

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.

"This Is Not the Answer"

To the Editor: I find it hard not to be prejudiced when a catastrophe envelopes you, your way of life, your thoughts, your country as a whole. To look logically for an answer is impossible . . . for there is no answer.

The reasoning behind people who cause a holocaust for private thought, gains, or hate is beyond our comprehension. Insanity is the end seems to be the only answer.

What will probably happen next? The majority of American people since World War II have just sat back, have had a lifeless and uninterested concept of "Let the other man do it." I hope that the people of the United States will not make this mistake in this time of grief, sorrow, and confusion. From this trying experience I hope the people will see a need for peace of mind and of soul. It cannot exist in its entirety in today's world of barriers and hate. I pray earnestly, that from this shocking experience a love for mankind might develop, leaving a world to live in.

I am not trying to be idealistic, forgetting the realism that surrounds us in our daily living. But as we look at our realistic world we can see much need for improvement.

Let us try as responsible human beings to back our heads of state through right, wrong, and the many shades of gray. You owe your executives this much respect. He never created a transgression that deserved death as a vote of thanks.

The final word is not that the greatest sin has been committed. The greatest sin may be created by the American people if they allow complacency to be the answer.

Mike Hoover
2 White Oak Dr.
(Medford Senior
High School Student)

Respect

To the Editor: The Medford school board expressed the feelings of a great number of people in this country. "So what?"

Poets' Corner

Conducted by

Arnold Eugene Jenny

A Good Poem Celebrates Life

A good poem celebrates life and quickens us to it. Not only to the mysteries but to the commonplace, which it makes both mysterious and precise, and both at once. The good poet cannot fail to shame us . . . through our senses by awakening us to a new awareness of the peaks and abysses locked in every commonplace thing. — John Ciardi, in *Saturday Review*, 3/23/63.

How To Make A Poem

Just take a bit of inspiration;
Embellish it with rhyme;
Lace with lulling, lofty phrases;
Let season for a time.
Now, add a dash of ecstasy;
With metaphor adorn.
If artfully you blend it all,
A poem will be born.

—Malcolm L. Melville
The Manor, Medford

*Of course, there's a lot more to it than this, or even in what Ciardi said, above. Sound guidance and technical advice may be found in such books as the following (all available at the Public Library): *Making a Poem*, by Melville; *A Poet's Primer*, Gerald Sanders; *First Principles of Verse*, Robert Hillier; and *How to Write Your Own Poems*, Anne Hamilton. A.E.J.

In Present Dark, for Future Need: A Sonnet Sequence*

To dream and work within the shadows of
The dreamers and the masters of the past,
Is like the wish to love, yet not to love;
Or hiding in the shade until the last
Of wanted sun has set and darkness fills
The world and weary mind. It may be late,
But surely when tomorrow flames the hills
A renaissance can come; destroy the fate
Of those who struggle needlessly. To hold
A steadfast faith and build upon the past,
In present dark, for future need, is gold.
That will not buy redemption but will last.
And so we travel on in search of light.
To lift our minds from history's endless night.

—Lloyd B. Halverson
Medford

*Begun 11/17, to be continued in four further instalments.

Speak Not To Me . . .

Speak not to me of gilded banquet hall
Where wealth and beauty grace the glittering board,
Where glint of gems on snowy bosoms call
A challenge to the gleam of radiant wine.
Where softened music like a pleasant dream
Steals on the sated ear in strains divine;
But kindly spread my banquet 'neath the trees,
With tried and kindred spirits clustered 'round,
Where wealth of intellect and grace of soul
And trusted friendship ever may be found.

—Richard Posey Campbell
*From "Dick Posey's" "A Daughter of the Rogue," A Tale of the Rogue River Valley, published 1919 in Ashland. Courtesy of Alice Applegate Fell, The Manor, Medford.

"That Which Goes Up . . ."

Today I baked a cake
Which at first rose as if on
The incandescent wings of Hope!

A gust of wind rammed my tower.

My cake suffered a traumatic shock
And sank

Like the leaden anchor

Of Despair.

—Rodney A. Badger
Gold Hill, Ore.

*Written while a lookout on Huckleberry Mountain in eastern Oregon. Comments the author: "The very title reveals the gravitational forces which are in direct opposition to any elevated position and hints of the possible fate of anything or anyone which seeks to rise above his natural position. (But when I wrote the piece, I merely had in mind) a 'request for a lost chocolate layer cake'."

tions differ. Many Israelis do not practice Judaism, but proudly claim to be Jews. On the other hand, a Roman Catholic priest of Jewish origins recently was rejected when he claimed citizenship in Israel. In popular usage, however, the word Jew applies to both race and religion.

Status Symbol

To the Editor: Referring to Mr. Schiffman's talk on the funeral business, I wonder about the statement "Costs of contemporary funerals and burials coincide with the deceased's station in life."

Evidently the American way of death is to present ourselves to our Lord and Creator as a status symbol, which prevails as an integral part of the American way of life.

Julia M. Smith,
215 N. Columbus Ave.
Medford.

Guidance Clinic

To the Editor: This is written to show my gratitude for the help given to me with my emotional problems by the "Family & Child Guidance Clinic of Jackson County."

Unable to keep my job due to anxiety, and having no physical problems other than those caused by my emotional upsets, my doctor arranged an appointment for me with a Social Worker at the Guidance Clinic. It was a difficult step for me to take. This was in July and now in November, I feel ready to return to work shortly.

I was amazed when I learned there was no charge for me because I am unemployed. You pay according to your income. You may continue to go until you are well. It might take two weeks or two years.

I hope that if any of you have an emotional or mental problem, you will not hesitate to seek their services. They publish a very fine pamphlet explaining the clinic. You may pick this up at their office in the Third Floor, Courthouse Annex. It is free.

Many people do not know about this fine service our valley has to offer. The staff consists of Dr. Erin Merkel, clinical administrator, a psychiatrist, a psychologist, and three social workers. The board of directors consists of 21 and there are eight on the Technical Advisory Board.

This non-profit organization is financed by the state, Jackson County, United Medford Crusade, membership fees and private donations. It deserves all the praise and support, financial or otherwise, Jackson County can give it. Believe me, I know. I speak from experience. (Name on File), Medford

No Added Taxes

To the Editor: Mr. Murray's statement that some tactics used to discourage negative votes have confused voters (M.T. 11-15) is an understatement. Over 9,000 Jackson County registration cards were forfeited last year. Doesn't this indicate that too many voters have become so discouraged they have given up? We also have a large number of potential voters who have never registered because they felt their vote didn't count or that they were not intelligent enough to vote. One contributing factor could be that it seems even the members of our Legislature have forgotten they are paid representatives, not rulers, of the people, and that it is their duty to consider the will of the people in their legislation.

Aren't we a bit premature in arguing about what a proposed sales tax would do? What can we hope to gain by paying one tax from one side of the pocket to save what is in the other side? I think those who read the statement to the Interim Tax Committee, by former state representative George Annala (M.T. 10-27) as to the inadequacy of the Senate's 3 percent sales tax bill, know it could never have been anything but an additional tax.

We should be concerned with the problem of cutting non essential services from all tax supported budgets. We have the old rule that a state, as a form of government, should only provide for the people such services as they cannot better provide for themselves, to guide us. It could be, though, that the Legislature does not have control over all budgets. If my memory doesn't fail me, just a few years ago one of our representatives told members of the Portland press that the self supporting boards, bureaus and commissions should be allowed to set their own policies and rates, as the Legislature was wasting too much valuable time regulating them. However that is the task we have placed in the hands of the Ways and Means Committee.

Let's not confuse them with talk of additional taxes, but let's concern ourselves with the problem of convincing every adult taxpayer that the right to citizen participation in the law-making procedure is worth fighting for. To paraphrase an old song "If everyone marked just one little ballot, what a wonderful change there would be."

Mrs. Verna Flowers
355 Berrydale Ave.
Medford

Closure Disliked

To the Editor: The Oregon State Game Commission's intention to close the Rogue River to spring salmon fishing above Elk Creek has come to my attention.

Trout season opens a month late so the young salmon can return to the ocean. Since this is the only solution to the salmon migration this is of a necessity. But, to close the Upper Rogue, when the entire length is involved, and to state that this is for "resting pools", when snagging is the major factor, is like closing all the highways because of a few traffic violators.

For years I have stood shoulder to shoulder with the snaggers and have watched them in action. Proper fishing gear will eliminate them completely. Snaggers' best gear is the largest legal treble hook, needle sharp, with nothing but yarn on it. Eliminate the treble hook, make single hooks the only legal gear, and you eliminate the snagger, above and below Elk Creek.

I have fished Rogue River for salmon for the past 33 years and use small triple-strength treble hooks, preferably a No. 2 with proper size drifters or spoons, and have fished day after day above Elk Creek without snagging a single salmon.

I, personally, think this type of legislation, closing of the Rogue River above Elk Creek, to eliminate a given problem, is a direct and clear violation of the Game Commission concern for the sportsman. Somewhere I once read "electricity follows the path of least resistance."

Monroe McGonagle,
1417 S. Whitman St.,
Medford

P.S. A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Game Commission.

Three Reasons

To the Editor: In regard to the proposed closure of the Rogue River to salmon fishing above the mouth of Elk Creek: There are three good reasons for writing this letter. First, I like to catch and eat what to me is the best fish to eat there is. Second, we have some very good friends in the motel business. And third, my complete disgust and my lack of confidence in the way the Game Commission has conducted its so-called fish and game programs. What will those "arm-chair" fish and game counters think up next?

The closure of this part of the river to salmon fishing will be a terrible blow to the motel owners and the river guides. These good people look to the sports fishermen for the major part of their income for the entire year. How many fishermen will stay along this part of the river, just to catch a few lousy tame hatchery trout? Very few. They will go over to the coast to spend money and time. The motel and guiding business is a tough way to make a living at best and with salmon out of the picture, they face a rather major calamity.

Now as to the third reason. From here it looks like this closure to salmon fishing is an out and out admission by the Fish and Game Commission that they cannot cope with the problem of enforcing the fishing regulations. It is an admission that the state police have been unable to enforce these laws. And here is a question. Do the state police want this job anyway? Haven't they got enough to do in just performing their other many duties? And the "snaggers" have had many a good chuckle. The police warrant might as well go along ringing a loud cow-bell or use a loud-speaker saying "Look out boys. Here comes John Law."

So, the Commission would like to take the easy way out. We will just close this part of the river. This will make enforcement very simple and at the same time we will give the "snaggers" a good sound spanking for their many misdoings. What this will do to good honest fishermen and many others affected by this closure is out of our department.

Hope all you guys and gals signed that petition of your good friend Lewis Cleveland and sent it in. If not, please do so, pronto.

Bill Brewster,
Route 1, Box 550
Trail, Ore.

Peculiar Creature

To the Editor: It may be said that man is a peculiar creature who lays claim to a spiritual nature, often in a most materialistic manner. We may see this peculiarity at work especially in the American South and in connection with the Negro people in our democratic nation.

Spiritually, men claim to be products of a Divine Spirit; yet, even concerning their fellow man who is black, some seem to reveal a Satanic and rather materialistic belief in some supposed "white superiority." For them, Scripture must read: "Suffer little WHITE children to come unto me."

Perhaps the most "classical" example of race hatred being sown by an ignoramus was Adolph Hitler in his "Mein Kampf." From the odds and ends of certain mental garbage pits, he gathered and exhibited the uninhibited, unintellectual

assertions of nonsense about "race" that appear to pass as "facts" among the uneducated and prejudiced. You will find in Adolph's pages all the current "arguments" against the Negro (as well as against white non-Aryans) that have for years been trotted out by anti-Negro Southerners (or Northerners).

In 1942, M. F. Ashley Montagu of the Department of Anatomy, Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia, published his "Man's Most Dangerous Myth: The Fallacy of Race," summarizing the findings of science on the subject of "race." He stated that all but a few individuals take it for granted that scientists have established the "facts" about "race" and that they have long ago recognized and classified the "races" of mankind.

Dr. Ashley Montagu concludes: "There are no superior or inferior groups by birth. If there are any inborn mental differences associated with the physical differences

which distinguish different ethnic groups, then science has been unable to discover them. Physical differences are purely external and are only superficially associated with cultural differences existing or imputed. Yet these external differences provide a convenient peg upon which to hang all sorts of imagined internal differences, moral, intellectual, mental and emotional. In this way physical differences become the basis for social discrimination and the creation of social inequalities."

And Jean Pinot concluded his scholarly work, "Race Prejudice," first published in 1905, with the statement that the differences among men are only individual, and that true solidarity and equality arise and are founded on "a rational sentiment of respect for human dignity."

K. Osthimer
(Former Medfordite)
Route 1, Box 12
Pensville, Ohio

Facts and Fancies

To the Editor: Anna Streed's solicitude (11/7) for my well-being was much appreciated and is warmly reciprocated. However, her new recital of "facts" to prove General Eisenhower a "traitor" is no more reliable than her earlier absurdities. Moreover, when she pleads for my tolerance of others' opinions she only compounds her confusion. Opinions, facts and truth are not necessarily synonymous; indeed, opinions often are totally devoid of fact or truth.

I have written much here and elsewhere in defense of freedom of expression—even if reading a lot of arrant nonsense parading as opinion is disagreeable, at times even nauseous. But "facts" which are obvious fabrications and "truth" which proves falsehood I not only cannot abide, but must expose and disprove, wherever found.

By quoting from the Congressional Record, Miss Streed presumably seeks to establish the authority of and respect for her

sources. I would remind her that the mere fact of publication in the Record by no means authenticates anything. Not only are many utterances of members of Congress mere piffle and twaddle—sometimes even clear perversions of the truth—but as Miss Streed should know, the "distinguished members" often obtain consent to insert in the Record extraneous matter never before seen or heard in the halls of Congress ("there being no objection" from other members to such insertion).

I repeat that Eisenhower not only never "returned 2,000,000 men, women and children to Russia to torture, slave labor camps and death" but, on the contrary, he proclaimed American policy that no displaced persons were to be repatriated against their will—as I proved (11/10) by quoting from my reports as YMCA-UNRRA official in Germany, 1945-46.

Most DPs having been forced workers or prisoners of war in Germany, their fondest hope and first aim after liberation by Allied forces naturally was to return to their homelands and families as soon as they could. It was Allied policy to lend them every assistance possible. Altogether, out of more than 8,000,000 DPs over 7,000,000 were repatriated. Significantly, out of 2,288,300 citizens of the USSR, 160,300 chose not to return. Similarly, out of 1,232,700 Poles, as many as 358,200 remained in Germany to await opportunities for resettlement in other countries.

Miss Streed may believe the fables she reads, and that is her privilege. I prefer to stick to historical facts, especially when I was an eye-witness to them or even helped establish them.

Arnold Eugene Jenny
Rogue Valley Manor
Medford

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