

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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OTHER EDITORS SAY

Four-Letter Words

(FROM THE MADRAS PIONEER)

In these days of widespread youthful dissent, many of the dissenters set great store by the shock effect of their utterances. They employ what might be called the "four-letter word" concept to add emphasis to what they are trying to say. Not all four-letter words have as much shock value as those the young rebels like to use; but there are some we'd like to see the dissenters add to their vocabulary. In alphabetical order here are a few:

1. Give, as in "give of one's talents and energy to make the world a better place."
2. Hard, as in "hard work will put hard calluses on one's hands, but calluses never really hurt anyone."
3. Help, as in "help your neighbor (and remember it's a two-way street)."
4. Lend, as in "lend a hand" (see No. 1, above) or "lend an ear to the other fellow's problems."
5. Love, as in "love thy neighbor."
6. Pray. This one needs no explanation to those who practice it, but it might be a little harder to explain to the hard-core members of the "four-letter" cult.
7. Rely, as in "rely on the essential decency of your fellow man, and make sure that he can rely on you."
8. Work. This one also needs no explanation to those who practice it.

This has been meant as a serious discourse, and being facetious is not the intention; but we can't help commending one more four-letter word to at least some of the dissenting generation: **scop**.

Brazen Bandits Bag Bras

(FROM WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN)

The Apollo 8 flight, the release of the Pueblo crew, the flare-up of trouble in the Middle East and a few other things over the Christmas holidays, tended to obscure one of the major news stories of 1968. This was a daring robbery a few days ago at Vernon, California in which six desperadoes hijacked a truck trailer from a freight yard and made off with 500 cases of brassieres. And that is a lot of brassieres! We don't know what considerations prompted this kind of open-handed assault upon private property, but the thieves were poorly prepared for the job. There were more than one or two points they didn't know about brassieres, it develops. Evidently the conspirators thought that all they had to do was get their hands on the loot, and they would have it made—so to speak. But they apparently had no knowledge of the real value of brassieres, and they tried to unload them for mere pittance instead of holding them for what they were worth. This proved to be their undoing and left them flat busted, for when they offered \$7 to \$18 garments for sale at \$1.85 each this quickly revealed the fact that the merchandise was not legitimate and the police took a hand in the situation and immediately closed in.

Actually we have to admire the audacity of these thieves although we are appalled at their ignorance in not knowing more about what the stolen goods were worth. Had they got out of the brassieres what they should have they might never have been caught.

In any event we do not feel that these brassiere bandits should be unceremoniously dumped in with ordinary criminals. They were, in effect, sort of modern day Robin Hoods. Had they succeeded in their efforts, a lot of women who could not, perhaps, have afforded the benefits of this expensive merchandise might have been rewarded in manifold ways.

Perhaps a pre-trial investigation will be ordered by the trial judge and some ameliorating considerations in favor of the hijackers can be found so that they will at least be treated with the kind of compassion shown to Adam Clayton Powell who got a mere slap on the wrists for allegedly stealing over \$40,000 from his country with no fines whatsoever.

It will probably be a long time before anybody tries to get his hands on 10,000 brassieres illegally again, and certainly the country cannot tolerate this kind of high-handedness, but, deplorable as the crime is, we seem to have room for a little bit of admiration for the audacity of the criminals and a little bit of regret that they did not show more imagination.

Pioneer

Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

Advice to Jokers

Are you jokers of the "grass fed" variety having trouble getting the listener applause that you should? Perhaps your technique is antique. I am concerned about the future of fishermen, hunters, and common place liars in the entertainment world. After watching professionals on the screen, I am convinced that they are feeding the listening public a lot of punk stuff by embellishment with phoney laughter and physical contortions. Why doesn't some one take a stale joke and present it to a coffee shop audience in "jet age" style. Twist your mug out of shape, open your approach with inane laughter, start the joke, interrupt it with more ruffaws, and go into hysterics at the finish. You'll either "roll 'em in the aisles" or they will kick you out. Try it.

Two Counties Have 22,000 Telephones

Pacific Northwest Bell went well over the 22,000 mark during 1968 in the total number of phones it serves in 11 communities in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Topping the list at year-end was Pendleton with 9,673. Following in order, according to PNB manager Dale Slusher were Hermiston, 4,534; Milton-Freewater, 3,346; Athena and Weston combined, 1,170; Heppner, 1,041; Umatilla, 959; Stanfield, 457; Echo, 339; Ione, 319 and Lexington, 206.

The total increase was 1,701 phones, bringing the final total to 22,044.

"During 1968," Slusher pointed out, "we spent over \$700,000 to expand and improve service for our customers, and 1969 looks like it will be a bigger year."

"Despite the rising costs of providing the service our customers want and expect, our plans for the year include expenditures of \$839,000."

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

(Editor's note: In writing this column Tuesday we made the serious mistake of forgetting all about the Groundhog who certainly saw his shadow Sunday, and thereby, according to tradition, sentenced us to six weeks more of winter. We went to bed Tuesday night rejoicing that the snow was leaving. But as we looked out the window early Wednesday, we were astonished to see 2 1/2 inches more of the white stuff. In doing so, we thought we caught the cackling of a groundhog—or whatever sort of triumphant noise a groundhog emits. But we say, "Fie on you, groundhog!" and let our column stand as we wrote it Tuesday).

WELL, A PERSON can't have everything, it isn't nearly as pretty this week but it is a lot more convenient and comfortable.

IT'S GOOD to see it melting slowly but surely. That's the way to go.

HAT'S OFF to Myron Huston! This is what some of the Main street businessmen are saying. When the little white furies were coming down thick and fast, he got out and shoveled walks for some of the businesses and never took a cent of pay. They came in here to tell us of their gratitude and felt—as we do—that Myron should get a tip of the hat for his helpfulness.

SAY, AL! (Al Bunch) If you are going to get this downtown snow for your field, you better hurry. At this moment it doesn't look as if we can hold it until June for you.

DID YOU KNOW that a city ordinance requires a property owner to clean his walks of snow within two hours after it quits snowing? Well, sir, we didn't until council meeting Monday night, when the matter came up.

It's a little too late to bring up now, but one might post it in his memory bank for the next big snow (maybe 10 years from now).

Mrs. Avon Melby pointed out that some of the Main street walks had never been cleared of snow during this whole series of storms and that they are still hazardous. These are the ones by buildings or lots owned by absentee landlords.

Question came up on what the city statutes call for on snow removal.

According to the ordinance, the walks must be cleaned within two hours after it quits falling, unless this occurs after 6 p.m. In the latter case, it must be removed within two hours after 7 a.m. of the following day, which means by 9 a.m.

Penalty for violation is a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$100.

How many around our fair city have guilty consciences?

The council decided to send letters to the absentee landlords, telling them to clear their walks, but the postman is going to have to hurry if he beats the rising thermometer.

A BILL introduced in the legislature by Rep. Jason Boe and Sen. Al Flegel should get a lot of support and applause. The bill, if passed, would relieve people from some headaches they get when they open their mailboxes.

Under present Oregon law, a person who receives goods in the mail without ordering them is expected to either pay for them or return them to the sender.

"Our bill would change that," the two state. "If a person received an unordered article in the mail, he would be allowed to keep it. We think people have enough headaches today without having to worry about returning unwanted objects some

'enterprising' outfit sends them in the mail."

So often some charitable institution will send some trinket in the mail and request a donation. These may be a key chain, some greeting cards, some address labels or other doo-dads. A person may be sympathetic to the cause, but most of us can't support all charities. Many of them come with no return postage guarantee, and so when you take them back to the post office, they cannot be returned without additional postage.

If a person tosses the material in the wastebasket, his conscience plagues him. Yet the organization may be one that he has never heard of, doesn't know what it does, nor whether it is legitimate.

Most such material consists of things that a person doesn't want anyhow, but the Boe-Flegel bill, if passed, might make him feel that he wasn't such a "dirty dog" when he tosses it in the wastebasket.

YOUR SENATOR REPORTS...

BY KEN JERNSTEDT, STATE SENATOR
18th District, Including Morrow county



Although the weather remains cool in most parts of the Pacific Northwest, the political climate in Salem is rapidly becoming heated as the legislature is confronted with problems ranging from election law reform to protection of public lands... from tax reform to sex education.

The top story again this week is taxes. Over in the House we see the climate warming up as the various factions begin facing off again this session over the question of taxes. Governor McCall's package would assess a 3% tax on all goods except food, drugs, feed, seed and fertilizer. The advocates of this approach maintain that this will raise some \$100 million per year. Although preliminary testimony and work has been completed, the House Taxation Committee has not formally announced the details of its package. This announcement is expected sometime next week.

The Senate, too has taken an active part in the tax picture by hammering out its own plan which is very similar to its 1967 Special Session sales tax package. Although the Senate cannot introduce a revenue raising measure, this privilege being restricted to the House, it is taking the initiative by moving ahead on a relief program without officially having a bill to work with. This is an attempt on the part of the Senate to expedite the passage of a tax package in order that the people of Oregon can voice an opinion before adjournment. I am quite certain that the Senate will act very rapidly on any tax measure—once we get it.

Mobile Home Tax Talked
In other areas of taxation, legislation was introduced that would hike the taxing rate on mobile homes. The bill, introduced by Sen. Don Willner and Rep. Stafford Hansell, would place the tax on mobile homes on the same basis as houses.

Education in the Portland metropolitan area took a giant step this week into the jet age with the passage of Senate Bill 65. The measure which passed the Senate by a vote of 20 to 5 has moved into the House where approval is expected. The bill, which has a companion appropriation measure SB 66, elevates Portland State from its present status to that of a full blown University.

Secondly, it allows PSC to develop into a research center which attracts top people in many areas as well as monies from Federal grants, foundations and gifts. And, in a state that is rapidly developing its industry, this expansion in research and study will be of immeasurable assistance.

The controversy of the beach-ers may have been reborn this week with the referral of a bulky beach bill measure to the House Judiciary Committee. The bill was introduced last Friday, but was not sent to committee by Speaker Robert F. Smith until Tuesday of this week.

I am beginning to receive a few letters concerning the various issues. Please keep them coming!

League President Names Peterson
Don Peterson of Ione has been named vice-chairman of the Federal agricultural programs committee of the Oregon Wheat League by Tom Vaughn, president, for the year 1969, it is announced.

Committee chairmen selected are as follows: Federal agricultural programs, Don Thompson, Moro; marketing, Allen Pinkerton, Helix; taxation and legislation, Larry Kaseberg, Wasco; production and land use, Willis Nartz, Ashwood; transportation, Bob Scharf, Amity; public affairs, Bob Brogotti, La Grande; wheat use and research, Malcolm Fargher, Dufur; domestic wheat utilization, Gail McKinnis, Summerville; membership and finance, Glen Brogotti, Helix.

Delegates to Western Wheat Associates board are Don Woodward, Pendleton, and Bill Hulse, Dufur. Directors on the board of the National Association of Wheat Growers will be Vaughn, Hulse and Dick Skiles, Wasco, first vice-president of the Oregon Wheat League.

HARRY W. FLETCHER

PROPERTY TAX FAX

If you have a question concerning real or personal property please state all the facts as briefly as possible and mail it to Mrs. Joyce Ritch, Morrow county special assessor.

QUESTION:
Why are my taxes so high?
ANSWER:

There is no simple answer to your question. The tax on each parcel of property is determined by two primary things. No. 1—the market value of the property. (The higher the market value the higher the tax). No. 2—the amount of service desired by the majority of the legal voters residing within a district.

There are two groups of people who determine taxes. The first is your legislature. It is involved as laws passed by it may affect the number of people required to pay taxes or make additional demands upon the taxing districts. The second group is the legal voters. They directly influence taxes by approving budgets and by forming new taxing districts.

STATE CAPITOL

Committees at Work On Legislative Bills

By ROBERT F. SMITH
Speaker of the House

The 1969 legislature has now completed nearly a month of activity, with committees giving careful consideration to the many bills which have been introduced.

There has been little activity on the floor of either House, but the tempo will increase as committees complete their work on various bills and send them to the full legislature for consideration.

One of the major committee jobs in both houses will be the examination of major proposals to reorganize and streamline the operation of state government.

The major package of reorganization bills will be introduced by the governor, whose recommendations are based upon a study conducted by his Project 70's Task Force.

Transportation Dept. Asked
Included will be a proposal for a Department of Transportation, which would group the Highway Department, Public Utilities Commission, Department of Motor Vehicles and Board of Aviation.

Another proposal would create a Department of Social Services, which would combine all of the boards and commissions dealing with social problems.

The governor's recommendations are based on the theory that reorganization would provide a more meaningful and direct channel of communication between the governor and the agencies involved.

The governor also believes that economies and better coordination could—and should—be realized.

Actually, the reorganization program proposed for this session appears to contain more logic and reason than some in the past, but a close analysis must be conducted to make certain that we do not sacrifice efficiency for the sake of centralization.

TO THE EDITOR...

Preach Kindness

January 24, 1969

To the Editor:
Just a few lines to compliment the writer of the letter "Christmas Emphasis," dated January 7, 1969, which appeared in the January 9 issue of the Gazette-Times. The letter was written by Karen E. Rinehart. It is indeed regretful, the way Christmas has been commercialized, so that most of us lose the true meaning of it.

It is regretful, too (to me, anyway) that the churches do not rise to defend helpless animals and to preach kindness and mercy for our fellow creatures, too. But, of course, if the ministers preach against vivisection, trapping, rodeos, etc., then perhaps they will lose the support of some of the congregation, and so the animals are overlooked.

Enjoyed all the letters in this issue and hope to receive more from my Oregon friends. Also, want to mention how much I enjoyed the drawings of animals by grade school children. This is making use of children's inherent interest in all animal life, which will result in the gain of such attributes as thoughtfulness, kindness, patience and unselfishness, the true aim in the character development of the child.

Keep up the good work—and Happy '69 to you and the staff. Yours, and the animals' friend,
Virginia Gillas, Pres. International Defenders of Animals, Inc. P. O. Box 172 Hialeah, Fla. 33011

Mrs. Jim (Kathy) Banks of Pendleton is here making a week's visit at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willard O'Hara.

Incidentally, the longer one spends in Salem, the more it is realized that the same identical bills are proposed session after session regardless of their merit.

Cost \$250 Per Bill
This is not a casual observation when we consider that it costs at least an average of \$250 for each bill, and there will probably be at least 1,800 bills dumped into the hopper during this session.

Several of the bills which we have dealt with in the past have cropped up again—and Eastern Oregon residents have sent in strong protests against them.

Senate Bill 1 would require mandatory fluoridation of all domestic waters in the state. The first public hearing on this measure has been scheduled for next Friday.

Another bill would make sex education mandatory in all public schools. The telephones have been ringing in protest and nearly all mail is in opposition to the measure. Some of our most prominent citizens have been so alarmed that they have placed long-distance calls to voice their opposition.

Would Repeal Abortion Laws
Sen. Betty Roberts, wife of Rep. Keith Skelton, states that she will introduce a bill which will completely repeal all of Oregon's abortion laws. This would permit abortions to be performed in Oregon without criminal sanction.

Youthful advocates of the 18-year-old vote have haunted the Capitol the past few days soliciting support for their position. A bill on whether or not the age of voting should be reduced will receive consideration, and at this point it would appear that a compromise may be reached somewhere between 18 and 21 years.

In any event, the matter would be referred to the people for a final decision.

These are just some of the matters which will be debated in emotional terms between now and adjournment. Your cards and letters are appreciated; please send them in.

MEETING CALENDAR

- Mon., Feb. 10—Volunteer Fire Department, 7:30 p.m.
- Tues., Feb. 11—Degree of Honor, Episcopal Parish Hall, 8 p.m.
- School Board, General Budget Meeting, Riverside High school, 7:30 p.m.
- Catholic Altar Society, Parish Hall, 8 p.m.
- Wed., Feb. 12—Willow Lodge, IOOF Hall, 8 p.m.
- Jaycees, 8 p.m.
- Ione Garden Club, Mrs. Jim Driscoll home
- Thurs., Feb. 13—Soroptimist Club, 12 noon, Wagon Wheel Dining Room
- PTSA, High School Cafeteria, 8 p.m.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

- HEPPNER BASKETBALL
Friday, Feb. 7, Madras, here.
- Friday, Feb. 14, Sherman, there
- Sat., Feb. 15, Wahtonka, here
- League games
- Support the Mustangs!
- GRADE SCHOOL—
Friday, Feb. 7, Pilot Rock, there, 2 p.m.
- Sat., Feb. 15, Condon, there, 1:30 p.m.
- PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT ASSOC. MEETING
Heppner High Cafeteria
Thurs., Feb. 13, 8 p.m.
Parents in charge of meeting
Public urged to attend
- LEXINGTON GRANGE
Sunday, Feb. 9, dinner at 1:30 p.m.
- IFYE Orrin Potampa, guest speaker, following dinner
Men in charge of arrangements
- VALENTINE CARD PARTY
By Sams Souci Rebekah Lodge
Saturday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m., IOOF Hall
- Bridge, Pinochle, Refreshments
Public invited
- MOTHERS' CLUB DINNER
Sweetheart Dinner, Saturday, Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m.
Episcopal Parish Hall
Members and invited guests
- SPONSORED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY
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Heppner

The Rhyming Philosopher

OUT OF THE STORM CAME THE RISING OF RIVERS,
DOWN FROM THE SKY CAME THE DELUGE OF RAIN;
THREATENING WATERS GIVE RESIDENTS SHIVERS,
FEARING THE FLOODS AND THE HARSH HURRICANES.

OUT FROM THE CLOSETS CAME RAINCOATS AND RUBBERS,
AXES AND SHOVELS TO CLEAR TOPPLED TREES;
DIRGE OF DISMAY FROM THE GOLF COUNTRY CLUBBERS,
SHOUTS OF DELIGHT FROM THE SKI DEVOTEES.

MOTHERS OF CHILDREN ARE CHURNING WITH WORRY
FATHERS RELUCTANTLY TAKE OFF FOR TOWN,
LINESMEN ARE SWAMPED WITH PETITIONS TO HURRY
BECAUSE OF THE PHONE AND POWER POLES DOWN.

SUCH IS THE WAY WINTER'S FURY REMINDS US
BOUNTY BESTOWED OFTEN COSTS A FULL SUM;
SPRING HERALDS SUMMER'S GLIB SUNSHINE AND BLINDS US
FROM REALIZATION THAT WINTER MUST COME.

OUT OF THE STORM-SODDEN-GROUND GRASS IS GROWING,
RESERVOIRS FILL WITH THE NECTAR OF LIFE;
EVIL THE PRICE MAY BE, BALM IS IN KNOWING
BLESSINGS ARE FREQUENTLY NURTURED IN STRIFE.

HARRY W. FLETCHER

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