

# Editorial and Opinion

## Welcome Signs Needed at Outskirts of Sandy

Dealing with big government at times can be frustrating. The Jaycees here who spent 100 man hours to put up "Welcome to Sandy" signs three years ago would testify to that.

On prior approval from the Oregon Highway Division, the Jaycees built two rustic signs for both ends of town and worked with city and state officials for proper placement. Materials were donated by area merchants, and Portland General Electric installed the poles to hold the signs.

The sign that welcomed visitors from the west stayed up two months before the Highway Division rescinded its approval and ordered it down. The sign on the east end of town never got up. The large poles that held the sign near the Ford garage east of town stand as a reminder of the Jaycees' intention.

With 10,000-18,000 cars passing through Sandy daily, we think that another effort should be made to work within the state's narrow guidelines for installation of community identification signs on state highways — in this case,

Highway 26. Signs that identify Sandy and the city's population would be permissible at either end of town within city limits, according to one Highway Division, Permits Department spokesman.

The signs might even note something like "Home of the Sandy Mountain Festival," he said. Also, directional signs that note location of things like the library, city hall, city park and community pool might be allowed at some intersections, he suggested. And if the City of Sandy allows room in the new community center for the Chamber of Commerce, a sign might be approved for guiding visitors to the Chamber office for more information.

The key to such efforts, said Dick would be a willingness of a civic building inspector, local highway engineer and Highway Division Permits Department, for prior approval and then turn over sign ownership to the City of Sandy.

This would be a worthwhile project again for the Jaycees or Chamber of Commerce. (VB)

## A Field of Six for the Mayor's Job

Recent entry of theater owner John W. Kent into the six-candidate mayoral race causes Mel Haneberg to chuckle over new interest in his job. Incumbent Mayor Haneberg, who retires from office this year, said that his big problem as a candidate was in finding someone to run against him. Perhaps he's brought new status to the position.

First Councilman Bruce Cook, an insurance agent, announced candidacy. Then Councilman Jim Duff, grade school teacher, filed for the job. Next came high school counselor Dick Harrison, Sandy police sergeant Dennis Wolf and retired city recorder Ruth Loun-

dree. Only three of the candidates have turned in their petitions, however.

In any event, a six-candidate race increases the prospects that no one will win a clear plurality Nov. 7. A simple plurality will win the election, but what of a tie? Should two or more candidates draw an equal number of votes, city charter directs that they would draw lots publicly in a manner prescribed by the Council.

With Sandy's small number of registered voters and recent low voter turnout in levy elections, it appears that the first candidate to make 50 good friends could become mayor. (VB)

## Enforcement Needed with Striking Teachers

It should be no surprise that respect for law and order seems to be plummeting in this country.

Certainly not after listening to a judge in Snohomish County, Wash., explain why he had decided not to send striking teachers back to work.

The judge affirmed their strike was illegal but said he wouldn't order them back since it "doesn't do any good. They just ignore the orders."

In other words, this particular

judge feels the courts are powerless if teachers decide not to obey the law. At least he wouldn't do anything about it.

Wonder if he applies the same rules to a burglar, an arsonist, someone guilty of car theft? Their actions might break the law, but if they decide not to obey his edicts, he'd have to let them go home free.

What kind of nonsensical justice this? If a law is broken, penalties should be paid. Laws should apply equally to everyone.

## High Schoolers Improving Scholastically

We were delighted to read last weekend that 1978 Oregon high school graduates improved their Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores over the previous year.

This was the first such improvement since 1972 when statewide comparisons first were made. Verne Duncan, state

superintendent of public instruction, said Oregon students did better in both the verbal and math portions of the tests.

Schools have taken a lot of heat lately because of falling SAT scores. Hopefully, the trend has been reversed.



Welcome Back, Carter...

## Commentary

### FTC: Whose side is it on?

In the name of consumer protection, the Federal Trade Commission properly pursues deceptive trade practices, including advertising. However, the agency is now on a campaign of trying to police the way pictures are used in television commercials. The problem here is how to find agreement on the meaning or message communicated by a visual image. When word

The Federal Trade Commission is another of our government regulatory agencies whose work of tentacles causes us to wonder whose side it is on. copy is short, how many of these picture themes are legally deceptive? In whose eyes? The public's or the Federal Trade Commission's?

A more basic concern regarding this regulatory overkill must include considerations of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Advertising, no less than other forms of written, oral and visual expression, is a freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Will the Federal Trade Commission next be concerned with the pretty girls in billboard advertising? The handsome men in newspaper layouts? Or perhaps the sweeping scenery used in magazine ads to create mood, no matter what the product?

In this campaign the Federal Trade Commission seems less concerned with freedom of expression than in jousting imaginary "visual windmills." The Federal Trade Commission needs more legal foundation than suspicions to deprive American consumers of honest service and a constitutional right.

—KATU, Channel 2  
Portland

## Letters to The Editor

### Thanks

To the Editor:

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Sandy for the affirmative vote for the 1978-79 budget which allows the city to operate through the next year.

I wish to especially thank those members of the Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, and the fire department who worked so diligently in urging the people to cast their votes.

However I am far from happy at the meager percentage of the registered voters who took the time to go to the polls.

I cannot recall ever having talked to a citizen of Sandy who didn't express an interest in how city government operates, yet those supposedly responsible persons do not take the trouble to spend a few minutes of their time on election day to make their wishes known.

Until such time as it becomes a matter of pride or shame whether a person exercises his responsibility in using his voting privilege, your representatives in city government will never know if the will of all the people is being expressed.

Very truly yours,  
Melvin Haneberg

### Government

To the Editor:

In former years, a representative of the Oregon

Liquor Control Commission has come to our door to ask our opinion on the granting of a liquor license. Now they just paste up a notice on the window of a vacant eatery and hope no one will see it.

That constitutes less service but still we pay more taxes. Measure 6, here I come!

Greed, not consideration for people, the quality of a neighborhood or families seems to be the name of the game.

In the last depression, people refused to pay taxes in Chicago and yet education still went on — in quonset huts. People hit them in their pocketbooks, where it hurts. Despite the same threat of no schools or police protection (and that was in the gangster era) we still had them.

Time seems to have gone full circle.

Mrs. P.J. Bernard  
42055 SE Lauzon Lane  
Sandy

### the SOVEREIGN STATE of AFFAIRS



## From other editors:

### School busing no answer

The insanity of mandatory school busing for reasons of race is making headway on the West Coast. It is insane because it doesn't help children learn better but imposes on them the inconvenience of sometimes long bus trips in the morning and afternoon.

In Los Angeles, the Supreme Court has refused to get involved in that city's mandatory busing program, apparently with the result that the wholesale shifting of children will get under way as scheduled.

The Seattle schools have adopted a mandatory two-way busing scheme without a court order. The Portland schools now face a recommendation from a citizens' group that they, too, embark on forced busing to redress the imbalance among white and black children in a few

schools. There is no conclusive evidence that yanking children from their neighborhood schools in the name of racial balance improves the quality of education. There is not even any compelling evidence that doing so contributes to greater harmony and understanding between different races.

But there is a clear indication that at least one aspect of busing — the long bus trips — is harmful to children and their families. In the Los Angeles scheme, some children will be forced to make 45-minute, one-way bus trips. That means they'll spend an hour and a half each day traveling on the city streets.

That's an hour and a half they can't spend studying in school. Or it's an hour and a half they can't spend at home

with their families. That can't possibly be useful to children, especially those in primary and elementary grades. (It also can't possibly be useful to those children to be in the middle of automobile exhaust fumes for 90 minutes each day.)

There would be no drastic racial imbalance in big-city schools if there were no racial imbalance in housing patterns. So the only sensible, long-range approach to obliterating racial imbalance is to make sure that there's no illegal discrimination in housing and that people, regardless of race, have the economic opportunity to live wherever they want. That's a tall order, to be sure, but busing children to and fro doesn't get society any closer to the goal.

—Albany Democrat-Herald

## From other editors:

### NW recycling saving fuel

Anyone who thinks recycling is a waste of time should know that an estimated 8.3 million pounds of aluminum collected by a metals firm in the Northwest during the first six months of 1978 has resulted in the saving of 66 million kilowatt hours of electricity.

Now that's not a king's ransom as far as electricity goes, but 66 million kilowatt hours of electricity would have taken care of the needs of all the customers of Springfield Utility Board for a little over 37 days during the 1977-78 fiscal year. In other words, it's not exactly a piddling amount.

A record 70 million pounds of aluminum were collected nationwide during the first half of the year by Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Co., a subsidiary of Reynolds Metals Co. That represents 1.5 billion aluminum cans, which up until a few years ago would have found their way to a landfill somewhere or would have cluttered up a roadside ditch until someone bothered to conduct a roadside cleanup.

On a nationwide basis, the amount of electricity saved by remelting the cans for use instead of making new aluminum from raw materials would have kept the customers of SUB energized for almost 45 weeks during the past fiscal year.

Assuming the percentage of people recycling cans nationwide is the same as the level of participation in the Lane County SORT home recycling effort (and that's a wild assumption since SORT provided the easiest possible way to carry out recycling), that means the number of cans turned in represents only about 16 or 17 percent of the number sold. In reality, since few other states are as recycle-conscious as Oregon, the percentage is undoubtedly much lower.

Also, the figures represent only aluminum, which is only a small part of the total recycling effort. Glass, tin cans and paper can also be re-manufactured with less energy than it takes to make them from raw materials, and other wastes can be turned into

fuel pellets that can be burned to produce electricity, thus saving fossil fuels.

The possible savings of a

good nationwide recycling program are endless. We hope that people will start waking up that fact.

—Springfield News

## From other editors:

### \$66 million in GSA fraud no small matter

As the General Services Administration scandal slowly unfolds, we are reminded of someone's comment that even what falls through the cracks from a \$500 billion budget can't be called chicken feed.

GSA spends \$5 billion, or 1 percent of the federal budget, and investigator Vincent Alto thinks some \$66 million a year has been falling through the cracks as a result of fraud and corruption. That piddling amount is enough to make it the "Biggest money scandal in the history of the U.S. government," according to Mr. Alto.

We wonder how big it would look if someone could guess how much the federal government loses through the cracks altogether. We can't guess, of course. It can be hoped that other government departments have better control over cash boxes than the managers of the GSA have had.

But that hope is not much reinforced by any casual tour of the Greater Washington area. Seldom in all history has there been such a boom town, with so many evidences of new-found wealth. Apartment buildings and town-house developments sprawl over the once-pastoral Virginia countryside. The most expensive hotels and restaurants are always heavily booked. Expensive shops proliferate. The sleepy town of two decades ago throbs with life. And why not? When a government building manager can make an extra \$300,000 a year through kickbacks (we assume tax free) that's enough to fuel any economy.

GSA Administrator Jay Solomon has promised 50 indictments within weeks, and perhaps as many as 500 over time. But no one yet knows how big the GSA scandal may become. President Carter has urged investigators to go after the "bigger fish," without detailing just how big the fish might become. Washington is tittering with speculation over whether some Congressmen might eventually fall into the net. There is a sense of high stakes maneuvering behind the scenes.

Whatever the outcome, it will not enhance the respect of hard-working, taxpaying citizens for the quality of their federal government and the stewardship of Congress. Word of all the high living in Washington has filtered into the remotest regions of the country with tales of \$200 million senatorial palaces and the like.

Of course, there are the usual apologists. One of the most surprising is Deputy Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, who is running the GSA investigation for the Justice Department. Mr. Civiletti seems to think that the sort of thing that's been going on at GSA is not much different from what happens in private business.

Maybe not in kind, but all our instincts tell us that it will prove to be a great deal different in degree and scope. We would urge Mr. Civiletti to forget about the private sector for a while and get on with the investigation. The flow through the cracks has become a bit too obvious.

—Wall Street Journal



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