

Sandy Post

Lee Irwin, Publisher
Howard Scott, Editor
Caroline Duff, Advertising Manager
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Do We Need Another Bureaucracy?

We think the Emergency Board should take a very long, very hard look at a \$7 million request from the Metropolitan Service District.

The MSD is asking the E board Thursday for \$7 million in order to get into the garbage business.

You'll recall that in 1969, voters approved formation of a Service District encompassing the populous areas of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties. But at the same time, they didn't provide any money.

Since then, the MSD has been described as an "agency in search of a cause."

Obviously, solid waste disposal has become that cause.

The MSD proposes a three-phase program to take care of solid waste problems in the metropolitan area. Processing facilities to recycle solid waste would be built near Oregon City and in North Portland. A transfer station is planned for Washington county; there is nothing in East Multnomah county.

People who are in the solid waste business, however, are almost solidly against the MSD plan. They claim they have not been given a fair hearing, that private industry could do the job if given the chance, and that many of the MSD economic assumptions just won't float.

For instance, recycling solid waste

will produce fuel which could be used in a variety of ways. But no really solid market yet exists. Recycling also would reclaim ferrous metals but wildly-fluctuating prices make this an economic question mark.

The MSD figure for reclaimed newsprint is \$15 per ton, a figure which we know from experience is questionable to say the least.

The MSD would control the solid waste industry by its ability to tell people where they can and cannot dump garbage. They also will require costly hand separation of demolition materials—wood, metals, glass, etc., something haulers say they simply could not afford.

Finally, the construction industry is threatened because of implied conditions that no more gravel pits could be opened, later to be filled by solid waste materials.

The MSD will charge haulers 30 per cent more the first year for use of its disposal sites, 100 to 125 per cent more in the second phase (1977-80).

Hence, the question, why does the MSD need such huge increases if its recycling plan is such a bonanza?

We hope this isn't another Tri-Met type boondoggle where the taxpayer somehow ends up footing the bill. We think private industry is perfectly capable of handling our solid waste problems.

Making Drunken Drivers Pay

An Alabama jury has convicted a man of first-degree murder in a drunken driving case and the man has, in turn, been sentenced to life imprisonment.

At long last, perhaps drunken drivers are going to get their due.

Some years back, a drunken driver got onto the wrong lane of the Banfield freeway and two young men lost their lives in the ensuing crash. The judge really slapped his wrist... a 90-day license suspension.

And at almost the same time, another man displayed a gun in the holdup of a grocery store. He got 10 years.

It always seemed to us that the

Business Is Better

Business in Oregon definitely is on the upswing.

At least that's the conclusion of U.S. Bank economists, writing in "Oregon Business Barometer."

Oregon's real growth was considerably greater in 1975 than in 1974. Employment is up, unemployment down. Wages continued to increase, so do farm prices.

The rate of inflation has declined and consumer confidence seems markedly better. In short, the gloom and doom of a year ago have given place to definite, if cautious, optimism.

Employment in Oregon hit bottom in July, then started a slow but steady

The Silly Season Persists

We wonder how much longer the State intends to maintain 24-hour sacred status for the so-called HOV lanes on the Banfield freeway?

The HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes were instituted late last year to squeeze down available space and force people into buses which traveled the HOV lanes. They also could be used by cars occupied by three or more persons.

(There have been instances, incidentally, in which people have sailed down the HOV lanes with a driver and two clothing store dummies).

But the HOV lanes are a 24-hour thing, not just peak hours. You may

crime of the drunken driver was far the more serious of the two. And yet he escaped almost unpunished.

In the Alabama case, the drunken driver killed a teenager.

An appeal is planned on the contention that a drunken person is generally incapable of conscious criminal intent. To which the parents of the dead teen-ager might ask, "But does that bring back our son? He's just as dead as if he had been shot by a gun."

People who drink and drive and kill deserve no break from the law. We hope the Alabama example is widely copied.

increase. The greatest drop in employment during 1975 occurred in the Portland area but by the same token, the greatest year-end improvement also was in the Portland area.

Looking ahead, U.S. Bank economists look for a slow but steady improvement, with Oregon doing slightly better than the national average.

Lumber, metals and tourism should do better in 1976. Agriculture will be about the same, depending upon the weather, but construction will be down.

All in all, the picture is immeasurably brighter than it was at this same time a year ago.

be going home at 3 a.m. in the morning with not a car in sight but you still can't invade the sanctity of those lanes.

It's all pretty ridiculous, since police admittedly cannot enforce the HOV provisions (there simply is no place to haul off an errant offender). As a result, more and more single passenger cars are using the HOV lanes.

We think the State should promptly take off the restrictions, except during peak hours, and restore the Banfield to somewhere near its original status. Or better yet, dump the whole silly idea.



"NO, LAND-USE planning is no problem. But if you Boys ever learn how to get the crops in an' the manure out, an' the taxes paid, - we could sure use some of THAT kind of help!"

letters to the editor

Editorial off base

To the Editor:
The recent editorial entitled "Should Teachers Lead the Lobbyists?" stated that school test scores are declining. We agree. But we must strenuously disagree with both parts of the editorial's conclusion. To conclude that poor test scores are the result "... of what can only be considered a decline in teaching effectiveness..." is an admission that not much was considered. "Responsibility for the decline (in test scores) rests not upon teachers, but upon parents, courts, legislators, bureaucrats and school administrators," illustrates James J. Kilpatrick. Also, school budgets have lately been cut or defeated in entirety; and this is bound to affect test scores. If the public wants higher test scores, it has to adequately fund education over a period of years.

Singling out teachers for the blame was bad enough, yet the editor went on, suggesting that "... it seems teachers are more interested in political muscle than they are in good teaching." But, it is because we are interested in good education that teachers voluntarily contribute to a separate political fund, which is administered by OEA on our behalf. Teachers consider it their professional duty to help push for reforms, such as more state support for schools, smaller class sizes, and good learning conditions. If "political muscle" as used by the editor means persuading state legislators to improve education, then teachers are indeed interested in it, but this certainly does not mean that it will be to the detriment of good teaching. Conversely, they go hand in hand.

Should teachers lead the lobbyists? We say YES! If that's what it takes. "We have to tell our story. It has to be told forcefully. No one's going to do it for us," says NEA president John Ryor. The strongest way Oregon teachers can tell our story is through the legislature.

Kirk and Julie Kassner
1485SW 33rd
Gresham

Fire plans

To the Editor:
The Sandy Fire District is completing an initial draft of a Comprehensive Plan for Fire Protection in our district. The plan is to be used as a guideline for both long term and short term fire district operations. It covers such areas as fire station locations, personnel policies, equipment requirements, etc.

Upon completion of the initial draft, we plan to have a committee of interested fire district residents review the plan before its final adoption by the board of directors. Area organizations are being asked to appoint representatives to

serve on this committee.

We are also planning to have as committee members, individuals with no particular organization affiliation, who come from various areas of the district. Our intention is to have the committee made up of as broad a cross section of fire district residents as possible.

We estimate that it will take three or four meetings to complete the review. Meetings will be held on Tuesdays, at the Sandy Fire Hall, on the following dates: March 16, March 23, March 30 and if necessary April 6. Meetings will start promptly at 7:30 p.m.

We would like to hear from anyone who wishes to serve on our committee as a fire district resident at Large.

Please contact me at 668-4622.

Bob Rathke, Fire Chief
Sandy Rural Fire
Protection District

Patty & Poverty

To the Editor:

As the continuing saga of Patty Hearst manages to preoccupy the American news media mind, I am once again reminded of the sick priorities that seem to divert attention from the real issues and problems of today's world; the gross disparities between the rich and the poor, the depletion of natural resources, ever-increasing population and pollution, and above all, world hunger.

Looking at the Ford administration's recently released budget for fiscal year, 1977, I am not surprised to see that \$101 billion is proposed for the military and only \$1.7 billion is proposed for agriculture, including foreign food aid.

For all of you out there who think the U.S. is the all omnipotent bread-winner and bread-giver for the world, consider the fact that 13 other countries (led by Sweden) give a larger percentage of their gross national product (GNP) in foreign food assistance than the U.S. Not to mention the recipient countries get their hands spanked if they don't play the way we like. (Tanzania and Guyana have already been postponed American development aid because of U.N. voting positions they have taken.)

I realize that the average man on the street likes to sympathize with global problems, but too easily shrugs the shoulders and falls victim to the yes-but-what-can-I-do-about-it syndrome. Believe it or not, we citizens do have a voice and can make a difference when it comes to affecting legislation in congress. In the past year several important food bills relating to hunger were passed largely due to public pressure on congresspersons. Although the voting records for Oregon senators and representatives

reflect favorable support for both domestic and world food assistance, a little reinforcement from constituents never hurts.

In his recent book "Bread for the World," Arthur Simon outlines some innovative ways that citizens can affect changes in Washington, D.C., and at home, regarding hunger-related legislation, eating habits, nutrition education and public awareness of the world food crisis. If we comfortable Americans can't find the time and energy to be concerned about global injustices, what makes us think that a poor farmer in Columbia or Pakistan can do any better.

But then again, utility rates are going up another 10 per cent and Patty Hearst is much more exciting.

Judith Kidd
PO Box 403
Brightwood

Postmaster cancelled

An open letter to Congressman Al Ullman

Dear Sir:
Do you believe government is too big... too unresponsive to the people? No American likes such charges, notably the post office.

Attached news story (Sandy Post, Feb. 12) illustrates, but more is unprinted about the deaf, glass-eyed Portland postmaster, who claims economy for closing our three post offices, but who resists proving it with facts and details.

Postmaster Luscher would trample on community identity, just as he neglects to survey or poll the residents, though he claims public support. He failed to acknowledge petitions signed last year by 500 in protest.

Without Washington approval he has sought bids for a new central facility and at least four builders are drawing up proposals for locations near the shopping center in Wemme.

In his one appearance here, Luscher expressed preference for business people over the

JOBS

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Keeping Posted

CRAG hearing scheduled

THURSDAY, FEB. 19
The weekly businessmen's coffee hour starts at 9 a.m. in the Oregon Trail office.

At 7:30 p.m. the Sandy Library Board will meet in the Sandy City Library.

residents. An assistant met with 139 persons who solidly protested closing, but Luscher wrote the Postmaster General that he has popular support.

Luscher rebuffed my request for information until I invoked Freedom of Information law — why so stubborn about public business?

To locate post office in Wemme and name it Hoodland flies in the face of local pride. Without hearing vox populi, at that, I'll let others tell you why we resent that business-inspired name, Hoodland.

Nobody these days believes the hollow claim, economy, when government justifies foreshortened service. We know postal economy — so far it has slowed the mail and produced the 13-cent stamp.

As you know, Congress condemned the practice of closing post offices just to save money. But that's Luscher's aim, and nobody has heard the special mail problems of this area.

Like many residents I believe this action needs airing — nothing less than public hearings in all five involved communities, Welches, ZigZag, Rhododendron, Wemme and Brightwood. Let us have open government.

Joseph A. Stein
Star Route
ZigZag

Carnival gratitude

To the Editor:
The carnival committee members of the Welches PTA wants to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the Welches Carnival Saturday.

We are especially grateful to the many merchants who donated goods and services and to the parents and teachers who donated food and baked goods and helped with the booths. Lots of thanks also goes to the great students of Welches for their help with decorations, helping in the booths and cleaning up.

The carnival committee had a good time—we hope everyone else did, also. Plans are already under way for next year's Carnival—bigger and more organized than ever.

The Welches Carnival Committee

Joyce Bergeson, Chairman

Chairman

Members: Daryl Thompson,

Ed and Phyllis Clow,

Olga Roberts,

Kirk Kassner

Sandy area residents will get their last chance to comment on the overall objectives and goals of the Columbia Region Association of Governments' current series of public hearings tonight.

At 7:30 p.m. at the Western Forestry Center, in the Portland Zoo complex just off US Highway 26 west of Portland, CRAG will hold a public hearing where all opinions and comments on the association can be aired.

MONDAY, FEB. 23

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners meets at 10 a.m. the county courthouse in Oregon City.

TUESDAY, FEB. 24

At noon the Sandy Chamber of Commerce meets in the Foothills Inn.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25

The Cottrell Citizens' Advisory committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the East Building of the school.

The Mt. Hood Lions Club meets at 8 o'clock this evening in the club hall at Wemme.

The Sandy VFW and auxiliary will hold their February meetings at 8 p.m. in the VFW hall in Sandy.

Associated chambers plan dinner

The nine Clackamas County chambers of commerce will hold their annual meeting and dinner Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the West Linn Inn starting at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:30 p.m.

President-elect Walt Daniels, Canby, will succeed Don Goff, Milwaukie, as head of the associated chambers. Mary Sharp, Molalla, will take over vice-presidential duties from Daniels.

Featured speaker of the event will be Lloyd Anderson, executive director of the Port of Portland.

Telephone stock bought

Cascade Utilities, Estacada, has purchased controlling stock of Umpqua Telephone Co. Inc., according to Duane Day, president.

Cascade serves the Corbett area as well as Estacada locally.

The transaction is subject to approval of the public utilities commissioners.

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