

...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 initials 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.

Sensible Comment
To the Editor: Your editorial, "On Honoring JFK," in my humble opinion, is a very sensible comment, one that merits approval of the American people.

W. H. Walker,
833 W. Jackson St.
Medford

Buddhist Teachings
To the Editor: Having just read the article "Buddhist Seek Control of World, is Claim," in Thursday's paper, may I suggest a "follow-up"?

As a nation founded on the precepts of religious freedom, why not print an article, or series thereof, informing your subscribers and the public of the truth as to what embodies the teaching of Buddha which places it among the major religions in the world? (This may appear to be in the nature of a challenge when you consider how commercial the various sects of Christianity have become in the United States of America.)

I believe you owe it to yourself and the community to know the basis of Buddhist thought and principles. Indeed, life is but a sham if it must be endured in ignorance.

Robert G. Vannoy,
316 N. Central Ave.,
Medford

Aid Appreciated
To the Editor: We extend our gratitude and appreciation to all the generous people that came to our aid when a fire destroyed the home we were living in along with all of our belongings.

We do not have the words to express our feelings and discomfort suffered during this disaster. Because of the kindness of you nice people who came to our aid our burden became much lighter. The assistance given us gave us the courage that is so vital and necessary for recovery from this type of tragedy.

This experience is proof to us that American people, individually and collectively, are the greatest people in the world when it comes to aiding those in need, those in disaster and in tragedy. There is no greater

tribute than bestowing our kindness and assistance to those less fortunate than we are. With this in mind and continuance of this practice, our nation cannot help but grow stronger and become more influential to other nations of the world.

Harold and Lucille Geigle
and family,
Route 1, Box 160,
Gold Hill, Ore.

Who's Santa?

The editor: plucked their wily bristles. Growing as strong and sharp as thistles. Then, with flint and bronze they scratched and scraped. Till not a stubborn hair escaped. And o'er the ice to the everglades. They made better whisker-cutting blades.

Today, they're so perfect, (or so they say). That 'tis a sin to throw old blades away. Even Santa shaves!— Now, here we pause: If he really does, then

George Distell
156 Vashiti Way
Medford

On Education

To the Editor: Sometime back I noted some letters protesting the large amount of "home work" done by school children today.

Now maybe I'm going out on a limb (I've been out on them that things before), but I think that if the kids had less sports programs they'd have more time for book learnin' in school.

When I attended the Mt. Pitt School which no longer exists, 5 1/2 miles east of Butte Falls, we had very little in the way of sports. We didn't chase all over Southern Oregon and Northern California to play baseball and football, etc., in various tournaments with other schools. Our "Sports" program was confined to what we could play at our own school, and I have grave doubts any of us missed these games with other schools.

One thing I feel we should have done, however, is to take one day each month to visit

various industrial activities, such as sawmills, furniture factories, mines, packing plants, and—other things we could reasonably have been expected to learn useful arts from, to give us a better idea what we wanted (or needed) to do for a living when we grew up.

How many of the high school age kids, in and around the Rogue Valley, for example, have been through Medco's new (well nearly so) plywood plant? When the nickel smelter was running at Riddle (I'm not sure whether it is running at present) how many kids went to see it? Except for those high school age kids who actually work in our packing plants, how many have been through one of them? How many have visited the P.P. and L. plant at Prospect?

Darned few, I'd say. And last, but definitely not least, how many have written a report on what they saw?

A trip of this sort would — I am certain — be far more educational than many of the activities, a lot of people insist their kids indulge in.

All the sports programs actually accomplish, is to allow the kids to work off a little surplus energy. As for teaching anything it is no wonder the kids are so darned ignorant.

Floyd R. McCabe
Mt. Pitt, Star Route
Butte Falls, Oregon

Christmas Thoughts

To the Editor: I hope the following will be considered suitable to appear in print sometime before Christmas. It may not be good poetry, but it's from the heart.

"Let's put Christ back in Christmas. The time of year is almost here to celebrate His birth. But as usual we'll be taken up with shopping, food, and mirth. With Santa Claus and Rudolph, Christmas trees, and toys. We don't have time to pray for the souls of girls and boys. For a nation that cries "In God we Trust!"

It seems mighty odd to me, That all our holidays honouring Him Are nothing more than a spree. Don't you feel something is missing, That we're cheating ourselves somehow?

We've made Christmas a mockery, And live for the here and now. This Christmas could be wonderful. If we'd take time out to pray, Let's forget the commercial side, And remember it's His day. Even God, with His infinite patience Must be sorely tried with us all. He's offered us eternity. But were just having a ball. We've never needed our faith so much, in this world of chaos and fear. Let's ask Him to forgive us, And be assured He'll hear. Imagine sending your only son, To die for the likes of us. We can't even seem to get to church. It's too much bother and fuss. We keep on singing "Jingle Bells." Instead of "Silent Night," And teaching our young about Not of Jesus and what is right. Let's put Christ back in Christmas. It's not too late to try. Let's make this season Holy And worship Him on high.

Mrs. E. C. "Pat" Chesbro,
1115 Oak St.,
Ashland, Ore.

Science and Racism
To the Editor: Modern agriculture, electronic computers, the plastics industry, space exploration, "wonder drugs" and

many another current activity or invention have one important thing in common: each is the result of scientific research. How our founding fathers or even early settlers of our great northwest would look with amazement and incredulity upon these marvels of our age!

Strangely and quite inexplicably, despite our extensive opportunities for learning, there are among us people who, although apparently of normal intelligence, will accept readily the findings of science in some areas yet blindly reject them in others. They may listen eagerly to our county agents' broadcasts for the latest word on how to arrest pear decline or improve field crops or live-stock; or accept without question reports of new cures for human ills; yet refuse to believe the equally authoritative testimony of anthropologists, sociologists or others competent to instruct us on the subject of race—the human race, that is.

Typical of these oddly inconsistent folk are Ralph McKinzie of Ashland who aired in these columns some of his weird racist aberrations, and a resident of Fortuna, Calif., who, in support of the latter's unscientific notions, has written me abusive personal letters; using an assumed name (as I reported here earlier), then reported to another and obviously equally fictitious address since my reply came back marked "Unknown." For his benefit (since he evidently reads MT Communications) and that of others racists, this, in part, is what I wrote him:

"As a devout Christian, I believe in forgiveness and in the redemption of sinners—even one like you. I do forgive you and hope the good Lord may do the same—and of course, he will if in true humility and penitence you acknowledge your sin and pray his forgiveness.

"It is inconceivable that anyone with even so little as a grammar school education could write—any librarian or teacher and untrue as all that nonsense in your letters. If you really seek enlightenment and truth as to the nature of man—all mankind, black, brown, yellow or white—any librarian or teacher will be glad to help you; and as to the oneness of mankind and God's love for all created in his image (and the Good Book imposes no color bar!), read your Bible, especially the New Testament."

And I would say the same to all pedlers of falsehoods and hate-mongers. Arnold Eugene Jenny
Rogue Valley Manor
Medford

Race of Sorrows
To the Editor: Will you read the enclosed circular? Could you put in print under what I have circled under "Comments" for the good it might do.

I know you are swamped with requests for this and that and under heavy pressure. If you can find time please edit this enclosure so it will carry the best message.

If after reading the enclosed circular you don't get choked up you will do better than I did. How can such things exist in this great land of plenty and surpluses?

Tom T. Goldfrap
775 Posse Lane
Medford

Dear Friends: Please help me make these children of the Race of Sorrows cry this Christmas time. I mean it. I want them to come out of their numbness. I want them to show some emotion.

I would rather see them "alive" even with tears than their mute, long suffering acceptance of privation with which they have come to feel every Cheyenne must always live, even at Christmas.

Please help me to make them cry — not from sadness but for joy. Let your kindness this Christmas push aside again the clouds of frustration and hopelessness that hide happiness from their lives.

Last Christmas season little

Jimmie tearfully pleaded with me for a dollar. He wanted to buy a gift for his mother who had never received a present in her life. Some donor's dollar made this boy and his mother very happy last Christmas.

Will my Children of the Race of Sorrows cry with joy this Christmas? That depends! Is there a Santa Claus? Will he find us again, so far away from the centers of "the Christmas spirit"? Will you be Santa Claus to them?

The smiles which you bring to these Indian children at Christmas will add to your happiness this Joyful and Happy Season. The Children of the Race of Sorrows join me in wishing you a Happy Christmas Season. God bless you!

Gratefully yours,
Rev. Emmett Hoffmann
Director
St. Labre Indian School
Ashland, Mont.

Flea Market
To the Editor: The Gamma Zeta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi would like to extend a great big "Thanks" to Mr. Herb Grey for giving the Block Ad in the Mail Tribune to help promote the 2nd annual Flea Market.

Also the chapter would like to thank KBOY, KDOV, KMED and TV, KWJN, KYJC in the spot announcing that they provided to help make the Flea Market a success.

Mrs. Ron Faelea
Publicity Chairman of
Gamma Zeta Chapter
Beta Sigma Phi

Y'all Come!
To the Editor: Being former Oregonians and very homesick, just imagine our joy when we read in the Sunday El Paso Times (front page headlines, no less) that Oregon is to play in the Sun Bowl.

The Sun Bowl will hold 30,000 people so y'all come! Agnes Herman
(Mrs. Charles Herman)
5207 Mumm Lane
El Paso, Texas

P.S.—Give us a call, we'll be home right after the game.

Loyalty
To the Editor: It is never out of order for one to express his loyalty to our country — a country peopled by every race under the sun, yet one in its ideas and hopes.

The following definition of Americanism was adopted at the joint conference of the commanders in chief of the five big veterans organizations in Washington on Feb. 18, 1927.

AMERICANISM
"Americanism is an unfailing love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals, eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the Flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity."

David Frisch
P. O. Box 2292
White City, Ore.

Word Use and Congress
To the Editor: Thank you for your Editorial of 12-11-63. Two words that are bandied around in a most reckless manner are "Liberal" and "Conservative."

In common practice any one can claim to be either and defend their position according to one's own understanding of the term, or their own interpretation.

These two words, along with the word "Freedom," seem by their varied use to have, each, multiple meanings or are much abused. These are vital words and the meaning attached to them can be of significant importance for or against, based upon the user's viewpoint. The meaning of either can be just as diversified as there are schools of thought. Therefore it occurred to me several years ago that for greater clarity their true meaning should be defined more closely by all institutions of learning and by lexicography, however until we have a tighter definition we should use them with more discretion.

Slow Poke Congress
In this part of your Editorial you bring out points regarding

our Legislatures that I am afraid are too little realized by the public. Our Legislatures, both State and Federal, are the only deliberative bodies I know of not governed by set Rules of Order or Parliamentary Laws except those of their own making. I know of no other body of this nature where committees are allowed power to delay, disregard or pass final judgment upon issues that properly belong to the entire body.

I believe committees have their useful functions, which are of great help, but do believe their realm should extend only to determining whether any debatable proposition is of sufficient merit for consideration by the body acting as a whole.

Any change in this area must come by the demands of the people. These legislative bodies will not make such change of their own free will and accord, for in the control of the committees lie the strength of political parties. And in the Senate, state or federal, the filibuster is employed, which is only a delaying tactic used when no logical opposition is available, a veritable sit-down strike.

The abuse of committee power and the filibuster often rob the public of the majority decision by the elected representatives and serve only the minority groups to the utter discomfort of the administration, without regard for the best interests of the general public.

These are only a few of the

curves and angles in modern legislation, to which many reforms are long overdue.

C. R. Burrill
834 1/2 Cherry St.
Central Point, Ore.

MINUTEMAN LAUNCHED
VANDEMBERG AFB, Calif. (UPI) — The Air Force Friday "successfully" fired two Minuteman "instant" intercontinental ballistic missiles—each bearing mock nuclear warheads.

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Poets' Corner

Conducted by
Arnold Eugene Jenny

On The Uses of Poetry
The essential advantage for a poet is not to have a beautiful world with which to deal; it is to be able to see beneath both beauty and ugliness: to see the boredom, and the horror and the glory. — T. S. Eliot.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy
How has man sought to find the Soul —
Elusive mystery of life!
Man is a part of some vast Whole,
Forever torn 'twixt peace and strife.

And some there are who rise to fame —
To write their names upon the stars!
While other folk have but a name
And seldom travel very far.

Here was a man of wealth and youth,
Facing great problems of his time,
Who strove to come to grips with Truth
— To be cut down, just in his prime.

How strange, sometimes, man's Destiny!
— His pathway, Death's great dragon bars —
Satanic blindness his way mars
And mocks his dreams of what might be.

How strange, man's short, queer Destiny!
One day he lives and smiles on Fate
— The Veil past which no man may see —
And Wisdom comes, perhaps, too late!

A Nation mourns this awful death,
And spurns assassin's puny plea.
But John would say, if he had breath:
"The things I fought for, yet shall be!"
—Kenneth F. Oshimer
Pennsville, Ohio

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

What cold, destructive force has wrecked the soul
Of mankind on a sea as deep as death?
What unseen tide invades his stagnant shoul
To suck him under and to steal his breath?
Or sicer him onto routes so wrapped in dark
And tortured in their veering, lonely way,
That life, itself, becomes a vortex, stark
And lethal as the end of his last day.
No matter where man hides it seeks him out,
Relentless with black fury and grey hate,
And till he learns that only he can rout
The evil shadow — if it's not too late —
Ah then, before his life is ebbd and gone,
He'd face HIMSELF and see a mirrored pawn
—Lloyd B. Halverson
Medford

*Begun 11-17, to be concluded next week.

Star Of David
The law of old,
The sacred way,
The shepherd's fold,
The light of day —
All predicate
A justice sure,
A mercy pure
For man's estate.
—W. Arthur Boggs
Oswego, Ore.

*From the author's "Odysseus And Other Poems," by permission. Originally published in "American Judaism."

This White Forgiving
We need the snow to hide the scars of living
And give a new dimension to the land;
Like answered prayer, there falls this white forgiving
In loveliness we all can understand.
—Alice MacKenzie Swaim
Dillsburg, Pa.

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