

... 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.

The Issue
To the Editor: In respect to the controversy of the Rogue Valley book-burners, we, myself included, are missing the point. The question boils down to this: Who is to say whether or not "The Last Temptation of Christ" is obscene? Certainly not a group of prejudiced, devilish book-burners, such as we now have in action in Jackson county. By the same token, not a group elected or appointed by a city or a county government, nor a county or a county government, nor even a state or a state government. Only the United States courts speak for the people.

It is for this reason that any obscenity law passed in Jackson county or anywhere else would be illegal. It is illegal because it prevents the people from exercising their rights. It is illegal because it sets up a few people as gods, literally, who dictate to others what they can or cannot read. It is rather like dictating to others when they can or cannot breathe. The freedom to read what we please is as valuable as the freedom to breathe the air of the United States. Making obscenity laws unconstitutional prevents the type of prejudiced vendetta we in the Rogue Valley are witnessing today.

Naturally, a line must be drawn somewhere. This is why a book is taken to the courts when a reasonable number of people begin to consider it obscene. The courts then decide the issue openly and freely, weighing both sides of the argument against each other. Each member of the court responsible for judging the book reads it as many times as is necessary for him to do so in order to understand it. Then, and only then, does he render his judgment.

It is obvious that not all of our book-burners have read the book they oppose, which is a typical thing with book-burners, and the ones who have, do not really understand it. This is supported by the quotations pulled out of context that Mrs. Black used.

In summing up: The issue is not now whether or not the book is obscene, but who shall judge it so. Let us not lose sight of this in our actions.

Dan Hays,
431 South Front St.,
Central Point, Ore.

Redden Challenged
To the Editor: In Rep. James A. Redden's letter of 5/12/63, Medford Mail Tribune, he made several misstatements in answer to my letter that I wrote in favor of the Liberty Amendment. I sent his letter to Mr. Willis Stone, the originator of the Liberty Amendment. Mr. Stone writes: "Mr. Redden is guilty of some flagrant misstatements of truth. Either he has failed to read the Liberty Amendment or the Constitution or both. Under any circumstances, he has failed to comprehend either."

He said that the sponsors would have gladly testified at the hearing but because of his long association and research on the subject, he was invited to appear before them. Mr. Stone wanted to know how Mr. Redden could prove that the sponsors intended to vote against the resolution. "This is on the wild side without any indication of truth."

Another misstatement was made that no House member had said that they would vote for it. Despite fantastic pressures brought against the committee, three members of the nine man committee did vote for it.

Mr. Redden said: "Take the government out of all business." Another misstatement, because the government of the United States has legitimate business activities which are spelled out in the original Constitution of the United States. As the Liberty Amendment is designed only to give force and effect to the Constitution, all of the activities and natural business of the government of the United States will be retained exactly as the Constitution provides. Mr. Redden should know this.

When he says that the Liberty Amendment would crush corporations, "Mr. Redden hasn't the remotest idea of what he is talking about. It would do nothing of the kind. It would relieve the corporations from the most ruthless competitor ever known to man. It would stop the inhuman practice of double taxation upon the earnings of corporations."

particularly when they are so flagrantly untrue. But if this is the pattern of the capacity to think and the ability to truly state the circumstances of provable economics and law, then it would seem to me that it is high time for Mr. Redden's removal from the State Legislature."

Mrs. G. S. Jennings,
218 Saginaw Dr.,
Medford

Thoughts on Race
To the Editor: "Is the pot to ask the potter, why has thou fashioned me thus?" (Romans 9, 29). Later in the new testament we are reminded of "vessels of clay." It is only through the will of God, as manifested in the natural law that certain "vessels" are fashioned from a different color clay.

Color problem? No! Rather what concerns us principally in man is his higher life. For it is the higher life that makes man so priceless. It should be kept in mind, however, that clay admirably symbolizes man's frailty.

But why should there be different races? An answer to this can be found in a brief study of some scientific conclusions resulting from research of five key words: Mutation, selection, adaptation, migration and isolation.

Mutation occurs from an abrupt change in the structure of a gene. In the case of dark skin in a people, they may have been favored in an area of intense sunlight. This reflects the theory of natural selection. Skin color is only one of a number of characteristics subject to this kind of development. Scientists do not know the skin color of early man, the mutation could just as easily have been from dark to light skin. Migration and

isolation played even a more important role. After early migration people lived for thousands of years in isolation and yet scientists conclude that men of different races have a great deal more in common than they do at variance. When we consider the myriads of genes, those accounting for the differences in races are very few, which leads to the fact that all are basically one race.

Then what of race superiority? There is the blood, divided into four types; but aside from varying concentrations of blood types in some races, blood has no racial significance at all (yet we get some idea of fear, confusion and ignorance present today when in the U. S. some doctors are required to keep Negro and white blood separate). There is the argument from evolution, and race supremacists point to the comparisons of the receding forehead and small brain of the ape. They then go to the larger brain of the Negro, then to the Mongoloid and lastly to the still larger brain of the Caucasoid (average). Well scientists reject evolution from the ape in a single line; also the ape is hairy and thin-lipped, and of course, the hairiest and most thin-lipped of the three major races is the white races.

If you will allow it, I would like to continue these thoughts in another letter.

Robert J. Howard
792 Beekman St.
Medford.

For Enlightenment
To the Editor: This is written for the enlightenment of the several writers whose letters revealed their lack of knowledge of historical facts with reference to Jesus and the

supposed "resurrection." Let me assure them that Pierre van Passen, the Unitarian writer I mentioned in my letter, is an authority on the subject. In the light of modern research and Biblical criticism he has stripped the traditional story of myths, legends, and other accretions of time and produced a recital of breathless interest in his book "Why Jesus Died."

Here is a revealing fact with which the average person is not familiar, quoted from Pierre van Passen's book:

"The metaphysical personage who emerged from the creeds drawn up in various Councils succeeding the Council of Nicaea in the year 325—who was 'conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, who descended into hell, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven to sit on the right hand of God, the Father', is not a human being. He is the Christ of the Church, a symbol borrowed from Greek philosophy and mythology. He is a dogma, a fleeting unseizable image existing in the thought of schoolmen. He is not the Jesus of history, the man who lived and breathed and slept and died in Palestine at the beginning of the present era."

In other words, the Jesus who was "resurrected" never existed. He is simply one of the world's 16 mythical crucified saviors about whom the same story is told. The real Jesus never rose from the dead after his death on the cross. That is an impossibility for any human being. Those who still believe in the "resurrection" of a Jesus who was not human are worshipping a myth. Enlightened people, on the other hand who know the facts, unanimously agree that the crucifixion of the inoffensive Jesus was the worst crime that was ever committed.

Lydia Burnham,
814 Warne St.,
Prescott, Ariz.

Convictions Shaken
To the Editor: Have you ever been a firm believer in your convictions and then suddenly had those convictions shaken and change your mind?

Recently I had the opportunity to represent my firm of Harry and David in a tour of some of the Portland agencies that are recipients of the United Medford Crusade and I must say, my convictions were very much shaken.

Many people believe that the cases handled by these agencies in Portland are some other else's problems. Such is not the case. All of these agencies help many cases from our own Jackson county. The accomplishments of these agencies on such limited funds is astounding. I would like to present some of the "pictures" that I saw on this tour.

I wish that it were possible for all people to meet Miss Eida Russell of the Louise Home for Girls, a school for delinquent and wayward girls and of the Albertina Kerr Nursery.

Miss Russell is one of those rare persons who is so completely and wholeheartedly dedicated to her work of helping people. In fact, when you listen to her speak of

"her" infants and young girls, you feel ashamed for having begrudged your contribution to the Crusade. This woman has assumed a work load that would make a husky man stagger, in order that others might benefit by her sacrifice.

Some of the other agencies that I refer to are:

St. Mary's School for Boys: Where Father Goodrich's philosophy and understanding is extended to young boys regardless of race and creed. Some of these boys have never known the comforts of a real home. What this home lacks in modern conveniences, it makes up for in the personal attention that each boy receives from Father Goodrich and the Sisters.

Our Lady of Providence Nursery: Where each Sister personally worries through the long nights with a sick child, handicapped or normal.

The University of Oregon Medical School: Where your contribution goes into research. Each and every person benefits by this research. Everytime a person becomes ill and receives a miracle drug or a new type of surgery, these and many more achievements in research are due to a contribution.

So the next time you are asked to contribute to the Medford Crusade, before you give your pat answer of, "My husband gives at the office!" Stop and think! Thank God for the agencies and dedicated people mentioned above and feel good in your heart knowing that your contribution is going to help a youngster to know a normal way of life for the first time, or perhaps it will be YOUR contribution that will help find the cure for cancer.

Stop and think!
Violet S. Cummings,
Personnel Assistant
for
Harry and David,
Medford

Legislature Defended
To the Editor: The sharp criticism of the legislature prompts me to speak up in its defense. As a private citizen and an official of a citizens group, I worked closely with the legislature on a number of bills and resolutions. Of course I was disappointed that certain bills failed and that others passed. Nevertheless, I was impressed by the diligence, courtesy, and sincerity of most legislators. They put in long hours of work starting early in the morning and often lasting into the night. They are subject to harassment, ridicule and intense political pressures. Yet they spend months away from home at an indispensable albeit thankless job. The average legislator is, in a word, unappreciated.

The legislature is criticized for not accomplishing much (despite their hard work) and for a great deal of wrangling and bickering. But is it the fault of the legislature that little was accomplished? The House is split with 31 Democrats and 29 Republicans. The Senate is dominated by an uneasy coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats. The executive and legislative branches are controlled

by different parties. Both branches operate under an obsolete state constitution. Given these formidable handicaps it is a wonder that anything at all was accomplished. It is also true that disharmony prevailed, particularly toward the end of the session. But this is not bad; it is good. It is a manifestation of conflicting convictions strongly held. Without such convictions they would indeed have a short, harmonious session. But it would be characterized by apathetic consent to every whim of every special interest, and the state would be left in a shambles.

If more people could have seen the legislature in action, particularly its tollsome committees, more would join in thanking the representatives and senators for a job done under difficult circumstances.

Janet McLennan
Executive Secretary,
Bipartisan League to
Retain Equal
Representation,
7101 S.E. 36th ave.,
Portland, Ore.

BLM Tour
To the Editor: Mr. Walter Craig, president of the Jackson County Chapter of the Oregon Fish and Game Council, has the following comments regarding the field trip with the Bureau of Land Management that we would like to have printed in the paper:

"The Jackson county chapter and the Klamath county chapter of the Oregon Fish and Game Council met with the Bureau of Land Management at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 9, at the BLM office in Lakeview. Mr. George Lea, district supervisor, took the members on a guided tour of the areas they were spraying to kill the sagebrush. The area ranges from about seven miles south of Hart Mountain to approximately three miles into Nevada. It was found that the BLM is spraying nothing but sagebrush. Mr. Lea stated that they were leaving the Bitterbrush completely alone, that they are re-seeding these areas with crowned wheat and alfalfa which is to be utilized by both cattle and wildlife. Mr. Lea stated that they had cut the grazing permits in half this year and that the wildlife, in the future as well as in the past, will have preference over livestock.

"It is the opinion of the Oregon Fish and Game Council that the BLM is doing their job well in restoring sagebrush ground to a useful purpose. We go on record as being 100 per cent behind the BLM in the re-seeding of these sagebrush areas. We feel that the re-seeding the BLM is doing will place a greater amount of food at the disposal of our wildlife and the BLM should be commended for a job well done.

"It might be further mentioned that they are building dams in all areas possible to catch and store the winter run-off. Mr. Lea has invited us to another field trip at a later date to check the progress of the re-seeding and we have accepted this invitation.

"Mr. Bob Maben, Jackson county game biologist, will be at the next meeting of the Jackson county chapter of the Oregon Fish and Game Council which will be held June 22, 8 p.m. at the Central Point Sportsmen's Building on Pine. He is going to bring some slides that were taken along the irrigation ditch in the Howard Prairie system. The problem of the deer being lost in this ditch will be discussed. Our organization will work with Mr. Maben in trying to reach a satisfactory solution to bring the death rate of the deer along this ditch down. We cordially invite everyone interested to attend this meeting."

Mrs. Ken (Shirley) Oswald
Secretary
Jackson County Chapter
P. O. Box 83
Gold Hill, Ore.

Race and the Constitution
To the Editor: I admire your editorial of June 7, 1963 and its clear cut understanding of the Constitution of our nation.

I was also very much interested in your editorial of Wednesday, dealing with the teaching of Communism in schools. You recognized the value of a perfect understanding of this controversial ideology. You also expressed a real fear that subject might not be taught in the proper manner, that the full truth and aspects may not be brought out or be slanted by biased personal sentiment. Any subject of this magnitude should be taught in a truly academic sense. Your fears are well justified by the manner in which our Constitution has been handled.

This wave of racial problems, with which we are faced today, is only the outcome of the injustices of man to man as far back as history records. This is not local or surprising for every medium of news reflects man's cry for Freedom the world over, nor is it anything organized or planned; it is only that education on part of the oppressed is enhanced by class distinction, racial hatred and all other forms of bigotry and ignorance, tended to bring to a head the turmoil that has through all these past ages goaded men everywhere to demand their rightful liberties at this chronological period in history.

Too few have been taught or have grasped the fact that state rights and state sovereignty went out when the Confederation of States failed

PET TALK

By M. I. L.

ANALYSIS OF CRUELTY

The subject of cruelty is endless. We are concerned here with only two positions: that cruelty is universal, and that it is immoral. Cruelty is so universal that it cannot have been disseminated by word or example only. It is found in all nations, peoples and tribes at every stage of their civilization, beginning very early and continuing, even if underground, through their zenith. It is not confined to any class.

The magazine "True" for January, 1962, published some very revolting pictures of dogfights at a convention, where the plight of torn and stricken victims is even less revolting than the eager, concentrated, intense gaze of the spectators, gloating over the savagery.

Dogfighting is against the law to give our infant nation any binding fabric of unity and protection. Therefore it became evident that a parent body, namely a Federal Government, with obligations and authority, a supreme law that assures equality and protection and unity guaranteed by the Constitutionally created system of legislative, judicial and executive, was needed.

The acceptance of the Constitution and its first seven famous words of its preamble "We, the people of the United States," also the clearly defined second paragraph of Article 6, automatically replaced states' rights and state sovereignty in the year of 1789. The adoption of amendments 13, 14 and 15 in 1870 put a legal end to racial discrimination, and it is to the everlasting glory of our President that he demands we make a reality of that to which we have heretofore given only lip service.

Since no race or nation has a monopoly good or bad it is pitiful that otherwise intelligent citizens wear away most of their superiority in trying to convince others that they have it.

C. R. Burrill
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Central Point, Ore.

law in the U.S. It is advertised secretly and various ruses are resorted to, in order to outwit the S.P.C.A. and the law enforcement officers. At a recent meeting over 1,000 spectators were present. Cock-fighting also is outlawed in 45 states but the editor of "The Gamecock" estimates there are 500 pits now operating in the United States.

From the days of the Colosseum onwards, cruelty has become so ingrained in unregenerate human nature that it is found all over the world still: sometimes public and camouflaged as a national tradition as in Mexico and Spain and in blood "sports" everywhere. Fox hunting, rodeos, hunts in Ireland are some forms protected as a national custom. In Africa, horses are sacrificed as a religious rite.

So it isn't just ignorance. What is it? Not the cruelty due to want of knowledge of how to handle animals properly. Not the greed in exploiting of animals for money, whether in a circus, or for their fur and oil.

The greater the savagery the greater the thrill. The answer is supplied by a psychologist who was present at the dogfight convention. He said: "I've got a theory, but it is not pretty. There's something vaguely sexual in all the violence. The more pronounced the violence, the more pronounced the sexuality."

So, in general, the disreputable pleasure people find in witnessing organized cruelty to animals must be traced to sadism, which means perverted sexual pleasure.

Civilized society has evolved many forms of rivalry, which should satisfy all the pugnacious instincts of human nature. These physical contests are both team matches or individual contests. These are respectable, satisfying and have all the thrills of combat.

But cruelty to animals is immoral. It upsets the Divine order of creation, it is contrary to the care God has for his creatures, it exceeds man's rights to use creatures, but not possess them, it has a baneful effect on character, and it is declared punishable by God.

"Any reckness desire to kill off animals, all unnecessary harshness and callous brutality toward them is to be condemned."—Pius XII.

Poets' Corner

Conducted by
Arnold Eugene Jenny

From: To A Skylark
Hail to thee, blithe Spirit!
Bird thou never wert,
That from heaven, or near it
Pourest thy full heart
In profuse strains of unpremeditated art.
What thou art we know not;
What is most like thee?
From rainbow clouds there flow not
Drops so bright to see
As from thy presence showers a rain of melody.
Teach us, spirit or bird,
What sweet thoughts are thine;
I have never heard
Praise of love or wine
That panted forth a flood of rapture so divine.
Teach me half the gladness
That thy brain must know,
Such harmonious madness
From my lips would flow
The world should listen then, as I am listening now!
—Percy Bysshe Shelley

The Giver
She drove a six-horse team across the plains,
With her two babies on the seat beside her.
Though barely seventeen, she held the reins
In fists of steel—and trusted God to guide her.
She never saw the inside of a school,
But, being wise as nature she could fight
Adversity and sin by the same rule:
And so she taught herself to read and write.

She washed and ironed, scrubbed and sewed and cooked . . .
She aided neighbors: heard the burning cry
Of children—or laid out the dead: all looked
To her for help to live or help to die.
She merged herself and all that she possessed
Into the bone and sinew of the West.
—Mary Boyd Wagner
New York, N.Y.

*From the author's volume, "Roots," published by The Wings Press; reprinted by permission.

View From Ashland's Lofly Crest
I stood upon Mount Ashland's lofty crest,
Niona at my side, to watch the sun
Rise from its golden couch beyond the hills.
We saw the shadows lift, and one by one,
The mountain peaks were tipped with liquid gold;
The shades of night went racing to the west
And all the higher places smiled to greet
This daily miracle from out the east.
First, Shasta rose, shaking night's sable robes
From brawny shoulders, snowy crest held high,
Shaping the outline of his giant bulk
In silhouette against the streaming sky;
Then the new-born day in buoyant glee
Caught old McLoughlin in its warm embrace
And planted a kiss upon his glowing brow;
And next old Baldy showed his pallid face,
From nightly vigils o'er the "Marble Caves,"
Then Grizzly, Roxy Ann and Pompadour
Shouldered into view; and then the valley
Glowed in the splendor of the morning hour.
It was a view well worth the arduous climb
Through darkness up the steep and rocky trail,
And stays impressed upon my memory
Where loftier views in other climes but fail.
—Richard Posey Campbell

*From "Dick Posey's" "A Daughter of the Rogues," A Tale of the Rogue River Valley, published 1919 in Ashland. Courtesy of Mrs. Alice Applegate Pell, The Manor, Medford.

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