



Although I have a love for swimming, both as a sport and for recreation, it seems strange to me that the city budget committee should elect to close the library before they close the swimming pool.

My college letter came from swimming and it paid one-third of my way. I taught lifesaving and swimming over the years and I look forward to having the pool open for myself and for my children. (That's how I feel.)

Nevertheless, I cannot forget that civilizations are built on libraries. None that I know of have been built on swimming pools. When it comes down to the nitty gritty, with no choice between the best of both worlds, I must place my option with the library.

This isn't a happy judgement or a superior judgement. It is a gut feeling that there is something drastically wrong with the choice that is being made.

What is even worse is the knowledge that the most vocal, and probably the least read, will go along with it.

The fall of the Heppner Library won't make any splash worth mentioning in the world of letters—and that is sorry, too.

The real option is on the economic scene. Here the question is no more difficult than the old television commercial line, "I'd rather do it myself."

If you want service, you have to pay for it or do it yourself. The question is not how you want to spend your money, but how you want to spend your time. Whatever you elect to have, without spending your time, costs money. The other option is to do without, which in light of the small city budget which was proposed, is what the people of Heppner have elected to do.

As the budget committee action stands this week, the library will be closed. The street department, in the words of Mayor Jerry Sweeney, "...has been raped," and pool days will be cut down at the front and end of the season—as if by some magic the income will balance with the shorter season.

About \$17,000 remains to be cut from the city budget to keep it under the six per cent limitation—which itself is a joke in light of inflation and an obsolete tax base. It is hard to see how more can be taken from the budget without cutting into still other essential services such as the police department.

Suggested cuts made by the budget committee last week took about \$16,000 out of the "street" department, leaving nothing to continue the street paving program.

The library was shut out completely, cutting \$5,669 from the budget, including \$500 for new books. The \$8,650 pool budget was cut \$3,650 to \$5,000 on the basis of a shorter season. The library budget is hardly more than the city pays for attorney fees. The item for city attorney was cut from \$5,000 back to the \$4,000 budgeted for the current year.

There is no apparent way to cut the cost for an auditor, which, under state requirements, appears to have taken auditors out of the competitive world into the world of fixed prices. The auditor cost for one week and some consultations is \$4,200.

And so on and on—Kind of reminds me of an old Bob Dylan story line "...The Titanic leaves at dawn and everybody's shouting, 'Which side are you on?'..."

Letters to the Editor

Saving noted by shopping locally

Dear Sir:

Recently the Morrow County branch of the American Association of University Women completed a grocery store survey which should be of interest to the residents of south Morrow County.

We surveyed 7 markets in south Morrow County, Hermiston and Pendleton, calculated gas expenses and tabulated results. To our surprise, we discovered that contrary to commonly held beliefs, there is a slight savings if we shop locally.

Following are the results of the survey:

1) In January, on an approximate \$40 grocery bill, a \$1.30 savings was made by shopping out of the area. By March, when we expanded the grocery list to an \$80 bill, a 29 cent savings was made by shopping locally. We figured in gas expenses, but no oil, wear and tear on the vehicle, or babysitting expenses; we based the gas expenses on the vehicle getting 22 miles per gallon.

2) When items are rapidly escalating in price, like coffee, the real bargains are found in the smaller markets. Smaller markets have less turnover and are less likely to change prices as often, whether raising or lowering them.

3) All grocers give a discount on volume purchases, like case goods. Locally, shoppers have to ask about these discounts, though.

4) Area grocers will order or stock unusual items for their customers, some items which cannot be found or will not be special ordered in Hermiston or Pendleton. Items are usually available in 1 week.

5) Meat quality and service is better locally.

6) Produce is of superior quality and greater variety out of the area.

If local grocers would advertise their specials and if shoppers will try buying locally, people will be surprised and pleased with the results.

The natural question arises as to whether it is really cheaper to shop out of the area for other items, like clothes, building items, etc. While we have not investigated this, we urge consumers to do so.

Yours truly,
Anne L. Doherty
Chairman, Economic Facts of Life Committee

Editor's Note: The Morrow chapter of University Women is comprised of about 30 members. The shopping reported here was done in Heppner, Lexington and Ione.

Editorially Speaking

Town Hall meetings

Considering the slim budget faced by the City of Heppner, it might be high time for an old-fashioned Town Hall Meeting. We know that there are plenty of opportunities for the public to attend budget meetings and council meetings. We also know that meetings of this nature usually fall behind the poorest church in attendance.

Certainly the average citizen should not feel obligated to attend every city meeting, since he or she is paying to have some service. But—in light of the fact that the budget is on the fine line of seeking volunteers to do the work, we think it is time that a larger number of citizens became involved to the point of a line by line discussion of the city budget at a public meeting.

A public meeting might clear the air and establish a better understanding among all concerned, including some senior citizens who are not advised that a city budget increase may possibly have no effect on their taxes whatever.

If we stand for fewer taxes and less government, it is time that we at least take the trouble to inform each other of what is going on. The best ground for this process is face to face, where the issues can be aired before a wide range of the more than 800 registered voters in the city of Heppner. tjf

Letters to the Editor

On coyotes....

Editor:

In answer to Mrs. Winchester's letter about coyotes: Her logic and reasoning is in line with our permissive society. The criminal gets all the breaks. Due to soft judges and fuzzy thinking parole boards, the criminal is soon out to repeat his crime. If you like criminals, I am sure you would just love coyotes, because they are the criminals of the animal world. They will kill any defenseless bird or animal and they kill for fun.

I have received many letters from coyote lovers, mostly from Portland, where they have acquired a vast amount of knowledge about coyotes. They tell me, among other things, that to hear a coyote howl on a cold, frosty night is music to their ears. I wonder how many of them have heard the music a lawn makes across a deep, heavily timbered canyon, while being eaten alive by a coyote. I have. It isn't pretty. I have also seen documented films of calves that were partially eaten by coyotes before they were completely born.

You pointed out the superior qualities of synthetic fibers over wool. The world is rapidly running out of petroleum. Is this progress, Ms. Winchester?

I just hope Mrs. Moore gets her coyote back and he gets away as they always do, because his scalp is worth \$1.50 at our county clerk's office. I could sure use the money.

I have always placed coyote lovers in two categories, newcomers and just plain stupid. Mrs. Winchester is not a newcomer. My friend, Charlie Jones, would probably call you a crackpot, but I wouldn't go that far. I think the state of California has a monopoly on those, but due to overcrowding, they may have spilled over into Oregon. Anyway, this whole thing is a big hullabaloo over nothing. Kind of fun, though, isn't it?

Ray Gates
Spray, Oregon

'Hate is like acid'

Editor:

I have read Ms. Winchester's letter concerning Ray Gates, Spray.

Hate is like acid, this lady tells us. And, well she should know, recalling the old maxim, "It takes one (a hater, perhaps) to know one." In her epistle, the acid she mentions in line 33 of her write-up in your April 21 issue, spills out and boils up and over in line 4, "Two-legged predators and murderers," she says. Then, in line 7, she has the colossal audacity to accuse this man of making a "challenging" statement. And, line 32, she states Ray "hates living creatures with a vicious venom." Challenging statement indeed. Think! If these comments and accusations stem from love, Satan must be a winner. And smiling broadly.

Heppner founders and old-timers, sheep men of the old school, did not, I will venture to say, come into riches allowing the coyote sightseeing privileges (line 27) among their flocks.

If coyotes rate over sheep in value, then our state, and the counties within it, have poured countless bounty, and other predator control dollars, down the drain.

And now she waxes poetic (line 34). Well—move over, lady! Check your powder. Dry, is it? Get your old Winchester ready to fire and go low on your sights for a verbal shoot-out. You, My Dear, are in enemy territory. Verbally and poetically.

Hate is like acid? It is, indeed.

For 'twas the Devil who sowed the seed.

And poured on the molten liquid, hot.

Ray's damaged the vessel??? Yours filled the pot!

Charlie Jones
Spray, Oregon

Rural power discussed

There continues to be a lot of flak around the Capitol between the Governor and some members of the legislature, especially two or three Senators. Most of it concerns the Governor's plan for a Domestic Rural Power Act, commonly known as DRPA. This

By State Sen. Ken Jernstedt,
Dist. 28

bill is in our Senate Committee on Environment and Energy and has been there for some time, despite the tremendous efforts of the Governor and his staff to get it moving. It is one of his highest priority items for this session.

DRPA would make the state a public utility district, allowing Oregon consumers to receive preference Bonneville power. Although this plan might give some Oregonians a break on their electric power bills, it would not create more energy. In fact, all this pro-

posal does is share the shortage of electrical energy. It would introduce government into the position of control, where private enterprise now resides. The question that needs to be asked is: will the momentary advantage of some lower rates be worth the long term increase in government control of private business?

It is not the answer as far as I am concerned, and most of the other committee members seem to feel the same way. We do not want to see the state in the power business. We do not want to see the PUDS and co-ops come under the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commissioner. We do not think that Washington is going to give up any of its cheap power to benefit Oregon. In addition, most of us are against DRPA because it deals with only the distribution of power and makes no

provisions for stimulation of alternate power sources that will be so desperately needed before the turn of the century.

The Speaker of the House may be about ready to come to the Governor's rescue, as he has announced that if DRPA is in fact stalled in the Senate, a similar bill will "very likely"

be introduced in the House.

This week our Environment and Energy Committee listened to more than three hours of testimony as to why our

power problems should be tackled on a regional basis, rather than Oregon trying to make some temporary gains on its own. Conservation can be implemented better on a regional basis and additional power can be generated and distributed more equitably on a regional basis. Of course,

this is more than a regional problem—it is national, and also extends across our borders. But we should at least get started on a regional basis.

Pastor's Corner

Louis Evely writes in his small but powerful book, *Our Prayer*, "When the Word became flesh, God had to choose which of all human values would be the most apt for showing God's taste, for revealing the divine way of life. And He completely discounted riches, honors, force, authority, glory, violence. He chose poverty, humility, gentleness, service, suffering, passion for justice and mercy."

But too often when we think of the Church of Jesus Christ today, we see most of the values rejected in Christ. Then one often hears the common phrase, "I don't go to church because they are all hypocrites."

Could it be that too often the church of Jesus Christ has prostituted herself and preached their own values, their own desire and judgements, rather than those of their Lord? A characteristic not only true today in the 20th Century, but also true in the early days of the Christian Church. St. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth explaining, "For it is not ourselves that we are preaching, but Christ Jesus as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (II Cor. 4:5).

Maybe it is both the people within the churches as well as the people outside the churches who have failed to understand the love, mercy and forgiveness revealed in Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ. For when one grasps the message of love in God, it either forces one to their knees in awe or fills them with anger. For if one believes that they have heard of God's love and felt nothing but indifference, they have failed to hear.

Steve Tollefson
United Methodist Church

Capital punishment

Dear Editor,

Ever since the tragic death of Mary Lindsay, there has been much discussion around town concerning the reinstatement of capital punishment. The majority of what I have heard has been in favor of capital punishment. This letter is a statement against capital punishment, and because I am a pastor, it is done from a religious basis.

I believe that everyone is a child of God, and is loved by Him. This means, therefore, that Michael Olds is as much a member of God's family as is Mary Lindsay. He, along with Mary, is loved by God. He, along with you and I, is a part of God's creation. As one of God's creatures, who or what gives us the right to pronounce death upon another one of God's creatures?

I am well aware of the Biblical quotes concerning "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," but I am also aware of the context from which those were written, and I do not believe that they apply (therefore, if you are going to quote scripture, make sure that you fully understand what it is saying). As creatures of God, and ones who have to live in an imperfect world, we have been given the power of retention as well as the responsibility of rehabilitation, but I do not see where we have been given the power of determining death for another. Obviously, the crime committed was tragic, senseless, and against the laws of the state as well as against the laws of God. But to pronounce death upon another, even though he may have done so, is not a power which has been given to us. "Why do we kill people who kill people in order to show that killing people is wrong?"

One comment concerning Lois Winchester's article (Heppner Gazette, April 28). I find it interesting that she gets upset at a calf that is roped at a rodeo, but is asking for the death of Michael Olds. I ask that she have as much compassion on Mr. Olds as she does the dogs and cats of the community.

Sincerely,
Rev. Mark Johnson

OSP names Heppner trooper

Heppner will be assigned another Oregon State Police trooper in mid-summer, according to Cpl. Mike Hays of the Hermiston Safety Center.

The new trooper for Heppner is Tom Dixon, a native of the Milton-Freewater area, according to Cpl. Mike Hays of the Hermiston Safety Center.

Dixon is married. He and his wife, Sally, have an 11-month-old girl.

There is no fixed date for the assignment of Dixon, but a tentative target date of July 1 has been set.

Dixon joins Trooper Vic Groshens, a native of Heppner, who has been assigned here for more than five years.

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THE GAZETTE-TIMES

DEADLINES

WHAT	WHEN DUE
EVENTS THAT HAPPEN BEFORE FRIDAY	FRIDAY, 5 p.m.
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY EVENTS	MONDAY, 5 p.m.
MONDAY & TUESDAY MORNING EVENTS	TUESDAY NOON
CLASSIFIED ADS	TUESDAY NOON
DISPLAY ADVERTISING	MONDAY 5 p.m.

Mother's Day

Let us wine and dine that great lady, Mom, who deserves the best.

Special Dinner
Sunday, May 8

West of Willow

Steak & Lobster

8 oz. Top Sirloin served with 3-4 oz. Lobster Tail \$5⁷⁵
Beef Barley Soup · Salad Bar · Coffee-Tea

Buffet

Served 12:00 - 4 pm Adults \$3⁰⁰ Under 12 \$1⁷⁵
Sweet-Sour Shrimp · Langostino · Meatballs
Paparika Chicken · Deep Fried Chicken
AuGratin Potatoes · French Fried Potatoes · Peas and Carrots
Coffee · Tea · Roll

BREAKFAST BAR

Fruit Bar
Hot Cakes
Ham or Steak and Eggs
—served—
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.



Quality and Quantity guaranteed by J.R. personally
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