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High School Alternatives

The Medford school district has yet to decide what will be done about our overflowing high school population. Currently, it is employing stop-gap methods, such as temporary classrooms, three-platoon lunch hours, staggered class hours, and so on.

It hasn't gone to double-shifting yet, but it is pretty close to it. There are several alternatives, and presumably the final decision will not be made until after full consideration is given them by the advisory committee and the school board.

THE district could build one big, new high school, to accommodate all students in grades 10, 11 and 12 for the foreseeable future, and turn the existing high school building to other purposes.

It could continue adding on to the existing plant. It could build another high school and keep using the present one for the same purpose, for a total of two high schools both serving the 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

Or—and this is an idea that is being kicked around more and more—it could build a new high school for the 11th and 12th grades, converting the present one to serve the 9th and 10th grades, and making the junior highs serve the 7th and 8th grades.

THIS system, called the 6-2-2-2 system, is new in this area, although it has been adopted in various locations elsewhere in the nation.

It appears radical at first glance, and it undoubtedly has some flaws and defects. But it also has numerous advantages.

It gets away from one giant high school where individuals "get lost" among upwards of 2,000 students; yet it still permits larger classes in areas where a relatively few students are interested. It also (and in sports-conscious Medford, this is important in many minds) would tend to keep the "varsity" sports teams together, so one good team, rather than two weaker ones, could be fielded.

A RECENT poll of high school teachers who had had experience with both the 6-2-2-2 plan and the more conventional ones—6-3-3 or 8-4 or 6-2-4—revealed a remarkable majority indicating many favorable factors.

- Some of these were:
-Pupils adjust from grade to high school more easily and quickly.
-Students participate in more activities.
-Rules are more easily enforced.
-Teachers become acquainted with students more quickly and completely.
-Social controls are more easily exercised.
-Student leadership roles are assumed more quickly and by more students.
-Students are better prepared for the upper division school.

THERE are others, including the important factor that students are more likely to be recognized as individuals, rather than simply as statistics or "bodies."

We are not saying that such a system will solve all of Medford's problems, or even that it should be adopted. But it certainly merits careful consideration.

With the schools bursting at the seams, and with no end in sight for increases in the numbers of students at all levels, we cannot afford to reject experimentation just because something is new and unfamiliar.

OTHER experiments are being tried, both here and across the nation, although perhaps not as widely as should be to find better methods.

These include flexible scheduling (discussed here recently), longer school days, longer school years with rotating vacation periods and more intensive use of buildings, team teaching, greater use of teaching "machines" of various kinds.

It is our conviction that the key to a good education is still the skillful and dedicated teacher. But there are many things which can be done to make his job an easier and more effective one.

It may be that two high schools—both divided horizontally rather than vertically—is one way to do this.—E.A.

Lucky Fire Season

The mild and often damp summer in Oregon this year has caused some grousing. But it was a godsend to the area's forests, which were faced with the most serious fire threat in many years, due to the heavy blowdown from the storm of last Columbus Day.

Considerable salvage logging of the blowdown was accomplished, and even that which was not salvaged this year will be less of a threat next year. It was the dry needles that caused the principal hazard of flash fuel, and they should be mostly gone before the 1964 fire season.

It is still possible that the return of warm, dry weather could renew the hazard, but the odds are that the worst of the fire season is now over, and that the forest fire agencies can now breathe a little easier.—E.A.

Apparently no one is against a state tax increase—except the voters. We expect the measure to be soundly defeated come Oct. 15. Then, presumably the legislators will be called into session, to try, probably in vain, to determine what the voters want. As evidenced by many letters, they do not all want the same thing.—E.A.

Bombed Out



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.

Wrong Title
To the Editor: This is in regard to your news item on Page 2-B of Thursday's paper. Your article concerns the new principal at St. Mary's school.

Twice the news item refers to the Rev. John J. Keane as Mr. Keane. This is bad journalism, bad manners and poor business policy.

Father Keane's education as well as his extensive administrative experience should warrant the respect of at least remembering to refer to him as Father Keane, never "Mister."

I myself remember this from my high school journalism course. So far I have never seen this mistake made in any other paper.

Sorry, but I couldn't let this go by without comment. Mrs. George Guthrie, Route 2, Box 220, Central Point, Ore.

Editor's note: You are right. It was an unfortunate slip.

Educational Costs
To the Editor: I was reading in Monday's Mail Tribune the letter from the parents in Eagle Point about free (?) education. I am of the same opinion, only we live in a different district so the price of free education is a little different.

Our daughter came home and said she needed a check for \$12.50 for entrance fees to Junior high plus \$1.50 for a work book in some class plus 30 cents for something else. When I attended school, not too many years ago, in our Freshman year our classes were outlined to fill in the four years; now I have no idea what children are going to school for. I would like to know what good music, journalism and typing plus physical ed. (which is required and a very dirty class, inasmuch as 40 to 50 students undress and take showers in four minutes in a locker room where no disinfectants are used,) are going to do our daughter in her home when she is grown.

What happened to the essential things in life and schooling? Not all children in the schools today are going to be scientists or venture into space. With all the plus \$ it costs to put a child through school today, besides our added taxes, it is no wonder the people of Oregon elected to have a referendum on the tax increase, and when it comes to vote on October 15 I am going to vote on tax increases. This state doesn't need higher taxes, it needs better supervision of the money they already have.

Our daughter said don't sign your name to a letter, they embarrass us in school when you do. Well, whoever "they" is, they had better not. I feel sorry for the families with common working fathers with more than two children in school at once, now, with all the "musts" that students have to have. Then the officials tell everyone how the schools and education will suffer if we don't let them have more money to get us to vote for the tax increase.

No one will suffer through lack of education. A few state officials may lose their jobs or get a cut in pay but education won't suffer. The state wants us to think it will. If this state needs more money once again I say raise the price of non-essentials such as cigarettes, furs, jewelry, cosmetics, liquors and entertainment, and allow so much to be turned back to the State of Oregon. Those who can afford or want non-essentials will buy them at any price and the working class of people won't be hurt by higher taxes or a sales tax which we don't need.

Let those who want luxury pay for it and those who want

Portuguese Returning to Angola; U.N. 'Interference' Resented by Officials

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst
LISBON, Portugal (UPI)—in the panic which followed the butchering of European families in northern Angola during the "Night of the Long Knives" March 15-16, 1961, many white settlers decided to return home. Twenty-five hundred of them did so.

But now, Portuguese officials say, the tide has been reversed and last year 4,000 resumed immigration to Angola, Portugal's largest and richest overseas province in Africa.

Furthermore, these officials say, terrorism which once extended to 10 per cent of the territory has now been reduced to two per cent.

Portuguese bitterness over what it regards as United Nations interference in its internal affairs centers on three main points.

—Demands for Angolan independence do not come from within the province, but rather are pressed from the outside. At most, the Portuguese say, the movement receives support only from a small segment of tribesmen in the north who are related to others across the river in the Congo.

—The United Nations' stand favoring self-determination for Angola violates the U.N. Charter which specifically forbids U.N. interference in a nation's internal affairs. Carried to a logical extreme, according to the Portuguese, the U.N. eventually could interfere in the smallest affairs of any nation.

—U.S. support for Afro-Asian demands for self-determination in Angola, which the Portuguese regard not only as desertion if an ally but as inconsistency with previous U.S. policy holding that Portuguese retention of its overseas territories was essential to African security and stability.

The Portuguese contend that some weapons captured in the fighting came from Czechoslovakia and Italy and others from Irish forces formerly stationed with the U.N. in the Congo.

It is a further source of irritation to the Portuguese to suggest that theirs is a colonial economy dependent on overseas possessions.

To this they reply that they are spending more in Africa than they are taking out, and that the last six-year plan for Angola ending in 1964 called for expenditures of \$165 million, half of it coming from Angola itself and the other half from metropolitan Portugal and international institutions.

The Portuguese say further that Portuguese law prohibits the taking of land from Africans but rather requires new settlers to take land not yet occupied.

Their work code, they say, is the best in Africa, pointing out especially that such new nations as Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria all have compulsory work laws while Angola does not.

Development in Angola, while slow, is progressing. It has an oil refinery and plans are in the works for a steel mill. Small industries also are developing. Geologists who have been permitted to explore are awed by its potential mineral wealth.

Sept. 16 communications, please find enclosed two cents for the "help-give-Ralph-out-of-the-Country-Fund." His going would not be our loss but our gain. We feel this is the least he can do for "his" country.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Allison
1800 Myers Lane
Medford

What's Inside
To the Editor: Several weeks ago the Editor drove by the emergency classrooms on the front lawn of the High School and wrote an editorial commenting upon the lack of attractiveness of the buildings, and their qualifications as eye-sores in the community.

While it is true that they are far from esthetically perfect, viewed externally, they happen to make quite adequate classrooms. They are well-furnished, well-lighted, and compare favorably with other classrooms at the High School. Even the heat is no greater than that of any other classroom.

We who have espoused the Christian faith have always maintained that it's "what's inside that counts."

Clifford J. Young
Keeneway at Ridgeway
Medford

Motorbike Dangers
To the Editor: No doubt you as well as I have been reading with concern the useless slaughter of teen-agers in cars on our highways, truly the cream of our crop.

Now comes the motorbike, etc., whereby two teen-agers often ride as those two boys who lost their lives recently on Blackwell Hill. As you know there is no protection on these death traps.

We go to great lengths to pick our lawmakers to help us and try to use some method to halt this useless slaughter, but are they doing anything about this? Of course they are drawing their pay from our tax money. But truly what else?

Now I am going out on a limb and suggest some method by which some of this killing might cease.

If we can only wake our lawmakers up, or we will lose more young men like David L. White and Paul C. Thompson, as there are thousands more on our highways. Now, Mr. Lawmaker, why not enact a law whereby it is illegal for any teen-ager to operate a motorbike unless he has passed a driver's test and secured an Oregon driver's license. Probably this would stop a small or large percentage of useless killings. I believe any worthwhile suggestion is worth a try.

Floyd Price
Box 137
Butte Falls, Ore.

Editor's note: It is now against the law to operate any kind of motor vehicle on public highways and streets without a valid driver's license.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop
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VERY UGLY STUFF
SAIGON, South Viet Nam—As an indicator of the atmosphere now prevailing here, nothing will serve better than the bizarre explanation of Gen. de Gaulle's lofty, mysterious recent statement about the Vietnamese civil war.

De Gaulle's statement was in fact the visible part of a most peculiar iceberg. Here is the much larger, hitherto invisible part—which is also the really ugly part, it must be added.

Beginning, then, at the beginning, the time when the French tried to remove President Ngo Dinh Diem and replace him with the leading Saigon gangster, "General" Bai Vien, has long since been forgotten by Diem and his brother, Councillor Ngo Dinh Nhu. In the last year, indeed, the French Ambassador to Saigon, Roger L'Alouette, has been one of Ngo Dinh Nhu's most frequent visitors.

Judging by the account of these visits given by Nhu himself to this reporter, they usually followed a rather standard pattern. Hints that the U.S. policy of support for South Viet Nam really conceals a plan to destroy Ngo Dinh Nhu and his brother have been combined with liberal doses of flattery of a type that might have made Louis XIV blush.

THIS preparatory process—for so it must be considered—continued until the beginning of the severe Buddhist crisis here.

The Buddhist crisis in turn produced an almost more severe crisis of nerves in the Gia Long palace, where Diem and Nhu have their joint headquarters. Cowardice is not a characteristic of the Ngo clan, but both suspicion and vanity mounted almost to the point of mania, where they still remain.

This was the situation in Saigon when the Communist boss of North Viet Nam, Ho Chi Minh, chose to give an interview to the stooge Communist journalist, Wilfred Burchett. Ho Chi Minh declared that "foreign" (meaning American) "intervention must cease." But in this event, he added, a "ceasefire" could presumably be arranged, and relations between North and South Viet Nam could be placed on a new footing.

SUCH is the story, except that Councillor Nhu also remarked that he had not told his brother, the President, about this approach from Hanoi, sponsored and transmitted by the Pole. He explained that it would have passed on to the cabinet, "which would have caused a stir."

This somewhat astounding detail, revealing so much about the real relation between the two brothers, was confirmed the next day during the interview with the President. Asked about approaches from Hanoi, he replied with obvious sincerity that he had had none at all of any consequence. There was nothing except the Debuton message, he said, which he then recited.

The publication of these transactions will no doubt cause them to be strenuously denied by all parties. Yet they are here related precisely as described by two of the participants, President Diem and his brother.

Allowance must of course be made for the fact that Ngo Dinh Nhu clearly hoped to gain two-edges by describing the French-sponsored, Polish-transmitted approach from Hanoi as "asking him" as he put it himself, "to open negotiations behind the backs of the Americans." But even after such allowance is made, the facts all too clearly word is not too strong—rather cleverly aimed to defeat American policy here by playing upon the exacerbated vanity and manic suspicion of U.S. purposes which now prevail in the Gia Long palace.

DE GAULLE said that France was ready to do everything

possible "to organize cordial cooperation" in Viet Nam, so that all the people of Viet Nam might live "in independence" (of the Americans, no doubt) and "peace and amity" with one another. What de Gaulle proposed, in fact, was not very far from what Ho Chi Minh had proposed.

The follow-up of the de Gaulle statement was even stranger than the preceding concatenation of events. After the statement, the French Ambassador paid a "short, purely formal call" on President Diem, whose own description of this meeting is here cited. But he paid a much longer call on Councillor Nhu, to urge that the opportunity offered by de Gaulle should not be neglected. Possibly L'Alouette believes some of his own compliments to Nhu.

"He is always saying that I am the only man who counts in this country," the Councillor remarked to me.

NOR did the French Ambassador's efforts stop there. "At L'Alouette's request and urging," (again, the words are Nhu's own) the acting Polish member of the International Control Commission, Dr. Mieczyslaw Maneli, then came to see the Councillor. Besides urging upon Nhu all the arguments already urged by L'Alouette, Maneli carried a personal message from the Prime Minister of North Viet Nam, Pham Van Dong.

"Pham Van Dong's message begged me to open negotiations on the basis of Ho Chi Minh's cease-fire proposal," Nhu said to me. "Many details were spelled out. It was almost an attractive offer, but, of course, I had to tell the Pole that I could not open negotiations behind the backs of the Americans, when you were aiding us so importantly. That was out of the question."

"After that we had an interesting talk. He told me that as a Communist, he considered me the only serious theorist of guerrilla warfare in the non-Communist world. And at the end, he said he would wait for a different reply from me 24 hours a day. At any time of the day or night, he said, I could call upon him, and he would fly that instant to Hanoi."

HARD on the heels of the Ho Chi Minh interview, there was another, most curious event. As President Diem himself described it to me, the French Delegate-General in Hanoi, Jacques Debuton, "wanted a little change of air."

"He asked if he might come down here, which the Communists deemed to object to." President Diem continued. "But this time they let him come. And you know that was not the odd thing about it, either."

"When M. L'Alouette brought him to see me, he did not have much to say, except that Ho Chi Minh had quite changed his way of talking about me. It used to be 'Diem the feudalist, Diem the betrayer, Diem the American puppet,' but now the Frenchman told me, it is 'Diem the good Vietnamese, Diem who is after all a patriot.' I was surprised, I must say."

Like a diaphanous following a tender chord, the de Gaulle statement chimed admirably with these public and private messages from Ho Chi Minh. The circumstances of its publication were a bit singular. As it was privately made by President de Gaulle to his Council of Ministers, it resembled something said by the President of the United States to the National Security Council. But out it came, in a government press release.

DE GAULLE said that France was ready to do everything



"Painting out bumper stickers we don't like helps prevent accidents - it's bad for people to get angry while driving!"