

Sandy Post

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Preserving Our Farmlands

As much as any place in Oregon, the Gresham area has seen vast amounts of fertile farmland gobbed up for urban development.

Hence, we should be especially interested in a bill which Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, D-Wash., plans to introduce later this month.

It is designed to help save farmlands, described as "one of the nation's fastest-dwindling natural resources."

The bill will set protection and preservation of farmlands as national policy and may authorize some \$500 million over the next five years for 75 percent matching grants for local preservation efforts.

Questions remain, of course. Will

citizens provide the necessary tax dollars for the 25 percent local match? Indeed, even if the land is preserved for agriculture, will farmers continue to farm?

Nationwide, it is estimated that between one million and three million acres of prime farmland are lost yearly because of urban growth and development. Given the uncontrolled growth of the past, farmlands may soon vanish around urban centers.

Magnuson's bill has widespread support and should pass if it can clear the necessary monetary hurdles. Even then, it still will be a long time before a single acre of farmland is saved. The hour is late.

The Right To Know

Another blow has been struck for the public's right to know and the reporter's right to make sure the public knows.

It seems that the Springfield City Council in the past has refused to give background information to reporters until the start of the council meeting. But this week Oregon Attorney General Jim Redden issued an opinion that says such council meeting material is public information.

Public officials may not withhold purely factual background information from the public or news reporters, Redden said. The only exempt material is non-factual

You Just Pay

Something akin to mutiny is occurring nationwide over recent increases in Social Security taxes. In fact, Congress almost certainly will roll back at least a part of the increase before the November elections.

These same stiff Social Security increases are a significant reason that the local school budgets are on the rise. Schools get socked for Social Security the same as you and I and it must be included in any budgetary projections; there isn't any yes or no. You just pay.

communications between officials and public employees "in the interest of encouraging frank communication."

One wonders what secrets lie in the Springfield council's business, making it afraid to conduct its business in a manner that ensures the greatest and best understanding of municipal government. The better a reporter understands what is going on—accomplished by having access to the same material as councilors—the more his stories reflect that understanding. In the end, the public benefits. (TF)

State and federally mandated programs have the same inflationary impact on local budgets. Once again, these programs are something over which you don't argue; you just pay.

Inflation, too, doesn't differentiate between public and private funds; you just pay.

This doesn't mean that every school budget is pure as the driven snow. It does mean that there are a lot of factors over which schools have no control; they just pay.



County comments

Rhetorical hipshooting

by Bill Sanderson

According to your bias, if you have any, (and you hasn't?) we have young Bill Keller, the Oregonian's staff member in the nation's capitol to thank, or to blame for today's cartoon.

Commenting on Oregon's Sen. Packwood's recent charges that the President of the United States was "bartering away the honor of his office" for votes on the Panama Canal treaties, Keller wrote, "Sen. Packwood outdid himself last week in a demonstration of rhetorical hipshooting. He aimed mostly at the president, but hit mostly his own feet."

It is not at all unusual that in the process of spilling out thousands and thousands of "words," all aimed with political mayhem in mind, our talkative senators and representatives may get taken with the dread disease of their-foot-in-their-mouthitis on occasion.

Anyone who talks that much can't possibly remember in what unfriendly but fertile ground

those uncounted words fell, nor when they may sprout and grow to confront him again.

Neither is "shooting from the hip" any unusual pastime for the members of our "greatest deliberative body." Most of them do it, some have become experts, but those really in the know admit that it can be a very dangerous pastime.

Many such pot-shots go astray, missing the intended target completely. Others, better aimed, hit home, but with indifferent results.

Still others are immediately recognized for the "cheap shots" they are and sort of boomerang on the hipshooter.

This could be troublesome indeed, especially if you happened to be standing around on one foot, trying to get the other foot out of your own mouth!

But bias, or no bias, a senator who has publicly admitted to considerable wavering on about how he was going to vote on the first of the Panama Canal treaties is in a mighty poor position to accuse a President of the United States who has never swerved in his support of the treaties of "bartering away the honor of his office."

Well, one does get some funny ideas for a cartoon, and this one gave me considerable trouble. It reminds me of a terrible, big lie an old man once told me about a cat he couldn't get rid of.

He shot it and drowned it, and each time it showed up the next morning, alive and healthy.

Finally, in desperation, he chopped off its head and buried the head and body in separate graves.

To his horror, the next morning the terrible cat showed up on his front porch carrying its own head in its mouth!

To this day I have never been able to draw a decent cartoon of that cat carrying its own head in its mouth.

Easter bake sale scheduled

An Easter Bake Sale to benefit the Welches preschool will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday at the Hoodland branches of the Clackamas County and U.S. Banks.

Barriers topic of workshop

The Clackamas County unit of the Association for Retarded Citizens is organizing a training workshop to survey architectural barriers in public buildings which restrict their use by handicapped persons.

The group is soliciting volunteers for the training session which will be conducted by a qualified representative of the Oregon Architectural Barriers Council, according to executive director Richard R. Keough.

The workshop, which is scheduled to last about two hours, will be held sometime between April 11 and 14. Interested persons are asked to contact the CCARC office, 635-4318 and leave their name, address and phone number by the first week in April.

Volunteers will be notified of the exact time and location of the workshop.

letters to the editor

Against light rail

To the Editor:

Representatives of the East County Concerned Citizens Group who are opposing Tri-Met's Light Rail have been placing petitions with the merchants throughout your area.

We feel that the costs are prohibitive and would have a terrific tax impact on the Tri-County area.

In this Tri-County area there are approximately 1,000,000 people. The Tri-Met proposal for construction costs is \$1,600,000,000 by 1990. Grammar school arithmetic shows this to be \$1,600 per person. Add the inflation factor to year 1990 and you can probably double this figure. Count the number in your family and estimate your share of this cost.

We feel it would be in your interest to join in our effort to stop the proposed construction of the light rail in the Tri-County area.

Thomas E. Armstrong
Chairman, East County
Citizens Group
11440 SE Pine Court
Portland, OR
97216

Support budget

To the Editor:

As a parent and taxpayer, I am very proud to live in the Welches Grade and Sandy High School districts. I am pleased to see realistic school budgets and qualified school board members working for us and our children.

I want to thank the Welches 1977-78 budget committee members (which includes the school board and administration) for their devotion in compiling the 1978-79 school budget and for their open-mindedness in considering community concerns.

I'll be at the polls on May 23 to vote yes for our Welches 1978-79 school budget and whatever levies our qualified elected and appointed building advisory committee deem necessary to solve the present "lack of space" problem at Welches.

Our school board members are our voices; so we better make sure we get to the polls on April 4, to keep those voices qualified and responsive. I'll be there voting for Leah Behan, Position No. 4, Welches School District and Pete Griffin, Position No. 2, Sandy Union High School District. See you there.

Cecily Thompson
Zizag Star Route
Rhododendron, Ore

A slap

To the Editor:

Your editorial opposing capital punishment was at the very least inconsiderate, and at the very worst, a slap in the face to the parents of the girl who was so brutally murdered right here in our own community less than two months ago.

These parents are even now wondering what sort of punishment will be ad-

ministered to this person if he is ever found, and with a great deal of cause for wonder, considering the recent outcomes of releasing various convicted killers from prison.

And what about the rest of us? Do you think we are untouched by these events? Do you think that because some girl had her head smashed in somewhere out near Roslyn Lake, that you need be unconcerned?

For those of you who do, I would like you to know that Margie Fernette was totally incapable of creating enough hate in anyone to have inspired such a despicable act.

She was a normal, happy young girl who loved animals, little kids and life, and she could have been your daughter.

She was liked by everyone in her neighborhood who knew her, the most serious complaint ever heard being that she forgot to close a horse gate.

So why was she murdered? Was it because she had blonde hair, because she had a pretty body, or simply because she was alone on a secluded trail in the woods? Or maybe for reasons unknown that might apply to any young girl in any neighborhood. It could have been your daughter.

It is of the utmost importance that her murderer be found and punished and we have an opportunity to help in both of these ventures. Shortly after Margie's death a reward fund was established hoping to draw out those who know (and someone does) who was responsible for her death. The Post advises us that this reward fund has risen to the less than impressive amount of \$1110.

Considering the fact that two of the contributions were for \$500 each, where does that leave the rest of the community. Is there anyone who is not capable of contributing \$10 for such a worthy cause?

It is perhaps against your principles to pay anyone for divulging such information, and certainly it turns us all off to think it should be necessary, but at this point, it appears to be possibly the only way to apprehend someone who certainly has forfeited his right to freedom.

And when he is apprehended, what, Mr. Or Ms. Editor, would you suggest that we do? It is certainly wrong to take another's life.

It is also wrong to put people in cages like animals and call them prisons. It is just as wrong to release a murderer back into society, as has been made evident in several cases in our state in recent years.

We are then left to make a decision as to what most adequately punishes the offender for the dastardly wrong that has already been committed, and at the same time protects the rest of the community. A life has already been taken, one which cannot be brought back.

Margie can never come over and ride my horse again or play with my kids. But we can possibly prevent more lives from being taken. Records show that such murderers frequently are repeaters.

I am begging you, residents of Sandy, if you have information, give it to the police, if you can spare \$10, contribute it to the reward fund, and let's all support Representatives Sumner, Byers and Johnson in their efforts to bring the issue of capital punishment before the people.

Sincerely yours,
Peggie Hodge
12262 SE Lusted Road
Sandy

Reinstate penalty

To the Editor:

Your editorial of March 16, 1978, entitled "No To The Death Penalty," would have been more appropriate if its main premise was properly directed.

It is not your average reader who needs to be enlightened as to the sanctity of human life, but the rapist, and armed robber who commits murder or the killer who commits premeditated murder.

Reinstatement of the death penalty in this state is as much a question of morality as it is for the general

Contract approved

Welches Elementary School Teachers and the Welches School Board have agreed to an 8 percent "cost of living" increase in wages for the 1978-79 fiscal year.

"We didn't hire any negotiators," said Welches superintendent Jack Callaghan of the recent settlement. "The teachers chose their own group to negotiate with the board and met with the whole board."

The settlement with the 19 teachers came prior to an

protection of the law abiding citizen. It is not wrong to take the life of a killer who has willfully taken, in turn, the life of an innocent person.

Even the Bible sanctions uncompromising reprobity. At the current increasing rate of capital crimes in this state, some form of drastic action is indicated. Representatives Sumner, Byers and Johnson, in ours, and many other's opinion are to be supported in their effort to reinstate the death penalty.

To those who believe the "bleeding heart" movement has merit should read between the lines of newspaper articles which present only the cold, hard facts of murder cases. As a specific example, take the recent case of 15-year-old Margie Ann Fernette.

Most Sandy residents know by now that she was brutally beaten to death with a rock and her lower garments removed to make it look like rape was what the assailant had in mind.

Do they know, however, the indescribable heart-break, the frustrating rage and unforgiving hatred that the manner of her death has generated; or do they know the incapacitating terror and brief, but blinding pain this child must have experienced during the act?

Shy, compassionate, winsome, loving Margie Ann; what right did this arrogant, vicious animal have to take her life?

Now tell your readers that executing her killer will not bring Margie Ann back, so let's rehabilitate him instead.

Maybe during the rehabilitation process we'll even send him to the local community college so he can associate with your reader's daughters.

Sincerely,
Winsor and Joan Fernette
41100 SE Latigo Lane
Sandy



PLOP

Hollingsworth due in Sandy

Marv Hollingsworth, Democratic hopeful for his party's nomination to the governor's spot, will speak at the Sandy Senior Citizens Center on Thursday, March 23.

Hollingsworth is due to arrive at the center at noon and will eat at the Loaves and Fishes luncheon.

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