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Letters to the Editor

Support veterans during poppy sale

To the Editor:

On May 16, the familiar red crepe paper memorial poppy is being offered to the public by the local American Legion Auxiliary. This reminder of the sacrifice of countless thousands in four great wars—WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam—is an annual event undertaken by the members of Heppner Unit #87 in Heppner.

Volunteers from the unit will once again take part in this nationwide program in memory of servicemen and women who gave their lives in the cause for freedom. Think of this, as you give, they gave their lives, what can you give?

These memorial poppies are made completely by hand, by disabled and hospitalized veterans in "Poppy Shops" run by Legion Auxiliary volunteers. It is part of a physical and psychological therapy program by veterans for veterans and is part of the rehabilitation program at the White City Domiciliary in the valley where over 300,000 poppies are made. All materials in the poppies are furnished free and the veterans receive pay for each poppy made.

Do you know that in the spring of 1919, amidst complete devastation, poppies bloomed in abundance on the battlefields of France, where so many of our men had fallen in battle? And that is why a replica of this Flanders Field poppy has become the memorial flower of the American Legion and the American Legion

Auxiliary? These poppies are offered to the public, not at a monetary price, but for a contribution, a few cents or dollars to say "we care and we remember" that sacrifices were made that we might live free.

Contributions made locally are used by the local unit to aid disabled and needy veterans and their families in the community and hospitals throughout the state. All proceeds are channeled directly to rehabilitation and furtherance of programs to aid the veteran.

Auxiliary members all over the nation will ask the public to pause for a moment, pin on a poppy and wear it with pride, remembering the civilians who took an oath to serve their country and gave their lives (many have been left with a shattered existence) because they cared that America would remain a land of the free. As I mentioned earlier, think about that and be generous in your giving. Please don't walk on by knowing the worthy work that is done with the money you give.

Thank you for listening, for remembering the sacrifices made by the veteran and for giving with a smile, it will brighten the day for the auxiliary volunteer. Thank you also to the businesses who allow us to be outside their stores and to the newspapers for helping us tell of this worthy program.

(s) Rita Hedman
Heppner Unit #87

Avon Reps dispute claim

To The Editor:

In response to Lois Winchester's letter last week, we wish to clear some misunderstandings and state some accurate facts.

Avon has a long history of working to eliminate animal tests. About 95 percent of all our new products are approved without animal tests. No company in the beauty industry has done more to reduce animal testing than Avon. This letter comes ten months after Avon closed their animal testing laboratory and contracted with other labs for the few tests still required to ensure product safety. These required tests are done on rats, mice and rabbits.

Why single out just Avon? All cosmetics, skin care and hair care products have probably been tested in a similar manner. Our Avon cosmetics are useful products that enhance the lives of our customers. Our customers deserve absolute assurance that the products they buy from us are totally safe for their use, and harmless to children who may play with them when no one's looking.

Please feel free to contact your Avon representative if you have any questions.

Two local representatives.
(s) Judy Handbury
Lori Straley

Observations re: Gorge appreciated

To the Editor:
Mr. Ed Glenn

Thank you. Thank you. For your very perceptive observation concerning the Columbia Gorge Commission. Yes sir, I own property in the so-called scenic area and have already received a ration of crap from the Forest Service. Have any of you flown over the Gifford Pinchot National Forest lately? If you drive through, the quote "visual corridors" will fool you. Lots of timber left along side the only roads that are open. Fly over and see clear cuts behind the "visual corridors", the rape of our National Forests. Yet Senator Packwood and Senator Hatfield gave the Gorge to the Forest Service. Sad news. Such are political pawns.

Any landowner must have 40 acres to build on in the Special Management Area or sell to "Trust for Public Lands" who then doubles the price to the Forest Service. Lookout taxpayer. If you are in the Scenic Area, the color of your house or face may be offensive to the Forest Service. Have you ever tried to get permission for anything out of Washington, D.C.? Negative result, I am sure. Even have to get permission from the Indian Nations. Now I ask you, why?

If a full investigation of the Columbia Gorge Commission's irregularities was instituted, it would outdo Watergate. Why don't you ask

the Planning Commission of each county? They have their orders to report each item or statement in which the Columbia Gorge Commission or Scenic Area is even mentioned.

Every bit of this is an overstepping of Congressional authority and trampling all over a landowners constitutional rights. Government exists to protect us from those who would destroy our freedom, it must not become the aggressor itself or ultimate destruction of that Government will ensue. The word service in Forest Service means it is a Government Agency who serves the people. It's too bad the bureaucracy doesn't see it that way.

Please believe me when I say all the heavy handness reminds one of some foreign Colonel with dark glasses. Our only hope is a small group of landowners called Columbia Gorge United, who have filed a lawsuit in Federal Court demanding 12 counts of violations of the Constitution be answered. All those interested in helping, please contact The Columbia Gorge United at 509-427-8392 or Box 328, Stevenson, WA. 98648. Everyone will benefit from winning this case.

Will the last person to leave the Columbia Gorge, please bring the Flag.

Thank you again,
(s) Ed Woods
20 Henderson Rd.,
Lyle, WA.

Nelson applauds county leaders

To the Editor:

The people of Morrow County should know what kind of job their leaders are doing, and I would like to share my observations after working with Morrow County through this legislative session.

Though Morrow County is one of four counties in my district, it has only about 17 percent of District 59's population. However, the people I see and hear from the most, by a large margin, are Morrow County's leaders.

Judge Louis Carlson is in constant contact with myself and my staff, asking for my support of various projects that will help Morrow County, including the Willow Lake RV park, the Patterson Ferry Interchange, the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway, and a host of other issues that affect Morrow County.

There have been many mornings when I come into my office to find

Jerry Peck waiting to lobby me for or against bills that affect Morrow County. Probably the only person I see as often as Jerry is Boardman City Manager, Larry Dalrymple. His untiring efforts to help his community's economy have been nothing short of incredible.

The county is blessed with a host of other advocates committed to encouraging growth and prosperity: Fred Lundin, Don McElligott, Art Kegler, Cara Costa, Irv Rauch, and especially Ken Turner, whose commitment to the Willow Lake RV Park is the driving force behind that project's potential success.

I have named only a few of those who deserve mention. The citizens of Morrow County should give their leaders a pat on the back for doing such a fine job.

Sincerely,
(s) Michael R. Nelson
State Representative District 59

How others see it

The following article is reprinted from "Oregon Education", the official newspaper of the Oregon Education Association.

Oregon's 15th teacher strike ended March 14 when Morrow County Education Association (MCEA) members ratified a new three-year contract. The settlement came finally after 18 months of negotiations, mediation, factfinding, post-factfinding mediation, and 10 days on the picket lines. The strike was due, in large part, to a school board that had thoroughly entrenched itself and refused to budge until the very end of the strike itself.

Mike Persons, Columbia River UniServ consultant, said, "With ballooning cash carry-overs and over a million dollars of new money this year alone, in a safety net district, the board was unwilling to even pay teachers the money already budgeted for salaries and benefits."

It was not until teachers were on strike that the board came off its insistence on a salary freeze in the first year and offered a two percent increase retroactive for 1988-89. At the same time, however, the board insisted on a substantial rollback in insurance benefits for the district's 143 teachers. In the final settlement, teachers got salary increases of two percent for each of the three years of the contract, and they won control of insurance carrier and coverages. District liability for insurance premiums was capped at \$300 per month for 1989-90 and \$365 per month for 1990-91.

What ended the ten-day strike? According to Jan Hamlin, OEA communications consultant assigned to the strike, it was hard organizing by the teachers which resulted in massive community involvement. "While the school board refused to bargain over the 18 months, teachers did not sit still," said Hamlin. She said teachers packed board meetings, participated in informational picketing, held more than 50 coffees, spoke at two public forums, made regular media contacts, leafleted more than 30 functions, canvassed numerous times and direct-mailed to every Morrow County resident on four separate occasions.

After eight days of the strike, Hamlin said about 20 community members inserted themselves into the bargaining process. Fed up with the board's refusal to bargain and aware of the caliber of the "replace-

ment teachers" hired by the district, the community members drafted their own settlement proposal and presented it to both sides. "The teachers accepted the proposal within hours," said Hamlin. But, she noted, it took the community members 48 hours of "beating up on" board members to get the four votes necessary for a tentative agreement.

Persons said the conflict taught Morrow County residents "the importance of getting involved and insisting that school board members listen to the people who elect them." He also praised NCEA teachers for "hanging in there through a very difficult time and standing up for their rights and their dignity."

The strike was the first strike in the Columbia River UniServ Area.

Absolutely Reasonable

We saw the log trucks on their way to Montana the other day. Someone in the coffee shop remarked that they were on the way to the First Annual Spotted Owl Barbecue.

That whole fiasco has us a little worried.

Seems as though some years back some folks who liked nature a whole lot got Congress to pass the Endangered Species Act. That law makes it almost impossible to do anything that will further endanger any plant or animal species that may be nearing extinction. Maybe man should not go out of his way to cause the extinction of some plant or animal species.

The American Buffalo, once roaming the great plains in vast numbers, can now only be seen by a few people in a few places. The Carrier Pigeon is gone.

But this spotted owl thing causes me some concern. The proponents claim that it takes some 2,000 acres of old growth fir to provide habitat for just one pair of spotted owls. And to cut that timber to build homes would endanger the species.

The loggers see their jobs on the line and they are beginning to wonder if the preservation of a species is worth the destruction of the most basic industry of the Pacific Northwest. Roaming over 2,000 acres of old growth, it is doubtful whether more than a few hundred people in the entire world will ever even see a spotted owl.

Both sides have solidified their positions to a degree of absoluteness. One side claims that the preservation of the spotted owl is absolutely essential to the continued existence of mankind. They drive railroad spikes in the old trees to frustrate (and maybe kill) the loggers that try to cut them down.

The other side answers that the harvest of old growth fir is absolutely essential to the economy of the Pacific Northwest as we know it. And their motto is "If it's a' hootin', I'm a' shootin'."

Well, we know that neither position is entirely correct. That's kind of the way it is with absolutes.

We remember a recent statement by a Chief of Police to the effect that every business in town that marketed alcoholic beverages should close up. In the same category is the advise we received years ago when fresh out of law school: "If there's ever anyone you can't trust, it's a deacon in a church."

Absolutes make our lives easier, that's for sure. If this is absolutely right and that is absolutely wrong, we don't much have to think about it when it comes up. But few, if any, things are that simple. We've discovered that most things are relative. What's this way today, might be some other way tomorrow when circumstances are different.

Take killing another human being, for example. To just walk up and shoot someone dead is probably murder, against the law, the most heinous crime known to man.

But: If it was done to protect yourself from being killed, we might call it self defense. And if it was done not only to protect yourself, but also to prevent being robbed of the church collection plate by a wild-eyed dope addict, not only would it not be a crime, it would be brave, commendable, a heroic act.

So too would be killing the enemy in wartime.

Where most of us are not yet sure is killing unborn babies and terminally ill grandparents.

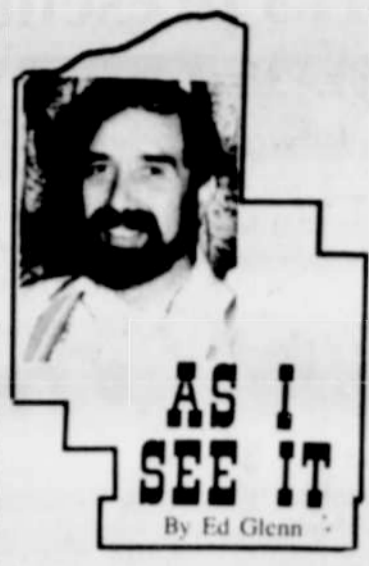
Absolutes would make that issue easy. If saving the spotted owl is absolutely essential, then killing unborn babies and terminally ill grandparents would be absolutely wrong. But maybe it's relative.

That makes it a little harder. We have to think about each case, weigh all the factors, consider all the particular circumstances and come to a conclusion this time that might be different next time.

That is hard. And so seldom do we do it. How often have you heard a public body worry that a proposed action will "set a precedent?" For years I heard people voice the ultimate solution, "First, you kill all the lawyers." And recently we heard that "we should just fire all the teachers."

We think if folks would just think about all the reasons why man ought to do what he can about preserving the endangered species of this planet, attend with the costs to society for the effort, this whole issue could be resolved on the side of reason.

Not a bad practice, no matter what the problem.



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