

... Communications ...

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer, although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initial for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

Honesty

To the Editor: Confronted with the theft of \$91,000, the employee claimed that "every penny I took rightfully belongs to me." When he reached \$100,000, the share of the profits he felt was due him, he said he planned to stop stealing.

What is honesty? Do such people understand what a beautiful word really covers or uncovers? Are they able to separate the true meaning or worth? For here a word that stands out among the rest, offering honest lookers a view out over the world from a recognizable vantage point.

Honesty spins a yarn of truth that doesn't leave you dangling or guessing. What's so outstanding about the word "honesty"? It has a very special quality that quickens the blood or seizes the imagination or turns indifference into enthusiasm and involvement, but it is miserable, undeveloped, and abused by so many pushers of greed and lust.

We will never rid the world of dishonesty, but there must be tens of thousands of people around the world ready to join in the effort and adventure of such an experiment. Some people add a crown of honor to the word honesty, for they believe there is more to life than getting through untroubled. They care enough about their beliefs and attitudes to try to communicate honestly and warmly what they hold important.

This is one of the great safeguards to our liberties. For in honesty there are fragments of beauty and truth that strengthen our daily life, thereby helping to put families into places they are proud to call their home town. Truth serves to polish up the lens through which we see the world about us. Let honesty be your seeing eye as you enter a hidden future. Grady Conner, 723 West Jackson st., Medford.

Evidence

To the Editor: Mr. John Gutstein had some sound advice (4/23) for the "Bible thumping authorities," as he called them, who attempt to support their arguments with Scripture references (usually taken out of context) or who use them to lend seeming authority to what they have to say. He suggested that they might better apply their proclivities to themselves. Mrs. Alice L. Black's latest sermonette (4/22) intended for my special benefit is a good example to illustrate Mr. Gutstein's point. Needless to say, I heartily agree with her that we should apply the Golden Rule to our discussions in Communications, and that this old world would be a happier place for all if that were done generally. However, I should like to remind Mrs. Black that the Bible has some other equally important things to say to us.

Of special pertinence in this connection is the ninth commandment of the decalogue: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16). Our libel and other laws are based upon that commandment. Much of what I have written in past Communications about the Birchers, Dr. Fred C. Schwarz, Dan Smoot and others of their ilk, has been concerned with this very point. I have been insisting that they speak the truth and cease their false accusations, outright or by innuendo, against honored and respected citizens or organizations that hold opinions other than theirs about a variety of public issues.

Mrs. Black had a very quaint response to my suggestion that she do her own homework to verify Dan Smoot's "evidence" cited by her previously. She now says she did it. How? By reading more of Dan Smoot's Reports! Typical Smoot and Schwarz "evidence" of communist infiltration into our churches, schools, government, etc., is contained in the story Bishop Raymond A. Grant of Portland told Methodist Men of the Rogue River valley a few days ago.

Said he: A propagandist of this type, recently enjoying the hospitality of an assembly platform at Alaska Methodist University, dragged out one of the stock accusations of these extremists of the right, that "there are 7,000 communists among the clergy of our Protestant churches." Pressed by the university president, the bishop, students and the local press for specific identification, the speaker fell back upon more such absurd quotes — then finally admitted he did not know a single communist among the preachers! How like McCarthy, Welch, and now "Mr." Walker: Poor souls.

Arnold Eugene Jenny, Rogue Valley Manor, Medford.

Oughta, Son

To the Editor: The purpose of this letter is to appraise for the benefit of all voters, but particularly at this time all registered Democrats, the relative qualifications of Otto and Stephens, the two Democratic candidates for Sheriff of Jackson county. We urge all registered Democrats to work for, and to vote for, Harold D. Otto.

Let us look at the record: Stephens cites nine years service in the Medford Police Department as a patrolman, and a short term of employment in an undefined subordinate capacity in the office of present Sheriff Joe Walsh. Otto cites seven years service as Chief of Police of Eagle Point.

You may say, "Then Stephens was a little frog in a big puddle and Otto was a big frog in a little puddle. There is not much to choose. But if you look at the matter more discriminatingly, you must perceive that the duties and experience of any Police Department head, no matter how small the jurisdiction, involve certain ultimate or all-inclusive responsibilities which are utterly foreign to a patrolman, a deputy sheriff, or any other subordinate in a Police Department or a Sheriff's office."

As Chief of Police of Eagle Point, Otto was required to carry, and did successfully, the following responsibilities, among others:

(a) the preparing of a practical and realistic budget each year, free from extravagance, yet adequate to meet the practical requirements of an effective and efficient administration;

(b) the managing of the funds provided so as to operate within the budget;

(c) the maintenance of vehicle and other equipment;

(d) the managing of the jail from the standpoint of health and sanitation, guarding the prisoners against escape, attending to the feeding of prisoners, etc.;

(e) the keeping of clear records of all receipts and disbursements in a form suitable for audit; and

(f) the maintaining of good relations between his department and the City Council.

Poets' Corner

Conducted by

Arnold Eugene Jenny

Life Without Passion

They that have power to hurt, and will do none,
That do not do the things they most do show,
Who, moving others, are themselves as stone,
Unmoved, cold, and to temptation slow.

They rightly do inherit heaven's graces
And husband nature's riches from expenses;
They are the lords and owners of their faces,
Others, but stewards of their excellence.

The summer's flower is to the summer sweet,
Though to itself it only live and die,
But if that flower with base infection meet,
The basest weed outbraves his dignity:
For sweetest things turn sourest by their deeds;
Lilies that fester smell far worse than weeds.

—William Shakespeare.

Night Watch

Come stand with me and listen to the rain
That falls within the silence of the night
And washes clean a weary world of pain.

Come stand with me and listen to the flight
Of jets, that chalk the sky with vapor trail,
And turn our thoughts to missions that might fail.

Come stand with me aware of life and death,
Aware of moments slipping silently
Across the arch of time and numbered breath.

At last, come willingly, and stand with me,
That we might share this watch once more
Before we step inside and close the door.

—Lloyd B. Halverson
Medford.

Into the Sunset

Let me die working!
Still tackling plans unfinished, tasks undone.
Clean to its end, swift may my race be run.
No lagged steps; no faltering; no shrinking!
Let me die working!

Let me die thinking!
Let me fare forth with an open mind.
Fresh secrets to unfold, new truth to find;
My soul undimmed, alert, no question blinking.
Let me die thinking!

Let me die laughing!
No sighing over past sins; they are forgiven.
Spilled on this earth are all the joys of heaven;
Let me die laughing!

Let me die giving!
The substance of life for life's enriching;
Time, things, and self on heaven converging.
No selfish thought-loving, redeeming, living.
Let me die giving!

—S. Hall Young

Fred

He was a trucker off his route,
A train off its track,
A mirror without reflection.

He didn't ingratiate or slobber,
or polish or climb
or act phoney.

And they forgot him
Because they said he was a troublemaker.

Too bad, Mankind, you missed again,
Just because he was black.

—S. Stephen Eichelberger *

Things

Apples
Idiot
Babies
Bugs
Photosynthesis
Make me think.

—Bruce Niedermeyer *
Medford

(* Senior, Medford Senior High School.)

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and between his department and the public at large.

These duties correspond precisely to the more responsible duties which the Sheriff, himself, must fulfill. The successful performance of them for seven years, and the experience gained in that performance, mark Otto as an outstandingly qualified to serve with credit to himself, and to his party, as Sheriff.

Stephens' experience marks him as a good patrolman but demonstrates no capacity for the office which he seeks. The choice of Otto as a plain one.

"Vote for Otto — you oughta, Son. And since he'd oughter, you too, Daughter."

Clarence M. Crews, Chairman, Bipartisan Committee for Otto for Sheriff, 4706 North Pacific Hwy., Central Point, Ore.

Reducing Costs

To the Editor: How to reduce the costs of campaigning is one of the major challenges facing our system of elective government. We don't want success at the polls to be a matter of money, yet campaigning is communicating and communicating by TV, radio, newspaper, pamphlet, or even personal handshaking costs money.

Lately I've been meeting voters in mills, super-markets and on main streets. This is the way I like to campaign, but when I'm doing it I'm not earning a living for my family in my law office. The Republican candidate for Congress, who is unopposed in the primary election, has the financial resources to allow him to devote full-time for seven months and to hire a staff to help him.

Campaigns should not be soap-selling. Public relations techniques, vast advertising budgets and "hidden persuaders" figured out by wily pitchmen make a mockery of the democratic process. The late Dick Neuberger and I worked on legislation to cut campaign costs. I would like to require that TV and radio stations give candidates side-by-side time, with opportunities for debate and questions.

Meanwhile, we candidates with slim campaign funds will depend mainly on shoe-leather and personal campaigning, hoping that the voters will understand, as they have on several occasions, that billboards and slick radio-TV programs don't necessarily inform them accurately about the worth of a candidate.

Charles O. Porter
2680 Baker st.
Eugene, Ore.

Better and Better One

To the Editor: The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker" and, in fact, all who have services or goods for sale, seem to wish to increase their sales. This certainly is a legitimate ambition, but sometimes possible only at too great a cost. As Ben Franklin said, they "pay too much for their whistle."

These who have goods and services to sell want more industry, to produce more payrolls, to support more people, to buy more goods and services. But more industries may produce more smoke or smelly. More people produce more congestion and death on the roads and crowding in the schools and the woods and the lakes and also more need for taxes. Also they attract more competition as was found to be the case when the new shopping center opened up.

If some folks want to live under these conditions, there are plenty of large cities to choose from. I left Chicago many years ago and now live in what could be a true Garden of Eden. So why not stop straining for a bigger and bigger Medford and just work for a better and better one?

I was delighted when one of the candidates for commissioner had the brains and the wits to point out that since the county income from the O and C lands is now at its peak, more population would mean more taxes. I feel sure that the charms of a beautiful lady would not double with her pounds.

Horace W. Thompson,
3642 Hillsinger rd.,
Medford.

By Candlelight

To the Editor: They spend millions at a time, To subdue the phantom,

cancer; Perhaps someone without a dime Will finally find the answer. Tom Graff Robinson Hotel Medford.

Catch

To the Editor: Aye still fish from hip boots, but Aye don't catch no fish. Aye just catch motor boats. Everett Acklin Ashland, Ore.

Hunter Safety Class Planned at YMCA

The second in a series of Hunter Safety Courses at the Medford YMCA for boys 10 through 17 years old will start at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 3. Enrollments are now being taken.

The course will be limited to 25 boys for the four lessons. Head instructor will be Carl Bennett, 73 Clover lane, Medford; assisted by Willard Hene, Harold Willis and John Glover.

Boys who attend the four sessions and pass will be certified. Those desiring to enroll must take a certificate of permission from parents, which can be secured at the YMCA, 522 West Main st. There are no charges for the course, YMCA officials noted.

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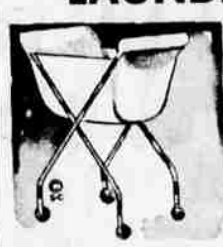
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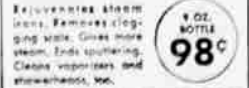
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