

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Dan Dillon, News EditorWring out the old year, ring in '81 *Letters to the editor:*

One year ago, the country was looking forward to 1980 and a fresh start. It was the beginning of a new decade and there was an air of optimism after a generally dismal 1979.

1980 turned out to be a bust.

On a local level, the state came up \$200 million short in its projected budget forcing cuts in human services, Clackamas County sheriff John Renfro resigned under heat, there were more political scandals and Mt. St. Helens threatened to wipe the Pacific Northwest off the face of the earth.

Tax vices to help balance budget

Gov. Vic Atiyeh is counting on two particular vices to help balance the budget he has proposed to the 1981 legislature — smoking and drinking.

Atiyeh's proposed budget includes substantial tax increases in several areas. He is looking, for instance, for a 29 percent increase in the money the state receives from the personal income tax during the next two years starting in July 1981. He also expects collections of corporate income and excise taxes to rise, although at a much smaller rate of slightly more than 3 percent.

These impending tax increases are largely due to continued inflation, which will result in Oregonians being paid more and thus paying the state more in income taxes without actually gaining anything in purchasing power. (In the area of personal income taxes, Atiyeh also proposes legislative action to postpone the so-called "indexing" of the personal exemption and to reduce the state deduction of federal taxes paid.)

Despite the added income-tax revenue, the state government can expect to be in bad shape in the coming biennium. State revenue is expected to grow about 12 percent from the current biennium, far below the existing and expected inflation rate. That's why the governor's budget, while continuing the homeowner property tax relief program,

1980 was certainly not a year of prosperity. But things in Sandy were generally favorable. The city made strides toward continued smooth growth with its comprehensive plan, a teacher strike was averted in the Sandy Elementary District and homebuilding continued to boom in Sandy while declining elsewhere.

Life in Sandy is not perfect, but things are in a lot better shape here than in most parts of the world. Or even the United States.

Bring on 1981.

envisions an increase in state basic school support that falls short of the legislative goal of meeting 40 percent of public-school costs.

Under these circumstances, imagine how much worse off the state would be if it weren't for all those unreformed drinkers and smokers. Atiyeh's budget calls for a 5-cent-per-pack increase in the state cigarette tax. (Most of that tax goes to the state general fund, but counties and cities each get one-ninth of the total.) The cigarette tax would go from 9 to 14 cents under the governor's proposal. And Atiyeh, banking on the state's liquor monopoly, is asking for a boost in the liquor markup from the present 94 percent to 99 percent.

With the increased tax, cigarette sales are expected to yield nearly \$79 million in state revenue in the next two years, up more than 33 percent from the current biennium. And with the liquor price increase — averaging 25 to 50 cents on a fifth of liquor — the state expects to get \$82.5 million from liquor sales.

Thus it appears that smokers and drinkers will contribute roughly \$161 million to the state treasury over the next two years. That may not sound like much compared to the \$2.4 billion in personal income tax revenue, but every little drink, and every little puff of smoke, helps the state.

— Albany-Democrat Herald

The Innocent Bystander:

A few stories to remember

Here once again, as preordained as the return of the flu virus to Capistrano, is that annual media event — The Story of the Year.

The year began with the ruthless, power-mad Russians sending 80,000 troops into Afghanistan to prop up an inefficient regime. This incredibly barbaric act was condemned by all leaders of the free world, including former Vietnamese Premier Thieu, who said he didn't think it would work in Afghanistan either.

This was followed by a more happy note when the Fashion Foundation of American selected Pope John Paul II as the world's best-dressed man. Unfortunately, however, the Pope Look never quite caught on, being overshadowed by punk vinyl pants, preppy Weejeun loafers and J.R. western hats. Nevertheless, the Pope went right on wearing what he thought was right.

It was a great year, though, for bringing things to the surface. Emerging from the underground were Abbie Hoffman, Carolyn Wilkerson, Bernardine Dohrn and 16.2 cubic miles of volcanic ash from Mount St. Helens.

Other disasters that leap to mind include the Italian earthquake, the Midwest drought and the ascension of Strom Thurmond to the chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

It was a bad year for the Hunt brothers and Henry Kissinger. Herbert and Bunker Hunt lost \$9 billion on silver futures and Dr. Kissinger backed for the GOP nomination, in chronological order, Governor Conally, Senator Baker, Ambassador Bush and, very lastly, Ronald Reagan. This shows you how good our foreign policy advisers are at picking winners.

Others who didn't do too well at picking winners were the Gang of Four, who backed the Cultural Revolution; United Arts, which backed "Heaven's Gate;" and Colonel Khaddafi, who backed Billy Carter.

It was a mixed year for sex. After a decade and more of the Sexual Revolution, sex finally lost, the newest craze among the "with it" people being celibacy. The Moral Majority has not yet taken an official position on the practice of celibacy between consenting adults. So it may be fun.



by ART HOPPE

On the other hand, a study of pigs indicated that those which jugged were "happier, more energetic" and presumably sexier than those which didn't. The study, however, raised two questions: (1) Who wants to have sex with a sweaty pig and (2) how do you get a pig to wear a tank top and Adidas?

Speaking of sex, Dr. William Schockley was named Father of the Year after he announced he had donated to a sperm bank for Nobel laureates. Another laureate, though, was sued for divorce after he told his spouse, "Not tonight, honey, I gave at the office."

Speaking of the economy, which we have to whether we like it or not, President Carter, after three years of trying, at last managed to bring on a recession. It didn't do any good. Money was tight, loose, tight and occasionally disappeared altogether.

New faces emerging out of nowhere included Yoda, a genetically engineered, oil-eating bacteria; and Rosie Ruiz.

As the year ground slowly to a close, Carter was still in the White House, if just barely, the Iranians were demanding we drop \$24 billion in small, unmarked bills for the hostages, and a public relations man was putting together a 10-minute vigil for Colonel Sanders during which, according to his press release, "all that will be heard is the crunch of the Colonel's 'Extra Crispy' chicken."

On the bright side, scientists at Animal Optics, Inc., developed rose-colored contact lenses for chickens that prevented them from pecking each other to death. Let us hope scientists will soon do as much for us.

Santa explains

When I came to Sandy Dec. 6 and started my rounds again for the fifth year in the Sandy business district, I did so with my usual anticipation that it would be a joyous experience.

But I've heard just a few comments by people — mothers of little kids, mostly — that they resent the practice of charging \$4 to have the children's picture taken with Santa Claus.

The project is a money-maker to help pay the expenses of some Sandy representatives to a conference in Anchorage, Alaska, where small-town booster organizations can exchange ideas for promoting their towns. It seemed like a good idea.

Nevertheless, there is, quite apparently, some lack of understanding of the motive for this enterprise. It makes me awfully unhappy if even one youngster, or one parent, is resentful in this Christmas season. A couple of times, I've seen the problem in time to call a youngster and parent over, and assure them that it isn't necessary to pay for a Santa Claus picture — but I'm sure I didn't catch them all.

It's terribly unfortunate — although it really isn't anyone's fault — if there is a sour note in our Christmas celebration in Sandy. I want to apologize for being involved in the cause of any unhappiness and I am recommending to the Sandy Area Merchants who sponsor my sojourn in Sandy at Christmastime, that they be sure in future years that there are "no strings attached" to enjoyment of Santa Claus by youngsters and parents.

Santa Claus

Kiwanis baskets

The Sandy Kiwanis Christmas Basket project ended Dec. 20 with more than 125 family households having received food baskets and presents. A total of more than 500 children and adults were benefitted in the Sandy-Boring-Hoodland areas.

The project was truly a community effort. The Kiwanis Club annually accepts the responsibility for planning, administration and expenditures for fresh foods. As always, it asked and received tremendous help from individuals and organizations of the community, according to project

chairman Art Prochaska.

The students of the area elementary schools and high school responded with large canned food drives. Their efforts brought in more than 5,000 cans of food. More than 500 presents were needed to provide one present for each child and youth. Here again, the people and the community came through. There was an abundance of beautifully wrapped presents for infants and youths of all ages. Generous donations of money were received from individuals and organizations. These contributions are used each year to help pay for perishables, chickens, fruit, fresh vegetables, margarine and bread which are put in the baskets.

Presents for the baskets came from countless individuals, church organizations, Sandy and Boring Fire Departments, service organizations, and the Kiwanis members and their wives. Sandy Kiwanis president Frank Happold said "without the complete support of the community, we just couldn't get the job done."

The Sandy Masons contributed the use of their dining hall for the week it took to assemble the baskets, and the Mt. Hood Mudders

helped make deliveries to remote places, a most valuable contribution to the project.

Sandy Kiwanis Club members wish to thank all the people, organizations, and business firms who helped, many of whom are not mentioned above. It was, indeed, a community effort.

Dale E. Nicholls
Sandy Kiwanis Club
public relations chairman

Stove tax foe

Well, I've heard it all now. Little by little these ecology people are making my world safer and safer for me. But they can stop anytime.

The minute I heard about putting a tax on my wood stove, I really got mad. Our forefathers had their tea tax; well, I just discovered my own tea tax with this latest gimmick by the Environmental Bully-Boys. They put a halo over their heads, say it's for the "public good" and that seems to be enough.

They can talk until they're red in the face about the particulate count in the air. But I'll never agree that burning wood in my stove is hazardous. These people are on a power trip. They get

turned on over telling us what we can or can't do.

The greatest problem these extremists have is justifying the bankroll they request year after year. So no matter what, keep telling the public the "sky is falling" even if it isn't.

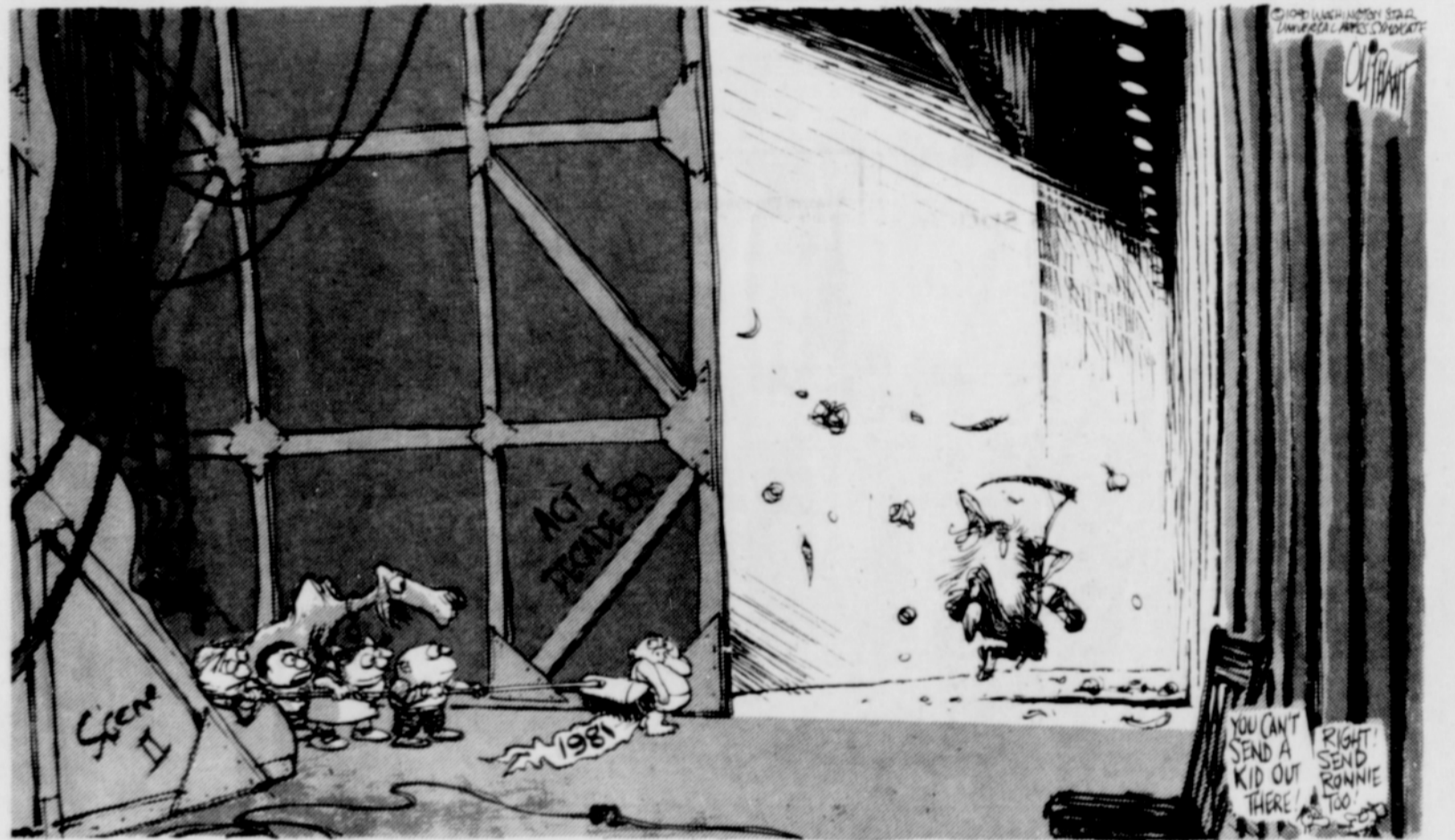
I go on record as being against such legislation. The cost of a telegram to the governor may alert him to the folly of such a tax or ban.

I'm outraged at these pompous know-it-alls trying to invade my home. With such arrogance, they'll want to tax the commode in my bathroom next.

Ralph A. Sandercock Jr.
Sandy

LETTERS POLICY:

The Post asks that all letters to the editor be typed, double-spaced and signed. Deadline is noon, Tuesday. Letters should be accurate, free of libelous remarks and in good taste. This newspaper attempts to publish all letters it receives and may edit material lightly to conform to guidelines. Maximum length is 200 words.



Wall Street report:

Right wing teed off at Reagan pick



by Louis Ruker

Two men destined for top posts in the Reagan administration had a private golf game last month, and — in between the drives and putts — their chief topic of conversation was who the President-elect should choose as Secretary of the Treasury.

One of the men, old friends in their 60s, was William J. Casey, now named as Director of the CIA but on this day still functioning primarily as Reagan's successful campaign manager. The other was Donald T. Regan, chairman of Merrill Lynch and — as the No. 1 man of Wall Street's No. 1 firm — a key to good will for the new administration in the national and international financial communities.

Casey volunteered that the job would probably go again to former Treasury Secretary William Simon, if he wanted it, but that others were still being considered, including economist Alan Greenspan.

Regan had a mixed reaction. Given the present disorderly state of the economy and its financial markets, he said, it was essential that the President-elect pick an experienced, articulate manager for the Treasury post. Thus, presumably, Simon would qualify. But, Regan went on, under no circumstances should the assignment go to a theorist, an ideologue or a professional economist.

Regan has taken Regan's advice — suggesting that not just their names, but their thinking, are alike — but he has done so in a way the Merrill Lynch boss may not have had in mind: he has named Don Regan himself to be the new administration's chief financial officer.

It is a provocative and already controversial choice. Some Reagan loyalists protest that Regan is (horrors) not a hard-line political partisan. (Given the bipartisan mess that has been made of the American economy of late, this scarcely constitutes a capital offense.) Others, of various persuasions, see Regan the innocent middle-American country boy seduced by a pillar of the dark and conspiratorial Wall Street establishment. (They don't know either man.)

Don Regan, as it happens, is about as typical of Wall Street as Hank Aaron is typical of baseball players. Regan's immense success in

building and broadening Merrill Lynch has come as a highly unconventional maverick. He is hardly characteristic of, or beloved by, the financial industry's traditionalists.

Indeed I commented to him, during one of his appearances as my guest on "Wall Street Week," that he must sometimes feel lonely in those precincts as one who actually believed in free-enterprise, competitive capitalism.

Consider some of the powerful enemies this feisty ex-Marine made in pursuing the cause of authentic, untraditional competition: He antagonized the most entrenched interests on the New York Stock Exchange, the "specialists" who make the market in each individual stock, by urging that they be replaced by a computerized "national market system" to which all investors and market-makers would have access. At a time when most brokerage executives regarded the view as little short of treason, he campaigned actively for

an end to the fixed-commission rates that had been a cozy Wall Street standby for two centuries. And he has lately enraged the banks themselves by his bold entry — through such devices as money-market funds and cash-management accounts — into areas they had considered their own protected turf.

That all this has, in the end, been good for Merrill Lynch is precisely the point: A more aggressive and innovative approach to private competition would be good for America, too — and would contrast vividly with existing government policies that penalize the successful and bail out the failures.

Nor should anyone assume that Regan is a narrow fellow ill-equipped for the infighting of political Washington. He already has made clear his view on the immediate desirability of both tax cuts and spending cuts ("you can't have one without the other"), and he has long understood that problems such as today's crushing interest rates and looming capital shortages cannot be isolated from government's uncontrolled spending. (As he once put it to me, "If the government cuts back on its desires, there will be enough capital to go around.")

All in all, then, that was a pretty interesting golf game last month.