

... 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.

Gambling a Sin?

To the Editor: On the Sunday editorial by E. A. on gambling, I would like to make a few comments. You asked if gambling is a sin. Is it immoral, or is it harmful? Anything that is a sin must be immoral and harmful. Now all we have to do is define sin. You can get varied definitions for sin, but the Bible scholar will use the definition from the Bible. It states that sin is the transgression from God's law. We will now have a disagreement as to what the law is but I think here it means the law of love. Any Christian will agree that the law of love is the center of Christianity.

My definition of sin has provoked many a discussion and no one has completely denied it yet. I can't say that many completely agree with me. To me sin is anything that distracts or takes away from happiness. Contrary to many Christian beliefs and teachings, we were put here to be happy and not just to learn to bear the trials and tribulations of this life in order to reap the gains in the next life.

The only argument that has arisen is over what is meant by happiness. Webster defines it as good luck, prosperity, or a state of well being. Webster seems to have it centered around material life, but happiness in the Christian aspect deals with the spiritual side of life, or in modern terms we would say mental stability or attitude. You may kid yourself about what makes you happy, but if you are a true Christian you know the difference between being happy and monetary pleasures.

Can you gamble without causing mental anguish to yourself or others? The size or amount gambled is like trying to say which is the bigger sin. One man can afford to lose a thousand dollars better than another could lose one dollar. We all gamble every day of our lives, but the sin comes in when we willfully promote unhappiness in ourselves or others. The act of gambling is not a sin, but the willful losing of money that can cause mental anguish to the person, or persons he may be obligated to, or are dependent upon him is.

Creston McNeil,
2987 Delta Waters rd.,
Medford.

Letting In Air

To the Editor: May I answer the two rebuttals to a letter I submitted about a week ago? Mr. Hook, Jr., claims I abused statistics, yet he overlooked the fact that the report covers a nationwide survey of 287 correctional institutions, not only those in Oregon which I thought would be interesting for local readers. May I request a critical response that analyzes what I said and doesn't refer to a 12 foot pot-hole for statistical errands in a 2 foot coverage depth river?

"J. R.'s" comments are, however, of a different nature and deserving of a detailed response. Very true, "J. R.," what I said is not conducive to "unity," yet I felt what I said needed saying for this reason: I have noted the soft approach toward the Catholic hierarchy. The authoritarianism (which the recent editorial "stirrings in the church" says is diminishing) and some of the medieval concepts, which I believe are partly responsible for the very sorry record which the statistics revealed, I respectfully believed should be aired.

Unity, in itself, is no virtue. Unity with, or in, what? with communism? with ignorance? with the free and open discussion of ideas? with honesty? It makes a difference. Unity, mutual understanding, harmony - call it what you will - is a natural by-product of free and open discussion, not suppression.

The aforementioned article quotes Pope John as saying the recent council was to "let some fresh air in the church." Many of us, including numerous Catholics, believe this is long overdue.

I have no argument whatsoever with any individual Catholic. However, I do sincerely feel the hierarchy of the church, with its oppressive authoritarianism, has done much to bring about the situation which the statistics so incriminatingly reveal.

Irving S. Thomas,
Route 4, Box 427G,
Medford.

Amen

To the Editor: These things also I have made known, concerning this calling, for as many as have the love of God shall be called, for many are called, but few are chosen, but to every one that is called shall be given, and if given, it is not by assumption or de-

sire, and to him that is given that shall you minister, thereby shall you gather. But he that ministers not those things, it shall be taken away and given to him who has, and he shall be cast out.

But because of this calling and ministering shall bring about that what the Lord

said, "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, nay; but rather division: . . . For this is the time and the Baptism of which he spoke. Whosoever that will offend one of these, beloved of the Father, it would have been better for him that he had never been

Poets' Corner

Conducted by

Arnold Eugene Jenny

Nightingales

Beautiful must be the mountains whence ye come,
And bright in the fruitful valleys the streams wherefrom
Ye learn your song:
Where are those starry woods? O might I wander there,
Among the flowers, which in that heavenly air
Bloom the year long!

Nay, barren are those mountains and spent the streams:
Our song is the voice of desire, that haunts our dreams.
A throe of the heart,
Whose pining visions dim, forbidden hopes profound,
No dying cadence nor long sigh can sound,
For all our art.

Alone, aloud in the raptured ear of men
We pour our dark nocturnal secret; and then,
As night is withdrawn
From these sweet-springing meads and bursting boughs of
May,
Dream, while the innumerable choir of day
Welcome the dawn.
—Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

To A Bird In My Hand
A drop more to drink and a moment to rest,
Till dizziness fades and the life-throb is stronger;
The fluttering heart in your satiny breast
May trust me to keep you not one second longer.

How can you escape from the dangers that fill
The way you must travel is past my desecrating;
And yet you will doubtless return to our hill
With springtime, wee voyager rescued from dying.

Blithe symbol of freedom, whose airy career
Invites emulation, my spirit is winging
Where you cannot follow; already I hear
The orbital song which the planets are singing.

May both of us prosper, now you have flown—
You in your element, I in my own!
—Robert J. Richardson

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A Strange Thing
I found when on an idle quest,
A speckled egg within a nest,
And when I straightway soon forgot,
Of nest and egg I little thought.
When fluting spring again came 'round
I looked and this is what I found:
Upon the bough where was the nest,
I saw a bird with russet breast,
And from his swelling, joyous throat
There poured a sweet and tender note.
This thing I pondered, deep and long:
How speckled egg could turn to song.
—Frank Roberts
Medford

The Wind
The wind was in the trees tonight,
I walked a lonely mile,
I saw the stars bedeck the sky
And saw the moon's bright smile—
Till clouds came scudding o'er his face
To hide his every beam,
Just as the clouds of doubt and fear
Blot out my every dream.

I drew my cloak around me;
The night was dark and chill,
I heard the sighing of the trees;
The wind would not be still.

But then it blew the clouds away
And left the moon to shine,
Just as the winds of hope and faith
Renew each dream of mine.
—Martha Ella Minnick
Central Point, Ore.

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born. But whosoever will give one of these, so much as a glass of water in the Lord's name, will receive a righteous man's reward. For the time comes that this division shall be even in a man's house, where there are five there shall be three against two, and two against three. But suffer those things for it is well pleasing to God that you do it. Knowing that the same word that came unto you, also came unto them. But you had love of God there in you, received it. But came as a testimony against them.

Now all shall be called as it pleases God in their appointed time. Hold fast to that which is good, and don't despair, and covet charily as Paul describes it. Whosoever you know, whosoever they are, that might receive these things, write or tell them these things, stirring up if purity of their minds, for if these things were not true, I would not have written them. Prayers for them who minister. Now all praise is unto God. Amen.

Ted M. Sletten
Route 1, Box 224
Rogue River, Ore.

Damaging a Town
To the Editor: I can't understand why some, with so much to lose, are determined the highway should divide Jacksonville - ruin it in so many ways.

Some will ask why I'm so certain. I lived in a town al-

most a carbon copy of Jacksonville - an old town the first stage stop from San Diego in days gone by.

Old timers with lots of land refused to vote the water in. So the town had stood still for years. But after their wells went dry the water had to be brought in, also sewage. My! It was like living in the midst of a whirlwind.

Real estate offices on every corner, a large shopping center planned, all buildings were to be on the western theme. The couple leasing the local store were denied a new lease. The owners decided they wanted to get rich. My neighbors and myself sold our homes to May Fair stores Inc., other friends were getting options on all the land they could. Then all of a sudden a highway came through the town.

If there's any thing a Californian runs from it's a valley with a highway through it (unless he has to live there). So after five years it's still as it was before water and sewage.

May Fair is still paying me by the month, hesitant to put more money in the town, as the chances are it will never

be more than a smelly, noisy town with cheap housing.

Have the Senior Citizens given thought to the added expense to them, in fact everyone, the changes in sewage and loss in taxes that the proposed highway route would cause?

Have the businessmen given serious thought to the loss of every day business from motel and trailer park against the catch-as-catch-can of the highway trade?

Building up a good solid residential town would bring the most solid trade to local business.

Adelle Purgason
596 North Oregon
Jacksonville, Ore.

No Sense
To the Editor: Do not despair, all fellow-sufferers, of this monster they so wrongly call daylight saving time. I understand that our Federal Government has become alarmed at the chaos, confusion and general havoc this has wrought on us nation-wide that it is being seriously considered to outlaw it in all states. I suppose when the states refuse to govern themselves for the betterment

of the enjoyment of the majority of its people that Uncle Sam does occasionally have to step in.

The people of this state voted soundly against this asinine law once, but this wasn't enough for the few who stood to benefit by D.S.T., so with the condemnation and backing of our governor they were allowed to put the pressure on the people, as we all remember, and then we were told unless we voted for what they wanted we could expect more miseries to come. The nearest bit of disregard of our wishes as I have ever witnessed.

So now to add insult to injury they have decided with-

out our votes to extend this thing another month this fall. Yet the people narrowly voted for this last time because they had no other choice. I find very few who do not hate it and which it does not work a hardship on them.

I say unless we can stand behind our wishes and votes in spite of the pressures put on us and be determined in our decisions then we deserve all we get. I for one had rather have confusion - time then to give up a principle and vote for a thing I hate and see no sense in at all.

(Name on file)
Eagle Point, Ore.

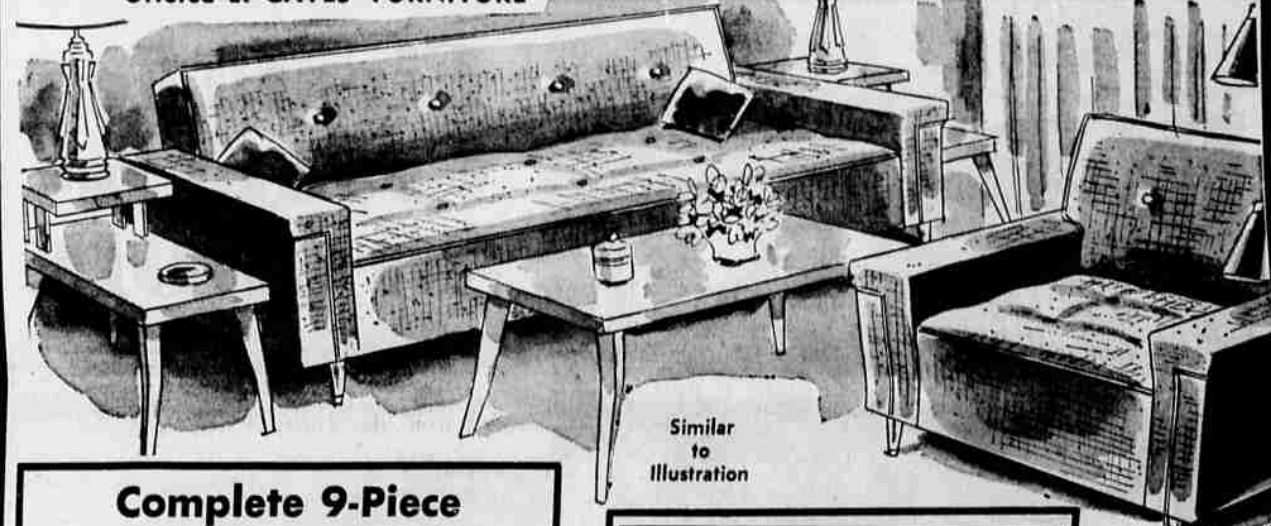
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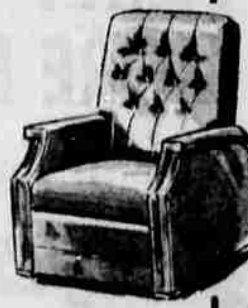
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