

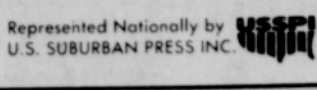
Sandy Post

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Published weekly Thursdays by The Outlook Publishing Co., Box 68,
Sandy, Oregon 97055. Second class postage paid at Sandy, Oregon

668-5548

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, per year \$5.00
Services, per year \$5.00
Servicemen, any address \$5.00
In Oregon, outside Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, per year \$6.00
In Northwest and Pacific Coast States outside Oregon per year \$7.00
Outside Northwest and Pacific Coast states, per year \$9.00



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We'll Support Gasoline Tax Increase

The spring primary is some months away but we already can recommend Ballot Measure No. 5.

This is the 2-cent per gallon increase in the state gasoline tax which, if approved by voters, will be used for highway repairs.

And make no mistake, highway repairs are badly needed here in Oregon, especially on secondary roads. We don't know how many accidents have been caused by badly rutted roads, how many tires have been ruined, how many wheels knocked out of line.

Obviously, far too many.

For years, Oregon justly prided itself on its excellent road system, but lately, inflation has eaten up such maintenance funds as were available, and Oregon's highways have deteriorated badly.

Roads in nearby states are in much better shape.

The 2-cent increase, even if approved, probably will not be much more than a holding action. But it is badly needed. We hope the voters concur.

Changing Enrollment Patterns

Long-range projections in the education field as often as not turn out to be way off base but we can't argue with some statistics produced by the National Center for Education Statistics, an arm of HEW.

A recent study predicted that enrollment in community colleges will increase 48 percent in the next decade. Part-time enrollments in four-year schools will climb 41 percent and the number of students in non-degree courses 62 percent.

These kinds of projections are becoming apparent right here in Oregon. Portland State, for instance, is becoming more and more a school for part-time students who nevertheless are sincere in their degree aspirations. The same with Mt. Hood and other community colleges. People are finding they

can combine a career and higher education, even though it takes much longer than the traditional four-year undergraduate program.

At the same time, the study predicted a decline of five percent in the number of elementary students and 15 percent in high school students. The number of secondary school teachers will drop by 11 percent but paradoxically, the number of elementary teachers will increase by the same 11 percent.

Higher education will gain about 19 percent in total enrollment with all of it coming in public schools; private schools are expected to decline 3 percent.

Predictably, expenses everywhere are expected to climb. So will tuitions and fees.

Promises, Promises, Promises

Like any candidate, Jimmy Carter made a lot of promises. And inevitably, some of them won't be fulfilled.

But it seems to us he has flunked badly on his promise to keep politics out of sensitive appointments. A U.S. district attorney (David Marston) has been sacked in Philadelphia for no other

reason than that he was a Republican.

Carter, during the campaign, promised to appoint U.S. attorneys and federal judges on merit alone. Except Philadelphia.

The Lance affair and now the Marston affair are tarnishing rather badly the knight-in-shining-armor image.

Uncle's Bite Getting Bigger

If you work for a living, we hope you've looked at your first-in-January paycheck, specifically to note how much more the government is taking.

We're referring, of course, to social security taxes which were increased from 5.85 percent of total earnings to 6.05 percent by the last Congress.

If you receive \$200 per week, for instance, the social security bite last year would have been \$11.70 per week; this year it's \$12.10. Only 40 cents per week more you say, that's not much.

But it comes to \$20.80 per year plus a like \$20.80 which your employer must contribute and which

therefore cannot be plowed back into the business for wage hikes, vacations, bigger inventory or whatever.

The Carter administration promised, of course, that increased social security taxes would be offset later this year by reductions in income taxes for most people.

Maybe.

Congressmen seem in no rush to accept Carter's tax proposals. Even if they do, we'll wager the family jewels that social security and energy-related tax increases will more than offset any such reductions as may be approved.

It's a losing game for the taxpayer.

Rights for Non-Smokers

We think they should rent gas masks at the Memorial Coliseum for those persons who, for some reason, have to go into the outer lobby during intermission at most any sports event.

The cigarette smog is thick enough to cut, almost impossible to breathe.

And it isn't just at the Memorial Coliseum. We attended an attraction at Seattle's Kingdome recently and the men's room at halftime was so smoke-filled that we gave up and came back later.

There has to be some equal-rights amendment for non-smokers. Why should they be subjected to smoke-fouled air to do something as simple as get a drink of water or buy a hot dog?

The no-smoking rule inside the coliseum, of course, is the reason for the smokehouse atmosphere at halftime. Smokers just can't wait to get at their cigarettes.

We suggest they go clear outside where their fumes won't bother anyone. Except perhaps each other.



A little shortcut through the woods

letters to the editor

Open letter

Dear Editor:

The following is an open letter to Governor Straub. It is my small memorial to the memory of Margie Fernette whose brutal murder seems to testify that our state perhaps can not, perhaps will not, and certainly has not provided for her safety.

Dear Governor Straub:

We in the Sandy area have been shocked, saddened and shamed by the brutal assault and slaying of one of our school children while on her way home from school.

Fifteen-year-old Margie Fernette had little time or opportunity to consider the outrageous fact that she was growing up in a state which has allowed the crimes of assault, rape and murder to increase a hundred fold during just the years of her own short and unfulfilled life.

But you and I, sir, did know of the ever increasing dangers that we have permitted to grow and lurk in the shadows of our society. The time for positive action is long past due, and the initial task is YOURS—

simply because you asked for it and you promised that you WOULD do something about it. I will help, simply because I believe that is the proper role of every citizen.

I suggest, sir, that you begin by appointing a citizen's study group to develop as quickly as possible a basic plan and basic criteria upon which this state can mount an all-out war against the crimes of assault, rape or attempted rape and murder.

Past experience indicates that I should also suggest to you certain conditions with regards to the personnel of the study group.

They should, in my opinion, be ordinary, plain people of the type who have been the most numerous victims of the crimes we seek to control. Please do not appoint the professional jurist or attorney types who have been so quick and eager to tell us how difficult such control would be while the problems have mounted.

And please do not appoint the professional "do-gooder" who has and will continue to make excuses for those who made no excuses for those

others they have assaulted, raped or murdered.

And please, sir, let us have no bleeding hearts, professional penologists, reformers or vigilantes to confuse any and all issues.

There should be no 'big names' on your study group, simply because all of the 'big names' have already had their opportunity to speak and while they have been speaking, the incidence of these crimes has shot up in a rocket-like spiral.

Please do not seek the assistance of politicians or political lists in naming the members of the study group. The numerous obituaries of the victims of these crimes has not indicated a political connection, unless one could say that society's failure is also a political failure.

Above all, sir, please do it at once. At the rate these crimes occur, even a few days could mean life or death to another Margie Fernette, and believe me, sir, I do not think that the people of Oregon are going to stand much more of that!

Sincerely,
Bill Sanderson
Rt. 2, Box 999
Estacada, Ore. 97023

County Comment Speak out now against rising crime

by Bill Sanderson

Jan. 28—By the time this printed and reaches the public, it is our fervent hope that the bestial murderer of Sandy's 15-year-old schoolgirl, Margie Fernette, will have been apprehended and locked safely away from a world in which he could not function as a rational human being.

Based on past records the odds are that he will remain free for a considerable length of time.

And speaking of odds, there is more than an even chance that this insane criminal is a "repeater," and that his problems have already come to the attention of some authority such as his parents, teachers, the police or the courts.

There are some deep and serious questions to be asked of a society in which a high percentage of the crimes of assault, rape and murder are committed by those who have official records of the same or lesser crimes. And those individuals often display tendencies pointing with unerring accuracy to a potential for the greater abuse of their privilege to live in freedom in our society.

During the last decade, many concerned persons have questioned our law enforcement agencies and our legal and judicial systems on this score. My column, here and in other papers, has done so repeatedly.

Unfortunately, the most common response is a long harangue by some police official who wants to be a psychologist, or a prison warden who wants to be a psychiatrist, or a bleeding heart who has somehow been misplaced in the hierarchy of our criminal justice courts.

The blunt truth of the matter is that the number and rate of such crimes are up. And that, my good friends, is the bottom line—the only one that counts.

I would like to repeat here some thoughts I once wrote

in another paper on this subject:

"Some place along the criminal trail the second, third or fourth victims of a Bowies, a Creech, or a Marquette cry out for justice with no less anguish than their first."

And with regards to proposals for improvement of the system:

"The sugar-coated ideas from the dream world of the self-appointed 'do-gooder' or the proposals of those who have too much to gain, too much to lose, or too much to hide are as unproductive as they are unreliable."

How long has it been since YOU have spoken out in disgust and anger at our mounting crime rate?

How many of you remember when a path through the woods was a pleasant place where one could stroll, safe and alone with your thoughts?

Do you remember when the streets were safe and a "break-in" for theft, assault, rape or murder was an almost unheard of happening?

Can you remember when the dark of night was a cool blanket of safety that enveloped and comforted the lone traveler? I can.

Well, I have a suggestion. SPEAK OUT NOW, and let your letter to Governor Straub be YOUR memorial to the memory of Margie Fernette who has paid the supreme price for her society's inability to cope with this new terror.

Ask the governor for a study committee composed of the kind of people who have been getting hurt in the growing nightmare of violence and crime.

Not judges, lawyers or policemen; not preachers, teachers or welfare workers. Not "bleeding hearts" or the blindly self-righteous but just ordinary people like you and I—or Margie's parents.

They will know, better than anyone else, what it has cost the people of this state to have allowed this despicable but deadly menace to grow and spread. DO IT TODAY!

Oral Hull board meets

A board meeting of Oral Hull Foundation for the Blind, Inc., Sandy, will be Saturday, Feb. 4 at 1:30 p.m. in the Rainbow Lodge.

There will be a Valentine party on Feb. 19 in Rainbow Lodge. Door prizes, games and dancing to live music will be featured. Refreshments will be provided.

Persons interested in attending should call Judy Hanson, 253-0387.

The foundation recently mailed a questionnaire to all blind persons in the state of Oregon. Opinions received from the questionnaires will be used by the foundation to determine the feasibility of a new facility for the blind.

Keeping posted Alder Creek water subject of council

Thursday, Feb. 2
The Sandy Woman's Club is sponsoring a flea market at the club hall today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thirteen tables will be featured.

All proceeds from the table sponsored by the Sandy Women's Club will go to the Sandy Library.

The Women's Club Hall is located across from Carlson Chevrolet on Proctor Boulevard in Sandy.

O O O
Oregon Trail Coffee Hour will begin at 9:30 a.m. Donuts, sweet rolls and coffee will be provided.

M O N D A Y, F E B. 6
The Sandy City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the

council chambers.

Items on the agenda include a resolution authorizing a sale of bonds to purchase the Sandy Baptist Chapel for use as a community center; a report on the Alder Creek water system; a report on collective bargaining status and the police department; selection of a committee to study parking problems in the city; liquor licenses and a report on the progress of the urban county housing and rehabilitation program.

T U E S D A Y, F E B. 7
The Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce will meet at TJ's Restaurant today and the speaker will be Russ

Nelson from the Clackamas County Intermediate Education District.

W E D N E S D A Y, F E B. 8
The Cottrell School Board will meet in regular session at 8 p.m. in the East Building lobby. Meeting is open to public.

O O O
The Take Off Pounds Sensibly Club of Sandy meets every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the basement of the Sandy Community Action Center. Call 668-4537 for more information. Young and old of both sexes are welcome to attend.

O O O
Sandy Area Merchants will meet from 7-8 a.m. at TJ's Fireside Dining.

Adjustment board to meet

Two local requests will go before the Clackamas County Board of Adjustment on Monday, Feb. 13.

An application has been filed by Don Clark for a variance to allow construction of a house on his property on Kelso Road. He has asked to reduce the 60 foot front yard requirement to 40 feet and reduce the 40 foot rear yard setback to 26 feet.

The land is located on the north side of Southeast Kelso Road, approximately one-fourth mile east of the intersection of Southeast Orient Drive and Southeast Kelso Road.

Security Signs, Inc., has asked for a variance to allow erection of a second free-standing sign identifying the commercial use of the property located at the intersection of Highway 26 and Southeast Compton Road in the Boring area.

The board of adjustment

Two killed in accident

BORING—Richard Patrick Farley Jr., 26, of 25053 SE Highway 224, was killed Friday when the car he was driving left Highway 224 and crashed into a tree, according to Clackamas County sheriff's deputies.

will begin its meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Clackamas County Courthouse in Oregon City.

The applications and records are available for inspection in the office of the Clackamas County Planning Department during normal working hours.

Craig Harding Gruen, 27, of Eagle Creek, a passenger in the car, also was killed. Deputies said the car left the road near Southeast 232nd Avenue about 11:53 p.m. Both men were dead at the scene.





George Morgan
Local Representative

WALRAD INSURANCE AGENCY
Sandy, Oregon 668-4421

SERVICE WE GIVE!
INSURANCE WE SELL . . .

The personal insurance counsel and advice of a local agent is important to you in planning a complete insurance program.