

The INDEPENDENT

Serving the upper Nehalem River valley. Published twice monthly on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, by Public Opinion Laboratory Ltd., 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064, as a free newspaper. Editors and Publishers, Dirk & Noni Andersen, (503) 429-9410.

Opinion

If military action matters, take a good look at Kemp

A Letter to the Editor in this issue compares Senator Bob Dole's actions during World War II to President Bill Clinton's actions during the Vietnam war. The letter stimulated some questions.

If a candidate's military record is a valid measure of "character", should the method used by a candidate to defer or eliminate a call to active duty also be considered? If that is a valid consideration, would it also be valid to look at what the candidate did during the period covered by the exemption?

Jack Kemp, Dole's vice-presidential running mate, is a case in point. Kemp was a private in the Army Reserve at the time his unit was called to active duty, in 1961 during the Berlin crisis.

As a quarterback in the National Football League, Kemp was a wealthy, noted athlete in superb physical condition, but he didn't join his unit. Instead, he obtained a medical exemption on the basis that an injured shoulder made him unfit for duty. Then he played football, throwing the ball for 2,686 yards and 15 touchdowns, leading the San Diego Chargers to a division title the same year.

Let's review Clinton's deferment.

As a student, Bill Clinton was neither wealthy nor well-known, but he qualified for, and obtained, a student deferment. He was a good student who earned a Rhodes Scholarship for exceptional academic accomplishment, then used it to attend Oxford University. As a student, he - and many thousands of American students - demonstrated against America's involvement in Vietnam.

The comparison: Clinton had a student deferment and worked hard as a student. Kemp had a medical exemption and worked hard on the football field.

Interesting.

File now for mayor, council

Anyone who is toying with the idea of running for mayor or city council in Vernonia or Banks needs to get down to City Hall now and pick up the nominating petitions.

It doesn't cost anything to run unless the candidate spends money on signs and ads, but the value to your community is incalculable if you have the desire and time to study issues facing small towns today.

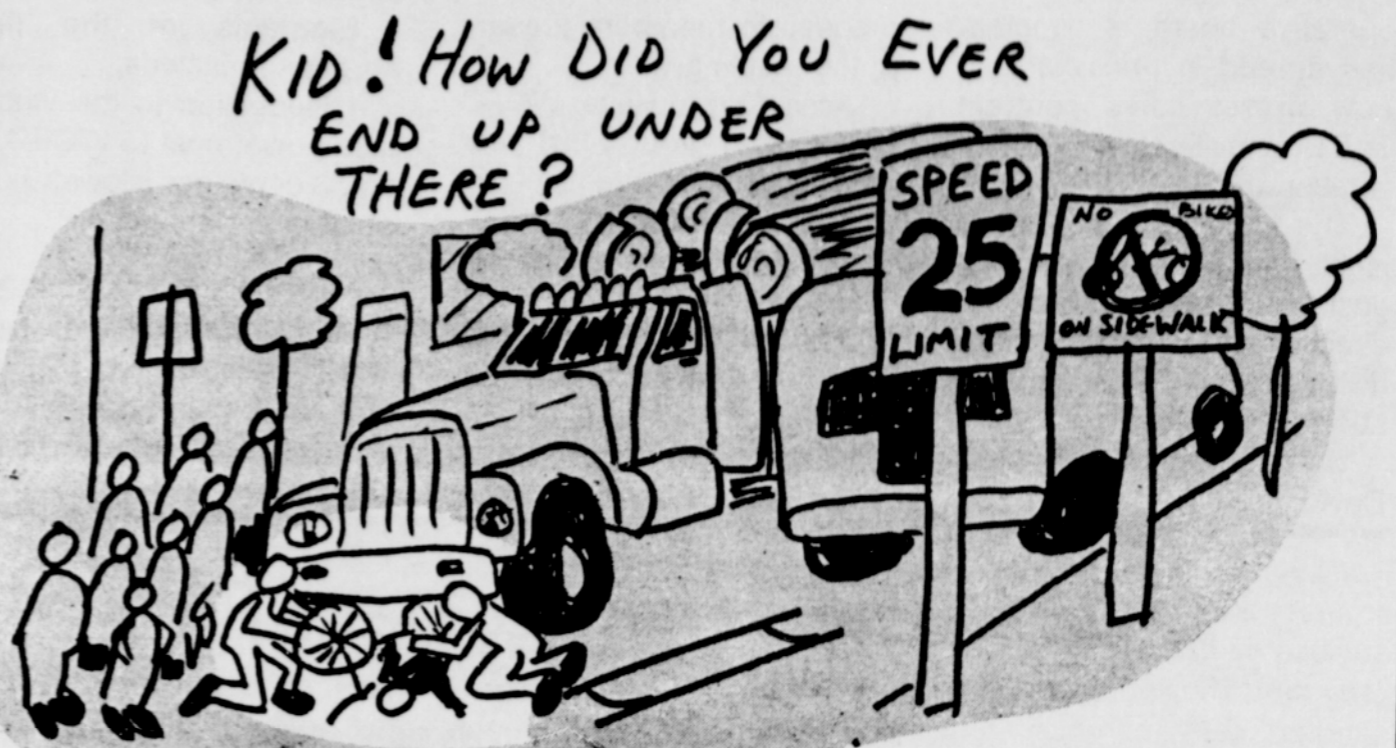
In Vernonia, City Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Papers must be completed and returned no later than 5 p.m. on Aug. 26.

In Banks, City Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., or call 324-5112 to make other arrangements. Papers must be completed and returned no later than 5 p.m. on Aug. 27.

If you're curious, check it out. It is sometimes hard work, but it's also a good education.

Ooops!

Audean Wagner is the person whose name was supposed to be here last issue, so: Thank you Audean, for your efforts on behalf of flood victims.



WELL I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE RIDING MY BIKE ON THE SIDE WALKS, AND TRYING TO OUT-MANEUVER THE TRUCK DIDN'T WORK TOO WELL!!!

Robson Aug 96
INDEPENDENT

Ike Says

By Dale Webb, member
Izaak Walton League, Nehalem Valley Chapter

My last column seemed to stir up the danger of our local district wildlife biologist. We had a two-hour discussion over the phone and I believe we came to the conclusion to agree to disagree. I'm not saying that our district wildlife biologist is a slacker, because I feel he is a dedicated biologist who is trying to do a very difficult job. Our differences pivot on my need for facts and figures; when things don't add up, I need facts and figures to show me why. So far, ODF&W hasn't been able to supply valid answers to the questions.

Here's another mathematical problem for you problem-solvers out there. ODF&W claims that there are over 8,000 elk in the Saddle Mountain Unit. They also say this exceeds the objective for the unit (how they came up with 8,000 I do not know) and this is their justification for cow hunts. The brain teaser is that the ODF&W count of the elk herd for 1995 showed the following composition: bulls per 100 cows-20, calves per 100 cows-44. Herd composition counts are conducted after bull season so the bulls that are counted are spike bulls that are protected by the 3-pt. rule, plus the branch antlered bulls that escaped harvest. I feel it is safe to assume that most of these bulls would live until the next hunting season, barring a bad winter.

If I remember my algebra correctly, the formula of $X=20/164 \times X$ should give me the number of bulls that exist in any given population for X. My calculator says that for a herd of 8,000 animals, there would be 975 bulls walking around in the woods come hunting season, with most of them being legal for harvest. That sounds great, but we are harvesting only about 400 bulls a year. If we include poaching and crippling loss, and estimate that total bull harvest was actually around 600, that would still leave us with an annual gain in bull population of 375 animals. The flaw is that, in just 2 years, the bull population would be nearly double the 975 bulls we began with! We would be harvesting many more bulls and a lot of older bulls - and that is not the case.

Data I just received on the bull elk tooth surveys done the last two years in the Saddle Mountain Unit, supports that claim. The age of an animal can be determined by counting the

rings on an incisor root tip, much like rings on a tree stump. This has to be done by a lab, though. The data results show that 73% of the bulls harvested are two years of age or younger. That leaves only 27% escapement for bulls past their first hunting season and, if one assumes that very few bulls died of old age, then we would annually recruit 263 bulls into the 3-year-old category if we used the 975 bulls from a population of 8,000 animals.

Again, this data doesn't work; 263 animals is more than half of the legal annual harvest and does not correspond with the tooth survey data. If we change the population size to 5,000 animals in the above equations, the numbers start to correspond to the tooth survey data. This would result in an annual bull recruitment of 609 bulls, post-season, of which 164 would be branch antlered. This would also correspond to an annual mortality of 600 bulls of which 162 (27%) would have been older than 2 years of age. I expect I will get another phone call.

To leave you on a humorous note, here are a few footnotes from a trip that some of our extended family (Bernardis, Wellers, Tituses and Webbs) made to the Three Creeks area near Sisters. To start with, any gathering of such characters all in one spot is a recipe for trouble. Envision my father, the fisherman, oaring an inflatable raft on a beautiful lake with the Three Sisters mountains for a backdrop-and the fish are biting really well. Now envision him with two grade school girls in the boat: He says, "Set the hook" as the poles arc from biting fish, and the girls turn to him asking, "What's that?" The fisherman's ultimate nightmare!!

Campfires are always the center of evening activities, with roasted hot dogs and marshmallows and occasional sparks that burn through the lawn chairs. This group of campers, not wanting to be outdone by neighboring campers, sacrificed a perfectly good lawn chair to the fire gods. Well, okay, maybe the wind had something to do with it.

Maybe that was the chair that bit my nephew Rob. You didn't know chairs can bite? Well, just ask Rob, I heard it bit him so bad that he passed out from the pain. Luckily, cousin Steve (the fire chief) was there to catch him before he hit the ground.

Please see page 3