But those congratulations certainly are in order.

As for encouragement, the Legislature's resolution should be especially well-timed. It won't add any points on the scoreboard for OSU, but it will make incontestable the point that all of Oregon has been stirred by the Beavers' refusal to be awed by any foe—and by the Beavers' constant improvement throughout the season now coming to its close.

Viewpoint

Murray Kempton in the New Republic:

Campaigns against pornography are suburban by their first premise, which is that evil comes from the outside and that walls can be built against it.

nicians; a society with few or no industries and few or no developed sources of industrial power; a society, finally, with enormous arrears to be made good in food production, education, road building, housing and sanitation.

This fits Central America all too well. The needs are so great that there is no surplus—or, in the rare cases where there is a surplus, the relatively few who accumulate it invest it abroad where the political situation is more stable.

Alliance for Progress funds should be used in lieu of this non-existent home capital. There is always a temptation, however, to use it to satisfy the pressing, immediate needs of hungry people.

It is important, too, that a stated objective of the Alliance for Progress is the encouragement of "foreign" (meaning in this case mostly U.S.) investment in the Latin American economy. This runs into two obstacles.

It is with these economic problems that the anti-Castro leaders of Central America must come to grips. If they are solved, or if the people can be convinced they are about to be solved, Castro will be no problem.

Power Structure

With very few exceptions in history, Congress, especially the Senate, has been dominated by conservative members. They have headed the committees, decided what bills could be introduced, what bills considered.

Now, however, the New Republic foresees a possible shift, suggesting that the Senate five or six years hence will be dominated by senators who are more liberal. Noting that the conservative Democrats, who now call the shots, are mostly southerners, the magazine points out that most of the southerners are quite old.

All this is fine with the New Republic, which is the Bible of the capital "L" Liberal. However, a couple of other observations should be made, too. Some of these young liberals won't grow to be old liberals; they'll grow to be old conservatives. It has been ever thus.

In the Editor's Mailbag

Letters intended for the Editor's Mailbag must be signed with the correct name and address of the writer. No anonymous letters will be published.

For Local Girls

SPRINGFIELD (To the Editor) — I agree with the woman who said the girls chosen for the Boat Parade should be local girls.

Just why do they have to be society girls, mostly from California? This is a McKenzie River affair, why not girls from the McKenzie High School or Thurston High? Perhaps two from the high schools and two from the university, whose homes are in that area.

JEAN PRIDMORE 150 W. E. St.

Mexico

DORENA (To the Editor) — Thank you for the articles written by Harry Ferguson about Mexico.

Too many people have had a misconception of the true Mexico. They drive over the border into Tijuana, then think they have seen all there is to see.

We were fortunate, last July, to visit down there, past Nogales. Old-fashioned courtesy, thoughtfulness and true kindness are what we found everywhere. It seemed to be an in-born fact with the people, which I hope they never lose.

For instance, when you walk into any of their shops, they want to talk. And they love to have you bid on the article you are interested in. They seem disappointed with you if you don't. I had a specific article in mind I wanted to buy for my daughter.

We were "just looking" in other shops, when we found a young man who had worked in Pendleton and other places in Eastern Oregon. It was immediately evident that he had been treated very good up here. We could have had anything in his shop, when he found we were from Oregon.

My husband wanted a decal for our windshield. We inquired at the police station. They didn't speak English. We finally found a gentleman who could speak English and understood what we were looking for. He closed his shop and drove my husband to the Chamber of Commerce building. (Would anybody up here do that?)

As we were waiting for my husband (we had two friends with us), a young, well-educated man came by and started to talk to us. He was a truly happy person. When we were ready to leave, we thanked him for a pleasant conversation. His reply was "No, Thank you. You come and see us again. I'll be around here next year, when you come back." He knew we'd like to.

As we crossed the very busy intersection to go to our car, one of our friends, who is terribly crippled with arthritis, couldn't cross the street fast enough on crutches, so traffic on all four sides stopped. (Would we?) When he was about to get into our car, strangers opened the door for him and helped him into the car, as though it was their privilege to help.

Where else can you hear a sincere, "My home is yours," or "God go with you?" We, too, found them to be a hard-working people, but never too busy to help a stranger. We truly hope we will be able to visit them again.

MRS. T. O. MUNRO Disston Rt.

Dunes

FLORENCE (To the Editor) — Why is Senator Neuberger still trying so persistently to push a national park down our throats? Facts were presented at three Senate hearings, which are now a matter of record, proving without a doubt that we don't need a national park. The Forest Service and state parks are providing more recreational, camping, and tourist facilities than a national park would even allow to exist in a national park.

Any business operator in the area will tell you the tourist business is good here and is increasing every year. Why? Because the tourist has freedom. The tourists can turn their kids and dogs loose on the dunes or beach for a good run, they can hunt or target shoot, they can rent a boat or cabin on any lake for a fishing trip, they can ride dunes buggies and horses over the dunes, they can camp overnight in the state or forest parks, they can buy and

eat hot dogs! They can go through myrtlewood factories and gift shops — in short, they can have a good vacation of freedom enjoying plenty of diversified activities.

Now Senator Neuberger wants to establish a national park on the grounds that it would increase tourism, hence improve the economy of the area. I hope the public and other congressmen are not gullible enough to swallow that gangle.

Stop and think! This country was built on private enterprise, which we still have a lot of in this area. You've heard the expression, "As American as a hot dog?" — Senator Neuberger wants the national park so we won't have any hot dog stands in the area! . . .

How many tourists are going to continue coming to this area when there are no longer varied activities that are provided for them now by individual business operators? If the national park is established here the tourists will go elsewhere, where they still can find a bit of freedom. The individual business operators will be going elsewhere either for employment or to re-establish their business.

What will happen to the economy of this area? For God's sake think before it's too late. T. M. DERRICKSON P.O. Box 1018

Oppose Street Plan

EUGENE (To the Editor) — We don't think that the new highway should go in the park. Children go out in the park every summer and fly their kites, make forts, we have a horse and we ride him there. We also go to find pheasant eggs, we also play hide-and-go-seek and many more things. Consider all of the wildlife that would have to move or die. We don't think that the new highway should go through Amazon Park.

TRICIA RAINES Age 9 2951 Ferry St.

(Editor's Note: The above letter was signed by 19 other persons, the majority of them youngsters.)

Resents Editorial

EUGENE (To the Editor) — I read your editorial in the Guard last night (Mar. 13) lambasting the Eugene Water and Electric Board for lowering the price of electricity. I, along with probably twenty or thirty thousand other people, resent that.

Perhaps the Eugene Water and Electric Board can foresee some good old American competition in some of the pipe lines already in use. The city of Eugene and other cities have lived like parasites from the labors of farmers, loggers, laborers, and even some railroad men.

There are outside areas that own their own streets, lights, schools, etc. Are the state police just for city dwellers?

Suppose we put gates on all roads entering the city and charged toll. The gates could open both ways. Who would give up first?

One more question: How many papers do you sell outside the city limits?

GALEN F. FARVER 115 Irvington Dr.

Likes Death Penalty

COTTAGE GROVE (To the Editor) — I believe in the death penalty. There is no proof that it does not deter many from committing murder. I believe in the integrity of our courts, judges, attorneys, and juries, and I do not hold with the idea that they are influenced or bribed to save the rich and execute the poor. There are no such records in Oregon. I never heard anyone object to the care of prisoners in our state prisons or express the idea that such prisoners should be executed. I don't object to the death sentence for a woman any more than for a man. If you do, why?

Certainly the mother of the little children she helped to throw off the bridge should get the death sentence as well as the Freeman woman. Why didn't Miss Freeman's lawyer have her plead guilty like the Nuneg woman? The judge wasn't to blame, he could give nothing but the death sentence under the circumstances.

This case points out a weak spot in Oregon's criminal laws. No parent who murders his or her own offspring, nor any rape murderer of a child, should be allowed to escape the death penalty merely by pleading guilty to the crime.

In Oregon a murder suspect must be absolutely proved to have committed cold-blooded, premeditated murder without the shadow of a doubt, before he or she can receive the death sentence. If there is the least doubt in the minds of the jury they, rightfully, return a verdict of second degree murder. That is why we have so few executions in Oregon, not because of any personal feeling of the court for or against the accused.

I am glad that Governor Hatfield, for one reason only,

has refused to commute the Freeman woman's sentence. No governor should have the right to commute any convicted person's sentence just because he himself does not believe in capital punishment. Neither should any Oregon governor pro tem have any right to tamper with the sentences of the prisoners in any of Oregon's penal institutions.

Oregon did away with capital punishment once and lived to regret it. Let's not make that mistake again.

MRS. ETHEL GABRIO Lorane Rt., Box 102

Drive Results Told

EUGENE (To the Editor) — We, the students of Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School, would like to thank those people who contributed money or pop bottles to our bottle drive for Pearl Buck on Saturday, March 9. On that day we collected 4,990 bottles worth \$176.37.

This year, as in previous years, RJH is raising money by student car washes, bottle drives, and doughnut sales to donate to a worthy cause in our own community.

Pearl Buck, the only school of its kind in our area, needs a large amount of money to successfully operate its school. Therefore, the students of RJH will give the money they earn through their drive to this school.

We hope that the residents of this community will support our school as well in the future as it has in the past.

KEN CYPGAR Student Body President BONNIE HOWELL Student Body Secretary MARY AMEY Student Body Historian

Cigarette Tax

EUGENE (To the Editor) — In an article appearing on Page 4A of the R-G March 15 issue and under a Salem AP dateline, we are told that a representative of the Oregon Tobacco Distributors has stated that the chances of the industry working to refer a cigarette tax to the people would be lessened if the Legislature enacted a defense against cigarette price-cutting.

If this statement is true, it would appear that the tobacco distributors' representative was talking with a "forked tongue" when he complained about "50 per cent of the people raising \$18 million for the benefit of all the people" (by the 4-cent tax), and at the same time hinted that the tobacco distributors will not object to this way of "soaking" the cigarette smokers if the tobacco people are allowed (by law) to "soak" the same people even more.

If the Legislature passes this cigarette tax bill, the bill will again be referred to the people and be defeated as it has been many times in the past, regardless of what the tobacco distributors do. I will help!

Also, Mr. Editor, can you tell me, and the rest of your readers, what is the present U.S. tax on a package of 20 cigarettes?

W. H. COCHRAN 3840 Bell Ave. (Editor's note: The federal tax is 8 cents a package.)

Boys and Basketball

EUGENE (To the Editor) — The EBAA basketball season has just drawn to a close, and as I look back over 10 games that I participated in as a coach and the many more I watched from the sidelines, one thought always comes to mind. How good were the officials?

It has always been my feeling that the boys participating in this program should learn more than just the mechanics of basketball. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to learn of the give and take of the adult world, the joyous feeling after winning the game, and the challenge of accepting defeat with honor. But most of all, I feel that the boys learn that fairness and clean play are essential.

Because of the boys' awkwardness and lack of skill, the officials are inclined to overlook many fouls that should be called. This applies to both teams on the floor! Wouldn't it be better to tend toward this extreme? If the officials called everything that even looked like a foul the boys would not try to see how much they could get away with without getting caught. I feel that the high ideals of the program would be better fulfilled if this were the case.

It is not only for the coaches to plead for a change, it is up to the parents as well. If the EBAA knew that you were more concerned with your children learning to follow the rules of sportsmanship and less concerned with winning I am sure they would instruct the officials to eliminate all pushing and shoving and foul play that seems prevalent in almost every game.

Next year plan to watch your children grow as well as learn to play basketball. Support a clean, wholesome program for all.

ROBERT BEHLING 260 1/2 E. 17th Ave.

Below Olympus



Illustration by Ralph McGill

"Heavens! Already? I've barely recovered from the last one!"

Ralph McGill

Excitement of Beginnings To Be Felt in West Africa

From a Congo Notebook: There is excitement in seeing beginnings. Europeans and Americans, who are, for the most part, children of Europe, have moved so far from their origins of nationhood and establishment of governments there is now no feeling of intense personal involvement.

But here in the Congo, and in the new states of West Africa, the beginnings are to be seen and experienced. Europeans — the French, Belgians and English — no longer have control. One can see what the white man left behind him. It is both good and bad, as one would expect. This is how it is everywhere — the mixture of cause and effect.

The fizzy effervescence of independence is gone. There are those stodgy things such as budget and the really gigantic task of educating not merely a new government class, but a whole generation which can teach, guide, manage customs, railroads, laboratories, hospitals, businesses.

Nowhere is the task so awesome in its properties as in the Congo and Guinea. And since the former is so vast a country the needs are the greater and more complex. The Russians, who guessed wrong in the Congo, now are trying to open the door which, temporarily at least, has been closed. They are urging the U.N. troops, which are being reduced, be wholly removed. If this should be done the Congo would fall into chaos.

Americans, thinking back at their own beginnings, will find a few similarities here. In the young Republic founded in the new world, rivers were the highways. There were no communications. A month passed before a man on horseback, bearing a copy of the Declaration of Independence, reached the southernmost colony of Georgia. Until he arrived the news of the historic pronouncement of man's certain inalienable rights was not known. The Congo has seaports and rivers, but few roads and airports.

There are 180 major tribes. Many of these have a long history of enmity. The government, headed by Premier Adoula and President Kasavubu, does not control the far-reaching hinterlands any more.

The Congo is destined to be the great industrial boom region of the future. If the major burden of sustaining the U.N. is left to a few nations, their parliaments and congresses will grow weary. The Russians depend on this trend.

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than the young America did when confronted with the many Indian tribes that fought to hold their lands. They, too, acted out of long-held customs and religious fanaticisms, including medicine men and witchcraft.

The secessionist movement in Katanga was a cynical, greedy business. It was never truly an independence move. There was nothing admirable about Tshombe, who was the front man. The records of the commercial cartel which backed him have been seized. It is quite possibly they will reveal some interesting international machinations. Certainly a great deal of money was spent to subvert and arouse the tribes against the central government. Tshombe was never able to create a large following. At no time did he have a majority of the tribesmen of Katanga with him. There was an army of mercenaries and an air force of soldiers of fortune from several lands.

The United Nations army, when it moved to save itself, found these mercenaries had little taste for fighting and the secessionist movement ended. That the Congo, granted premature independence, has survived is a tribute to the U.N. and to those who supported that organization.

There is even now smuggling from the distant diamond fields. This, too, is a large operation and is financed and managed by interests foreign to the Congo. There is a lack of revenue and absence of trained bureaucracy. The parliament of tribal chiefs is largely irresponsible. The army is not yet possessed of the discipline or training necessary to police the nation.

Nonetheless, the Congo is viable. Premier Adoula has been to Brussels. He was well received. The Belgians show signs of wanting to make amends for their bad show in Congo. There will be some aid forthcoming from them. The United States will need to continue substantial assistance.

One must always consider the alternatives. Chaos and war will produce more expense and danger than the cost of aid to the Congo. The French and Belgians, by their refusal to pay the special U.N. assessments made necessary by the Congo operations, are revealing anew one of history's oldest lessons. It is that some nations, like individuals, prefer to lose all rather than save an equitable share.

William O. Douglas.

So They Say—

Ideas are more dangerous than armies. Ideas have immortality, ideas cross impassable frontiers, ideas penetrate any Maginot line of conformity. Voices can be stilled; men and women imprisoned; books burned. But their ideas live on to torment the executioners, jailers and censors.

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