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The Tide Toward Freedom

It is easy — too easy — to look about us and conclude that the world is going straight to the dogs. There is enough bleak evidence that all is not well, that the forces of totalitarianism are on the ascendency. During the past quarter-century there have been a world war and the Korean war, to say nothing of the cold war. Today's college graduates have known nothing but international discord and upset, wars, revolutions and tension. Still, we are reminded by James Reston of the New York Times, despite these unassailable facts, the long-range trend is in the direction of freedom, not domination.

THE spirit of domination, Reston says, is losing, not winning, nearly wherever it comes into contact with the forces of liberation. It is losing in the American South — not fast enough, but it is losing. After 100 years since slavery was abolished, the Negro is finally beginning to achieve full citizenship. It won't come all at once, but the break-through has been made, and the rest will follow. The forces of domination are losing elsewhere, too, Reston declares, and "the liberating spirit" is on the ascendency. He states:

"This is perhaps the most powerful tide of these last 22 years. It has liberated India, the Middle East, the most of Africa. Almost 800,000,000 people have gained their independence since this week's graduates were born. Europe has not only been liberated but restored and is now being united. Only the white supremacists and the Communists, whom the white supremacists blame for everything, are holding out for the idea of domination. But the spirit of the age is against them, and that is the graduation present of the Class of '63."

IT WOULD be easy to pick holes in Reston's thesis, and there are obvious exceptions — in China, in eastern Europe, in parts of Asia, in South Africa. But, looking over the events during the lifetimes of today's graduates, it must be conceded that Reston is more right than he is wrong. There are monumental problems to be solved — hunger, over-population, decent standards of living, education, industrialization, and all the rest. But the tide IS, slowly, almost imperceptibly, flowing in the direction of freedom. May it continue.—E.A.

The Rites of Death

The current issue of The Atlantic has an article entitled "The Undertakers' Racket," by Jessica Mitford. It deals with funerals and funeral customs and practices in this country. A clergyman of our acquaintance has urged his congregation to read the article for, he said, "finally an author and a national magazine have had the courage to print some common sense and some facts in regard to the maudlin, deceptive and pagan practices which surround what Jessica Mitford calls 'the death industry.'"

"It is disturbing to be told that in 1960 the expenditure for funeral arrangements for each American adult who died averaged \$1,450 — that we Americans spent more memorializing, beautifying and interring our departed friends and loved ones in 1960 than we spent for higher education, for the conservation of natural resources, for fire and police protection — about \$2 billion. "It is enlightening to read that we are the only nation in today's world that embalms its dead; that there is no legal and medical necessity for doing so, and certainly no religious justification for the attempt to preserve temporarily the physical body after death; that we have been sold a costly, pagan and calculated bill of goods. It is interesting to read what happened when Jessica Mitford challenged the undertakers' claims that certain procedures and expenses... are required by law. They are not. "The making of lovely and fitting arrangements for a departed loved one is always difficult, even when some careful and unemotional forethought has been given to the tastes, values and convictions involved. But it would be so much less difficult for us all if we were not 'trapped' by pagan religious traditions and subtle commercial pressures..."

GRIEF is a most understandable and fitting human emotion, as is the impulse to do everything possible to honor one who was loved and who has died.

The emotion and the impulse have been part of the human tradition since the Pharaohs erected the pyramids as their own tombs. State funerals have always played a major role in the panoplies of nations and churches. And, to many, the rites of custom and tradition are a way of easing their own grief by paying honor to those who have gone.

FURTHERMORE, those charged with the tasks of caring for the dead perform a necessary service, any many of them will do so with simplicity and dignity, if that is the wish expressed to them.

Despite this, it has long been our conviction that too often the rites of death in this country are, as our minister friend declares, steeped in "maudlin, deceptive and pagan practices," with trappings and rituals which do little enough to honor the dead or console the living. Death comes to all. How we face it is our own affair, and it should be our own affair to choose the accoutrements and ceremonies with which we bid farewell to those who are gone, without deception, and without subtle pressures to violate our own sense of values and good taste.—E.A.

If you haven't done it, try arising before sun-up one of these lovely, early-summer mornings. Watch the lightening eastern sky, listen to the birds chirping their welcome to the day, and smell—smell the verdant foliage. It's a tonic.—E.A.

"Well, I Tried To Block The Doorway"



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.

Flag Week To the Editor: Concerning Flag week, Friday, June 14, 1963, expressed by P. A. Horton, Los Angeles: Our flag is not the emblem of a ruler, but a true symbol of the authority of a free people who believe that all men are created equal, the emblem of our Constitution, our heritage and all that is truly American, representing the accomplishments of our people who have reached heights of human endeavor never before known, standing for the dignity of the individual and the inalienable rights with which we are endowed by our Creator. That is why our flag is dipped to no man, but only in reverence to God. With confident belief in Divine Providence, a people who loved freedom carved a nation out of a wilderness that was part of an autocratic empire at a time when all nations were ruled by despots. The flags of mighty kings of that day have long since gone, but the Stars and Stripes remain. Alone it stands in splendor as the first flag in human history dedicated to the personal and religious freedom of mankind, known as the flag of liberty. It signaled a new concept of government, a government of the people whose powers are granted by them and are exercised directly for their benefit. Those who live under our flag and are loyal to it are loyal to truth, justice, and courage, keenly alive to the responsibilities of American citizenship, and proud of this glorious privilege. In the blood stream of men, whiskey is like a small stream of water, slowly filling into a vast lake. As time passes the liquor sneakily in creases the land mark of stopping or being able to refuse the next drink. The gluton thus slowly sinks into his own whiskey lake. On two feet I can stand and look a gluton in the eye and tell if he's selfish with his drink or not. I have grown calm and coldly wise in exchange for my youth. It should be a lesson to every one to keep your head above the tide, even when the lake overflows. I have learned the lesson from sufficient conclusions, but I hardly choose my past. It was pleasant and was meant to be, I sort of feel it was created for some one else's sake. In passing the crest of life I look back and come to the conclusion the game isn't worth a candle. E. Dykes, 173 West Gregory rd., Central Point, Ore.

Not Worth It To the Editor: To eat is human, to digest is divine, but a full belly makes a dull brain. There are more gutters than drunkards in hell. The only trouble with drinking is, the flesh is willing, but the spirits are too strong. The whiskey bottle is college. The spirits within have graduated and earned honors. The path to graduation was rough and thorny, but the history of whiskey is of a humble nature and is a volume in itself. It has never fallen very low and with all its opportunities, has never risen to the highest standards. In the blood stream of men, whiskey is like a small stream of water, slowly filling into a vast lake. As time passes the liquor sneakily in creases the land mark of stopping or being able to refuse the next drink. The gluton thus slowly sinks into his own whiskey lake. On two feet I can stand and look a gluton in the eye and tell if he's selfish with his drink or not. I have grown calm and coldly wise in exchange for my youth. It should be a lesson to every one to keep your head above the tide, even when the lake overflows. I have learned the lesson from sufficient conclusions, but I hardly choose my past. It was pleasant and was meant to be, I sort of feel it was created for some one else's sake. In passing the crest of life I look back and come to the conclusion the game isn't worth a candle. E. Dykes, 173 West Gregory rd., Central Point, Ore.

Rickens Leaving To the Editor: After 6 1/2 years in Medford, Mrs. Ricken and I have grown to love it and the many fine people that we have met here. It now becomes necessary for us to move to another appointment. We wish it were possible to tell each of you personally how much you have meant to us. We hope you will forgive us for this impersonal way of telling you of our transfer, but due to the number of friends we have acquired it has become necessary to let you know this way. Your support, interest and concern for the program of The Salvation Army during these past years has been appreciated, and we trust you will continue in the future as we have done in the past. We trust at some future date we may visit Medford to see you again. We pray that you and yours shall enjoy the richest of God's blessings. William Ricken, Major The Salvation Army Medford.

Just As Important To the Editor: Thanks E.A. for that little Twister problem. And a tip of my old Sombrero to Joe and Ray for being the first to send in a solution to same. But why stop there? Let's find out how long that groove is that travels under the needle. Hope some brain will come up with an answer. My mind, feeble as it is, is the type that likes to delve into the facts about things such as cabbages and kings and how to put a man on the moon (not me). Have put in a little time on the matter and didn't get very far (I record). Need a side rule or calculator of some kind. The groove spirals in to form 157 circles. Outside one has a diameter of 11 inches and a circumference of 34.5576 inches. Progressing inward, each diameter reduces by 2/70 of an inch or .0285

Help People To the Editor: While they are having these world church councils they should find a way to add a peace corps

Kurds' Desire for Independence Still Is Disruptive Factor in Middle East

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst After the late Brig. Gen. Abdul Karim Kassem overthrew the monarchy of Iraq in 1958, one of his first acts was to permit the return from Soviet exile of a Kurdish leader named Mullah Mustafa Al-Barzani. And in 1959 when a my units in the northern region of Mosul rebelled against Kassem, the Kurds largely were responsible for putting the rebellion down. Four years and another revolution later, the relationship between the warlike Kurds and the Baghdad government twice has gone full circle.



In the Day's News

From Washington: Oregon Democrats went before the appropriations subcommittees of both houses of the congress the other day to press for approval of budget requests for public works projects in Oregon. Senator Morse and Senator Neuberger recommended to the Senate public works subcommittee that (Oregon) spending proposed in President Kennedy's budget be INCREASED by about \$8 million. Similar requests that the budget be adjusted upward were made by Representatives Edith Green, Robert Duncan and Al Ullman.

SENATOR Morse, in a prepared statement, urged that a budget request for \$57 million for the John Day dam be upped to \$71 million because of "long delays that have ensued in past years." He also urged that \$545,000 be added to the budget for the Coos and Millicoma Rivers project to help provide cheap transportation for logs in the Coos Bay area. Senator Neuberger endorsed a budget request for a project to deepen the Columbia river channel to 40 feet. She noted that the project had the endorsement of Representative Norblad (Republican) of Oregon, and Representative Julia Hansen, of the state of Washington.

QUESTION: Is there anything WRONG with these requests that our kind old Uncle in Washington come across with more money for his nephews and nieces out here in Oregon? PROBABLY not. If the John Day Dam is going to be built, it ought to be finished as soon as possible. And if long delays in its construction have added \$14 million to its cost, Uncle should put up the difference. The same is true in the case of the Coos Bay projects. And no one in Oregon, I think, will quarrel with the contention that the channel of the Columbia river should be deepened to 40 feet as far up as Portland. The state of Oregon needs a deep water port — and the fact that Portland is a hundred miles back in the interior makes it all the more important. That brings ships CLOSER TO THEIR CARGOES — and that can mean better markets for Oregon products.

BUT — Over the years — We have fallen into delusion that these things are FREE GIFTS from our good old Uncle in Washington. They aren't. ACCORDING to figures just compiled by Tax Foundation, Inc., Oregon received in federal fiscal 1962 total federal grants-in-aid amounting to \$97.4 million. The estimated OREGON BURDEN of these "gifts" came to a total of \$78.4 million. Which is to say: For every dollar of federal grants-in-aid (backsheesh, if you want to use a rough word for it) received by Oregon from the federal government in the 1962 fiscal year, Oregon PAID BACK to the federal government 80.5 cents in the form of federal taxes. BUT — at that, Oregon did pretty well. In 1962, California received from Uncle in the form of federal grants-in-aid the sum of \$724.4 million and PAID BACK to Uncle in the form of federal taxes a total of \$824.1 million. In other words, for every dollar received, California PAID BACK \$1.14.

type of program. It is about time for them to bring economics into their teaching to help people take care of themselves. William R. Sullivan 1116 South Flower Los Angeles 13, Calif.

Geographically, the Kurds spread from Mt. Ararat, fabled landing place of Noah's Ark, in the west to the Tigris in the east. Historically, they go back to a vague origin which has been traced to 2,000 years before Christ. They participated in the fall of biblical Nineveh and Babylon. They fought with Saladin against the Christian crusaders and in 1257 they massacred an army of 20,000 Mongols. Their record is one of fierce independence, which in more recent years has been exploited by the Soviet Union to add to the turbulence of the always-unsteady Middle East. Although the Kurds deny that they are pro-Communist, the Soviet Union supports their demands for autonomy and gave shelter to Mullah Mustafa Barzani against the former royal government of Iraq. Presumably, the Soviets also aid them with weapons. In Iraq, the Kurds number around a million, or about one-fifth of the population. Their northern mountain strongholds place them in a position to threaten the important oil-producing area around Kirkuk. Their charge against the new Iraqi government is one of bad faith. The autonomy promised them in return for their help in overthrowing Kassem has not been forthcoming. They charge that Iraqi police continue to arrest Kurds and that Kurdish negotiators in Baghdad also face the threat of arrest. The Kurdish threat is not the only one facing the new Iraq regime. Land reform, promised but haphazardly carried out by Kassem, is a major problem. So is the proposed union among Syria, Iraq and Egypt. And so are the local communities. Sensitive to Communist charges that political prisoners are being mistreated, the government this week asked philosopher Bertrand Russell either to come himself or to send representatives to investigate.

Strictly Personal

By Sydney J. Harris (c) Field Enterprises, Inc.

ON WRITING In New York recently, I was introduced to a young man who had just resigned his position in a brokerage firm in order to become a writer. We chatted for a half-hour about his new life, and I was tempted to ask him: "What is it that you have to say?" For it seemed perfectly plain to me that this affable, not unintelligent young man was singularly devoid of any ideas or views that cried out to be heard. He wants to say something, but he seems to have nothing of special importance to say. There is a widespread mistaken notion that "writing" is a talent that exists in a void — a sense of words and phrases, a style, a gift of expression and arrangement. But this is only the hollow form of writing; it needs to be filled with substance. Nine-tenths of all writers, including many of the established ones, have very little to say. Their worldview is either banal, unformed, or non-existent. They are a mass of feelings and inchoate ideas, but these have never been enough to give shape and point and direction to literary works. Good writing — as distinct from mere "style" — is first of all sound thinking. A writer needs a prehensile mind, one that can grasp an idea and hold it in the round, firmly and forcibly, using it as a tool. I don't even mean that these ideas need necessarily be conscious ones — but they must be present, driving the engine and providing its motive power. The young man in New York, like so many of his kind, feels that the urge to "express himself" is a valid enough reason. It is not. The writer does not express "himself" — he expresses his view of the world, refracted through his own unique personality. Unless he can objectify himself — which takes study, patience, and the right shape of mind to begin with — he would do better to express himself by taking up

How the Racist Gets His Kicks

By Arthur Hoppo

The doctrine of separate but equal educational facilities in the South is in trouble. The trouble is the NAACP has opened a school in Mississippi to teach Negro kids off the stool and... No! How many times I got to tell you, not sideways. Q-What's wrong with sideways? A-You might jostle some white folk on the next stool. George, you show how. That's right. Scuff of the neck... Pull straight back... And now as he falls K.K. comes through with a beautiful... K.K. you missed again! You're never going to make All-Southern Conference that way, boy. Q-K.K. was supposed to kick him as he fell? A-That's right. We call it, "The Dropkick." George drops him and K.K. kicks him. Our research staff found it's best to kick the Nigra in midair. Before he gets a chance to curl up. Q-It must take split-second timing. A-Aid teamwork. Once the Nigra curls up, you can't get to his belly. So George will have to go for the kidney and... Not with your fist, George! Remember the motto of OI' Miss: "When in doubt, George, punt. That's it." Q-A George is getting good distance these days. We're mighty proud of that boy. Straight A's in bicycle riding, squat tag... Q-Squat tag? A-We got a well-rounded program of physical fitness. Q-I guess segregation does depend greatly these days on the strong right arm of its defenders. A-Strong right legs, son, strong right legs. All right there, students, here come the police to break it up. Let's all applaud now as they drag the Nigra away for disturbing the peace. Q-It's early in the season.

Four Teachers to Attend Programs Four members of the staff of Hedrick Junior High School have been selected to receive scholarships, fellowships or travel opportunities this summer. Dick Carter, foreign language instructor, from June 21 through Aug 22 will participate in the language and culture tour of Spain under the auspices of the American Heritage foundation. Vernon Arnold, mathematics instructor, will attend the third year of a three-year scholarship sponsored by the National Science foundation scholarship program at Oregon State university. Lewis Thanes, mathematics, another recipient of a National Science Foundation scholarship, will be at Reed college, Portland from June 17 to Aug. 9. Bruce Nelson, dean of boys, will be at Wayne State university, Detroit, Mich., from June 24 to Aug. 16, on a scholarship provided by the National Science Foundation. Speaker Is Former Medford Resident Roland C. Blake, formerly with the U.S. Department of Agriculture research unit at Medford, and now supervisor of the Federal Small Fruits Research station at Southern Illinois university, was guest speaker at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station's tenth annual Small Fruit day Thursday at Wooster.

What's Your I.Q.? Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good. 1. Which Biblical character had a coat of many colors? 2. In which of Shakespeare's plays is Shylock a character? 3. On which side is a cow usually milked? 4. How many thousand dollar bills would there be in one million dollars? 5. Which American college is named for two English sovereigns? 6. In what city is the famous Newgate Prison? 7. Correct the following: "Joe, as well as his father, is going hunting." 8. Which of the original 13 colonies was last to be founded? 9. In postal usage, what is a "nixie"? 10. What was the name of Esau's brother? Answers: 1. Joseph. 2. "The Merchant of Venice." 3. Usually right. 4. One thousand. 5. William and Mary. 6. London. 7. It is correct. 8. Georgia. 9. Dead letter. 10. Jacob.



"With so much grandeur and beauty in the world, it's hard to believe men can be so petty at times. 'Course, by comparison, they are!'"

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Flight o' Time Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO June 14, 1953 (Sunday) Jackson county's total net taxable value, exclusive of utilities, has been figured at \$50,258,820 for the current year. Mrs. Stephen Nye, 816 West Tenth st., has been reelected to the Medford school board.

20 YEARS AGO June 14, 1943 (Monday) Possibility of hay shortage in Rogue valley seen by County Agent Robert G. Fowler. From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Cooks are now using oatmeal and soy beans as meat 'stretchers.' Strive as they will, they can't make both ends meet."

30 YEARS AGO June 14, 1933 (Wednesday) County fruit growers meeting postponed due to inability of Dr. Henry Hartman to arrive with annual report. Woman president of Good Government Congress and county judge linked with local ballot theft cases.

40 YEARS AGO June 14, 1923 (Thursday) Brisk demand for residential property reported in Gold Hill. Bonds for construction of new Medford high school building costing \$160,000 defeated by 27 votes.

50 YEARS AGO June 14, 1913 (Saturday) Five persons escape injury when car overturns at 50 miles an hour; vehicle undamaged except for broken windshield. "Most notorious of Oregon City game poachers" arrested at Ament dam for fishing in restricted area.

Actress, Infant Son Reported Doing Well Hollywood — (AP) — Actress Abby Dalton, co-star of Joey Bishop's television show, and her infant son were reported doing fine today in Valley Presbyterian hospital. Miss Dalton, wife of businessman Jack Smith, gave birth to the 7 pound 9 ounce boy Thursday. It was the couple's first child.