

Editorial and Opinion

Wood-cutting Efforts Keep Pioneers Warm

Many elderly people in the Sandy area will remain warm this winter, thanks to the wood-cutting efforts of local men who volunteered their equipment and time.

Several members of the Kiwanis Club of Sandy spent last Saturday in the woods with axes, wedges, saws and pick-up trucks. They were the first of many planned work parties who have agreed to get up at 6 a.m. on their days off, so that Sandy's pioneers will be warm.

Eight wood-cutting permits in the Mt. Hood National Forest have been issued to the volunteer woodcutters, and project goal is to

stock 40 cords of firewood for free distribution. Distribution will be coordinated through the Sandy Senior Center on a need basis.

Many of Sandy's pioneers still burn wood stoves and use them for cooking, according to project chairman Norm Trost. He said that the wood will remain covered throughout the winter and distributed as requests are received through the Senior Center.

We commend these considerate volunteer woodsmen on their splendid example of people-to-people community involvement. (VB)



"Jimmy Who?"

Hatfield's 'simpliform' tax plan may be fairest

The tax code can't be made completely fair. And because it can't, Congress some day soon should take the plunge and adopt Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield's proposal for what he calls the "Simpliform" income tax collection system.

Why can't the tax code be made completely fair to everyone? Consider a few illustrations.

The code apparently discriminates a little against unmarried so-called "heads of household." Most of those are women, and most of them are divorced with minor children to support. They have some of the same household expenses as married couples, but they

are limited to a smaller standard deduction than married couples filing a joint return. To fix that, Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., has pushed a bill that would give unmarried heads of household the same, larger deduction as married couples. That sounds fair.

But the Packwood bill, while fixing one defect in the tax code, would create another bit of unfairness. Under his bill, two unmarried adults living in the same household, with dependents, would get twice the tax benefit that married couples get. And that's plainly not fair.

The code allows people to deduct state fuel taxes from their income subject to

federal tax. That seems fair. But it isn't fair to states that have low fuel state taxes. Their citizens' income is drained off to Washington at a greater rate than in states whose taxation is higher. That's not fair.

The House has just passed a tax bill that, among other things, would repeal the deduction for non-business state and local gasoline taxes. That doesn't seem fair, either. It means citizens to some extent will be paying tax money on money they paid in taxes already.

The college tuition tax credit proposal would be fair to families that have heavy tuition expenses. But it wouldn't be fair to families whose offspring decide to enter careers without going to college.

The tax code gives a big break to people buying homes because interest on mortgages is tax-deductible. That seems fair because, after all, home ownership is to be encouraged. But it isn't fair to families that would love to buy a house but can't afford it.

The code grants a tax credit for certain kinds of child care outside the home. That's fair to wage-earners who have to pay for child care so they can hold a job. But it is fair to families that decide someone should stay home with the children — families that thus forego some of their earning capacity?

We could go on and on. Every tax break, fully justifiable as fair and necessary for some people, is unfair to those who can't take advantage of it.

The reason is that the income tax has been used as more than a mere method of collecting government revenue. It has been used as a way to encourage or achieve social or economic goals thought to be desirable at one time or another.

For the last six years, Sen. Hatfield has been advancing a proposal that would do away with all the inconsistencies, tax breaks and tax disadvantages inherent in the present personal income tax system. He has called it "Simpliform" because it would result in a much, much simpler income tax return form.

The proposal would scrap the multitude of deductions in favor of a uniform \$250 tax credit per person, coupled with lower and more progressive tax rates.

Hatfield hasn't had much luck winning acceptance of his proposal. The Congress instead has kept tinkering with various adjustments to the present code, making it more fair to some people and inevitably more unfair to others. It is doing so again this year.

The beauty of Hatfield's suggested system is that it would result in many people paying less income tax while also vastly simplifying the collection of those taxes. Federal revenue would not suffer, and everybody would pay a fair share.

The system, however, would do away with various special tax privileges. It would prevent members of Congress from taking credit for what they've done for this or that special group of taxpayers. Maybe that's why it has not yet been passed.

Ken Roberts
SUHS student body president

—ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD

Make Your Feelings Heard on Forest Use

It's perhaps unfortunate that any one generation could dictate the future use of anything so vast and unexplored as the national forest system, and yet that's the case with RARE II.

Loggers will make themselves heard in the review process as will environmentalists. The persons who will not be represented in the public decision-making process are the unborn citizens who will inherit the decisions of today.

There's simply no way to predict the resource needs of a future generation. Yet inside a dark forest could be tomorrow's answers to the energy shortage, plus other resources as yet untapped. Locking them up in a restricted park is no answer, just as mowing down every tree in sight is no answer.

Roadless areas in RARE II designated for consideration as wilderness, non-wilderness or further study include 251,428 acres in the Mt. Hood National Forest alone.

The public as caretaker generation to the next could lock up these roadless areas in a sort of trust, if one views the forest system as a resource bank. But there

exists the possibility that the resources in this bank could depreciate with time.

Lack of thinning in forest areas leads to old-growth timber which compete for life-giving sunlight. High forest canopy blocks light to ground vegetation that nourishes forest wildlife. Early American Indians knew this and would periodically set forest fires to clear the way for new foliage to maintain their wildlife. Today loggers thin the forests.

Wildlife in the national forests has not been inventoried, so there's no way to forecast accurately the ill effects of permitting forests to remain as wilderness areas. But there's insufficient data, also, to forecast whether our national forest can supply current market demands for timber on a sustained annual yield with rotation of log sites.

Altogether, there are a lot of unanswered questions concerning RARE II. Concerned individuals, however, are making their sentiments heard, so it's advisable for interested persons to respond in writing to RARE II, U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208. (VB)

On Police

To the Editor:

How many people on the mountain do you know that have been beaten by Clackamas County deputies? How many people on the mountain know just what happened in Brightwood Aug. 28 by hearing both sides of the story?

We as citizens have rights. Do we give police the same rights before we convict them?

I feel the County will take care of the matter and I hope very soon before some narrow minded people discredit all the law enforcement we have on this mountain.

I know several officers who work this mountain and I feel that the Sheriff's deputies do their job as close to the letter of the law as they can. I don't feel anyone should be able to discredit them without getting both sides of the story first.

I feel that some people on the mountain are trying to speak for all the people there.

I am one of many people in this area who I feel are very proud of the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office and the Sandy Police Department. What would we do without them?

Mona Phillips
Sandy, Oregon

On Levy

To the Editor:

I am a student at Sandy High, and I am very concerned about my education. Next Tuesday, the public will be voting on the school budget. If the budget doesn't pass, school will close Nov. 22 and will not open until at least the first of the year.

When this school time will be made up is undecided. Perhaps in the summer, but how many students want to spend their summer going to school? The school time can

possibly be made up but what about all the activities? What about the basketball games and the wrestling matches? These sports teams will be irreparably damaged because of lost practice time. What about the other activities, such as drama, music, clubs and others?

Although I'm not old enough to vote, I'd like to say one thing to the voters, "Please don't deny us an education!"

Sue Wilson

On Seniors

To the Editor:

Why do we have a need for a senior center?

There is a trend today for longer life. As a natural life process we become part of this older population. More and more free time is available today to retirees. There must be more opportunity for use of this free time.

person to work beyond age 65. My husband worked until he was 78 and is still active today both mentally and physically.

I became acquainted with the Loaves and Fishes program for seniors 5½ years ago while I was living in Portland finishing up my college education. The concept came into being as a result of a study which determined many people were found living alone and in need of at least one nutritious meal a day.

This has never been a charity program. Participants pay daily as much as they can afford for their meals.

I asked to be program chairman of the Summer Park Center which meets daily in the Hinson Memorial Church. It was at the Center that I met my husband of four years. The report on volunteer hours put in there by the seniors would take many pages to fill.

Senior centers offer a wide variety of services. For

example, free blood pressure reading and other health screening tests; a senior discount card in which merchants offer discounts to seniors; craft classes; transportation; and information and referral services.

Here for the first time I was able to do beautiful ceramics, and from this my step-daughter and family in Idaho started ceramics there. Trips are planned and taken together. The seniors pay a specified fee for these and go together.

Meals on Wheels are taken to those unable to come to the center. In 1974, when I came home from the hospital, I received the Meals on Wheels. There was no immediate family to come in and cook and it was a blessing to me and my husband.

So the question arises, why a senior center program in Sandy? Shall we keep our minds and bodies active in these golden years or shall we sit back in a rocking chair and smile and never be out there helping someone else?

Uses of the senior center are so varied. It won't be too many years until those in their thirties will be in need of such a place for social and fruitful ministry.

My dollar goes a long way there. As soon as I retire, I hope to be a wonderful volunteer there to offer help to someone else.

Pauline Coatney

On Bond

To the Editor:

This Tuesday, Sept. 19, Welches School patrons will decide the fate of a \$3 million bond issue to finance a new school for the upper grades.

The present school enrolls 300-plus students and cost \$500,000 in 1970. The new \$3 million school would be full with 270 students by 1984.

The school board appointed a citizens' advisory

On Levy

Letter to the Editor:

All students have the right to attend school and receive an adequate education to meet the needs of society. However, this chance will be missed for students at Sandy High School if members of the community do not exercise their responsibility to vote in Tuesday's levy election.

If you are 18 years of age and are registered, you are eligible to vote. If you are not registered, forms can be picked up at the post office, the high school, city library and other places.

Please give the school your support in order for your children to obtain an education. As a student, I believe I speak for my fellow students on this matter.

Please vote.

Ken Roberts
SUHS student body president

From Wall Street Journal:

Freedom Information Act lifts veils on crime figures

The Freedom of Information Act just keeps on working to bring more and more sunshine to the operations of the naturally secretive federal government.

We now hear that organized crime figures are becoming among the most diligent citizens in trying to find out just what their government has on them. Once agency administrator reports that a full 40 percent of his FOI requests came from convicted felons "who wish to know what we have on file concerning them." In one city, all the organized crime figures of any implied FOI requests to find out comprehensively what the FBI knows about them.

proceedings get a little sinister: In one recent Senate hearing on the subject, a mob figure said he'd tried to use the act to find out who was the informant against him — in order, he said, "to eradicate the informant."

The law does contain provisions to protect against this kind of thing, but the people processing the requests do slip up from time to time. And after all, you can't blame a fellow for trying.

the SOVEREIGN STATE of AFFAIRS



BOYD & WOOD



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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	\$7.00	In Northwest and Pacific Coast States outside Oregon, per year	\$9.00
Servicemen, any address	\$7.00		
In Oregon, outside Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, per year	\$8.00	Outside Northwest and Pacific Coast states, per year	\$11.00

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