

... 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.

Legalize Gambling
To the Editor: The Legislature of our state appears to be at wit's end, seeking a solution to the problem of raising revenue without a raise in taxes.

To enact a sales tax is at best only shifting the burden, at worst it would end a large flow of business from bordering states which have a sales tax. Many of their people come to Oregon to buy because they get more for their money and avoid a sales tax, which they detest.

Some Oregonians say let the tourists help pay our taxes. I feel that a sales tax would turn away enough tourists to create a loss rather than profit, for many vacationists come here now because they get more for their money, and this consideration can sway a number of potential visitors.

We do have one source of revenue which, if turned into profit instead of an expense, as it is at present, no one would be hurt more than at present and a great part of the problem be solved. Tourism would increase with its attendant spending, expenses lowered and Oregon emerge into a comfortable era, with money to meet its obligations and provide for expansion.

The source I refer to is legalized gambling. Today we are spending time and money to stop gambling, but without success. No one will deny that gambling still exists, so if we can't abolish it, why not control it, at a profit?

Some will argue that gambling is sinful, but that is debatable. Gambling is defined as "taking a chance," assuming a risk where the outcome is uncertain. What difference in principle if the risk is on the commodities of the stock market, the turn of a card or the roll of the dice, to buy insurance or to place a bet on a horse or dog race? Horse and dog racing are legal in Oregon.

Let us bury our inconsistencies, at a profit. Let us cast off our hypocrisies and go all the way.

New Hampshire has recently legalized a lottery. Ireland

has adopted the Sweepstakes and came out of national debt to become solvent. Nevada is prosperous with its gambling without overtaxing its small population, while Oregon is struggling along in debt to enjoy a righteousness it does not have.

To legalize gambling will call for tight laws and rigid vigilance, but "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Oregon can do it and solve a major part of its tax problem.

C. R. Burrill
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Anti-Dunes
To the Editor: People are asking, "What would be the cost of a sand dunes park as proposed by Sen. Maurice Neuberger?"

The cost can be divided into three parts:

(1) Acquisition of private property. A survey by the Interior Department stated it would cost \$7.5 million to acquire the 264 residences, 44 businesses and other property. This proposed park, however, takes in only a part of what Secretary Udall says he wants. He recommends that the park follow the boundaries advocated four years ago, taking in at least 130 more homes and much more land, thus bringing the total cost to an estimated \$10 million or more.

(2) Relocation of Highway 101, a move considered by park officials. The reasons are that relocation would avoid a highway through the park and would make it unnecessary to stabilize sand dunes. Conrad L. Wirth, park service director, announced that plans call for returning the 42,000-acre to wilderness and eliminating all housing. In the Jensen report (page 24) figures were presented by the park service estimating that the relocation would cost \$15 million.

(3) Construction of administration buildings and other installations would no doubt reach \$5 million, bringing the cost to \$30 million, probably a very low estimate.

The dunes area, the beaches and the lakes are already publicly owned. The state owns

the beaches. The U.S. Forest Service has about 19,000 acres along the coast next to the ocean which is used for recreation. The state has two excellent parks—Honeyman and Umpqua Lighthouse—in the dunes region. There is no vanishing seashore. To bring in another federal agency would be a waste of money, as it would result in duplication. It is obvious that the National Park Service had better spend its funds in keeping up the many parks it already has.

R. M. Falk, M.D.
Mapleton, Ore.

Brotherhood
To the Editor: Some time ago a writer in Communications castigated what he called "Bible-thumping" correspondents who try to lend weight to their otherwise feeble arguments by quoting copiously from the Bible—generally "proof-texts" taken out of context and which, in context, usually have meanings quite unrelated to or even at variance with their babblings.

Recently, I received in the mails a long-winded, single-spaced, typewritten letter from a Communications reader who appended to his name the appellation, "A Christian minister." Unlike some of the cowardly ones who fail to do so when writing to upbraid me for something I had written, this brother had the decency to sign his epistle. His theme seemed to be, "Yes, I, too, believe in brotherhood—BUT . . ." Following is my answer to this "minister."

"Somewhere I once read of a Scotsman who, visiting friends in this country, was taken to a movie by his hosts. Upon seeing a huge animal on the screen he'd never seen before, he asked, 'What in the world is that?' Told it was a moose, he exclaimed, 'Well, if that's a moose, I'd hate to see one of yours eat!'"

"If your 8-page epistle of April 15 is a 'message short and to the point' (that's how it began), I'd not be keen to read a letter in which you gave your imagination and loquacity free reign!

"As to the content of your 'message,' I'm afraid it reveals a tragic misreading and misunderstanding of the Bible, especially of the New Testament. Not in a long time have I come across anything so garbled and utterly alien to the spirit of the Gospel or even of the more enlightened teachings of the Old Testament. Please don't burden me with any more of your horrors."

I would remind that correspondent, and others equally careless in their use of the Scriptures, of the Gospel's pointed teachings:

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say unto you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you . . ." (Mt. 5:43-44 RSV); and "Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or why do you despise your brother? . . ."

Let us no more pass judgment on one another, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block in the way of a brother." (Rom. 14:10, 12 RSV).
Arnold Eugene Jenny
Rogue Valley Manor
Medford

Brother's Keeper
To the Editor: Were you lately shocked and grieved enough to fairly hang your head dejectedly in sorrow and shame over an occurrence you couldn't change?

Such was our experience in Grants Pass lately when two choice markets began to sell the morale-destroying, body-destroying, soul-destroying, intoxicants, beer and wine! "Saloon departments" a new grace—excuse me—disgrace convenient places in the two markets; and the checking clerk's must of necessity do as all bartenders do, and sell alcohol to the customers! And why? One reason, to make more money, even though performance it is "blood money." As Webster defines it, it may mean "money obtained from the sale of that which will destroy the purchaser."

Our dailies must now add accounts of more tragedies and deaths because more drunk drivers add to the toll; and how we all fear lest we meet that erratic driver beered or wine to a brain-muddled state! How guilty the purveyors are!

What would the Christ who drove the money mongers from the Temple do in modern respectability, claiming intoxicant purveying food markets which, contrary to the Scripture, lift the bottle to their erring neighbors' lips? That same neighbor who is journeying by their side to the discriminatory judgment where a just God separates and banishes from His presence those who failed to separate themselves from self-destroying evils in the day of mercy and grace!

Remonstrating with the general manager against this catering to the colossal evil of drink as it is shattering morals and manners; incapacitating and unfitting men and women and youth to meet the demands of life and living; desecrating to worse than animal life our God-given faculties; and arousing the worst of evil passions in our fellow men, his reply was, "If we don't sell it someone else will. They don't have to buy it. It's their own responsibility." I quoted the Bible, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth the bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also." Then he pleaded that they must sell it to keep going, for they were losing money! I judged he meant they weren't able to lay up ill-gotten blood-letting gain the breweries and wineries afforded them in the sale of destructive and murderous alcoholic "beverages." It was Cain who said after he had murdered his righteous brother, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

H. R. Bulman
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Life's Values
To the Editor: I early learned my lesson in tolerance. I had to stay after school one afternoon and copy from my Grammar, "Be to other's faults a little blind; be to their virtues very kind." 100 times! After I had finished, my

teacher added the advice: "What you see in others determines what YOU are." The threat of the "Bogyman" and the myths of "Santa Claus" and "the stork"—along with my first book of Fairy Tales—introduced me to fiction and the "white" lie; and as I grew up I became well acquainted with the use of the real lie, so often used by not only individuals and groups, but even by nations.

I recall my first lessons in recalling one's self: A playmate and I had been stealing a neighbor's grapes; but one day he caught us in the act and proceeded to "spoil all the fun" by announcing: "I've been watching you boys for some time; you don't have to steal 'em! Take all you want!"

It seems that life's values must be gleaned largely from both good and bitter experience. Strange to say, we are sometimes faced with the paradox not only of choosing between one right and another,

but between one wrong and another. As an example of the latter, I heard of a boy between his Irish and Mexican parentage, had to choose which side he would join in an impending gang-fight between the Irish and Mexican buddies. A stickler for a fair fight, he chose the Mexican gang because it was outnumbered. But, the next time out, he chose the Irish gang—for the same reason!

There are so many controversial problems in our society today that it behooves each of us to keep an open mind and withhold judgment until all the facts are in. As our Indians so well put it: "You can't judge a man until you have walked in his moccasins."

In any event, we should avoid allowing ourselves to become the "holier than thou" sort of person who is always right. It is inevitable that people will occasionally use

fantastic rate of speed and the production economy is bewildering. It is the best managed, finest operated and cleanest business the world has ever known. We should offer compliments on the near perfect profession. Tobacco has given Americans more pleasure, more leisure and more contentment than any other country in the world.

George M. Babcock
427 Hospital Dr.
Ashland, Ore.

Happiness Is Tobacco
To the Editor: Somehow or other I cannot help but love and admire people who smoke. Stay close on my heels and I will tell you, should you wonder why.

Housework, once a drudgery, suddenly becomes easier while enjoying a cigarette. Women love their work and look upon it as though they wouldn't be engaged in anything else or an other occupation.

The princess and the farmer's daughter alike look upon smoking as the greatest gift on earth since the broom, looked upon by women not as a special art, but one that can

be shared with the men they love. Tobacco has become as essential in the domain of a happy household as sowlberry on the table. It is a fact that no woman would remain long with a man who did not provide her with cigarettes or the means of obtaining them. The woman of today regards it her personal duty to provide three meals a day for her family. She sees everything is done properly in return for complete enjoyment of smoking while she works. A woman is not content to get all the pleasure of smoking, so she shares with her husband that which he has supplied for her. Mother nature has fulfilled her function with ingredients of beneficial results.

In spite of the fact that I know little of where tobacco comes from, I shall always believe people of sound reason and good judgment are tobacco users, and specifically speaking, of our society. Tobacco users operate at a

fantastic rate of speed and the production economy is bewildering. It is the best managed, finest operated and cleanest business the world has ever known. We should offer compliments on the near perfect profession. Tobacco has given Americans more pleasure, more leisure and more contentment than any other country in the world.

The value of tobacco, so richly deserved, coming from the very soil from which all men were created, carries the same beauty and wonder of man.

War against tobacco will overpower the counsel. Take heed, get the beam of a cigarette light in your eye while you have yet time to enjoy the relaxation it offers you. In a short time America will be abused beyond the tobacco field and it will be too late to know the value of tobacco.

W. Dykes
Central Point, Ore.

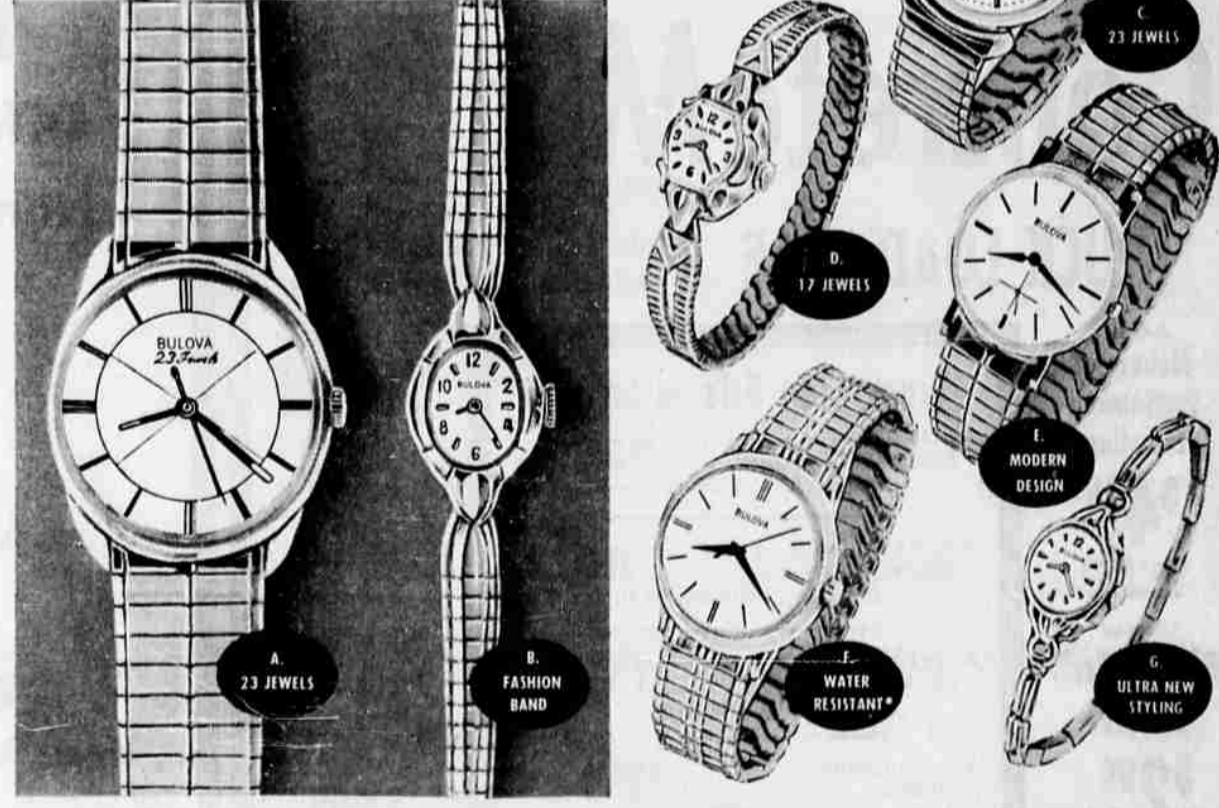
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Poets' Corner

Conducted by
Arnold Eugene Jenny

Without Poets
Without poets we could not see through the fogs and fancies of life. Indeed it seems obvious . . . that our poets have a far better grasp of the ultimates than politicians and preachers do. God has given poets the knack of being able to push aside the irrelevant and inane and to lift all of us above the wearying empiricism of every day.—Alfred P. Klausler, in The Christian Century, 3/30/63.

Modern Science*
We are indeed afraid of monsters we create:
Before the secrets we have dragged into the light
We cower frightened as they turn our day to night,
And shaking in the dark we must await our fate.
—W. Arthur Boggs
Oswego, Ore.

*From the author's "Odyssey And Other Poems," by permission. Originally published in The Christian Century.

No Star To See
No highway smooth
Before me lies
With center line
To guide my eyes;
No course is mapped
To mark my way,
Nor charted route
Wrong steps to stay;
No compass sure
The poles to show
When fog beshrouds
The stars' pale glow.
Utterly confused,
I wander still,
Whether my way
Be good or ill.
—George H. Bell
Medford

Beyond
A fiddle-footed cowboy rode
Full many years ago
For, what was just behind that hill
He simple had to know.
In later years he drove a car
Down highways firm and smooth,
For that same longing burned within
Which he still sought to soothe.
The billboards, stretched on either side
For weary mile on mile,
Proclaimed each brand of cigaret,
The only smoke worth-while.
He studied half a dozen brands
Of luscious, foaming beer,
Each guaranteed to bring the most
Of happiness and cheer.
He saw a swim-suit on a maid,
Curvaceous to a fault,
And just beside her, on the beach,
An appetizing malt.
In apathy he gazed at these;
Each glaring "ad" he conned;
And, as in youth, the longing grew
To see what was beyond.
—Jack Finel
Central Point, Ore.

Dreams
The winds have cast their shadow
On the moon tonight.
Dim footprints of old fantasies
Are moulded by the light,
Where dreams have knelt in stardust
On broken twigs of sleep.
—Mystery Alires
Portland, Ore.

Hush Puppies

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