

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Von Braschler, Publisher
Caroline Duff, Office ManagerMark Floyd, Editor
Dan Dillon, News Editor

Letters to the editor:

Festival, nerve gas stir readers

Law lacks order

Last Tuesday I voted to increase the number of police officers in Clackamas County, thus increasing my taxes. Now I question my judgment.

Without the help of judges who are willing to deliver swift and stern punishment, I can see no reason to hire more police officers to catch more criminals to be turned loose or given suspended sentences.

E. Lloyd Holt
Boring

Festival disclaims

The Sandy Mountain Festival, in order to better control expenditures, is instituting a purchase-order system on all charges made to the Festival.

As of this date, the committee can't be responsible for any charges made to it unless the order for the goods or services is accompanied by a purchase order signed by Kathy Simonson, treasurer, or Darrell Dempster, chairman.

Darrell Dempster
Chairman
Sandy Mountain Festival

Support given

Alpine Neighborhood Girl Scouts would like to express our gratitude for all those of our community who helped in making Alpine Thinking Day successful. Also, we extend our thanks to the many volunteers and area mer-

chants who supported our efforts.

The success of our Thinking Day truly reflects the cooperation between our community and our area Girl Scouts. Thank you again.

Lynn W. Thies
Chairperson
Alpine Thinking Day

Nerve gas problem

The American Citizens for Honesty in Government (ACHG), a grassroots movement sponsored by the Church of Scientology, has been active in Oregon for the past three years in an effort to establish a sense of pride amongst our government employees.

ACHG has decided

through various visits and interviews that very nearly 98 percent of all local and state and federal employees are very ethical and are doing their best to serve their country and the public at large. It was only the actions of a few that tend to discredit our government system and thereby lower the opinion of the general public.

The actions of former President Nixon created a general climate of cynicism that actually worked to undermine the effectiveness of our governing body. These actions of the self-serving few left somewhat an indelible stain on those who work hard and really care about the future of this great nation.

Since the bolstering of both

the moral and ethical fiber of man has traditionally fallen within the purview of religion, the Church of Scientology is proud to contribute in the sponsorship of such endeavors.

On a nationwide basis, ACHG, through documented research, has determined that a few psychiatrists worked in conjunction with the CIA on the introduction and testing of LSD in this country in the early 50's.

Along with the Army's nerve gas testing facilities, LSD was being tested for use in mind control experiments as part of the nation's drug arsenal. This irresponsibility contributed to the widespread use of LSD in the drug culture of the '60s. This wide-spread drug usage caused millions of Americans to shrink away from responsibility to themselves and their role as citizens of this democracy.

As a result of these investigations, ACHG has amassed one of the most extensive files in America on the use of chemical and biological warfare agents. With this background, ACHG in Oregon took on the task of informing Oregonians of the dangers of nerve gas, stored near the city of Hermiston on the Columbia River. Since there is enough nerve gas stored there to kill every man, woman, and child in Oregon, we decided to take a vociferous stand on this issue.

It is just a matter of time before the munitions stored in Oregon will become

unusable, rusty relics that will have to be transported across the state to one of the disposal sites in America. Although no one has been harmed, there have been more than 60 leaks in the nerve gas munitions stored in Oregon. For these and other reasons, ACHG has conducted a petition drive in over 25 cities throughout Oregon, asking President Reagan to ban all further production of nerve gas and that all existing munitions be destroyed.

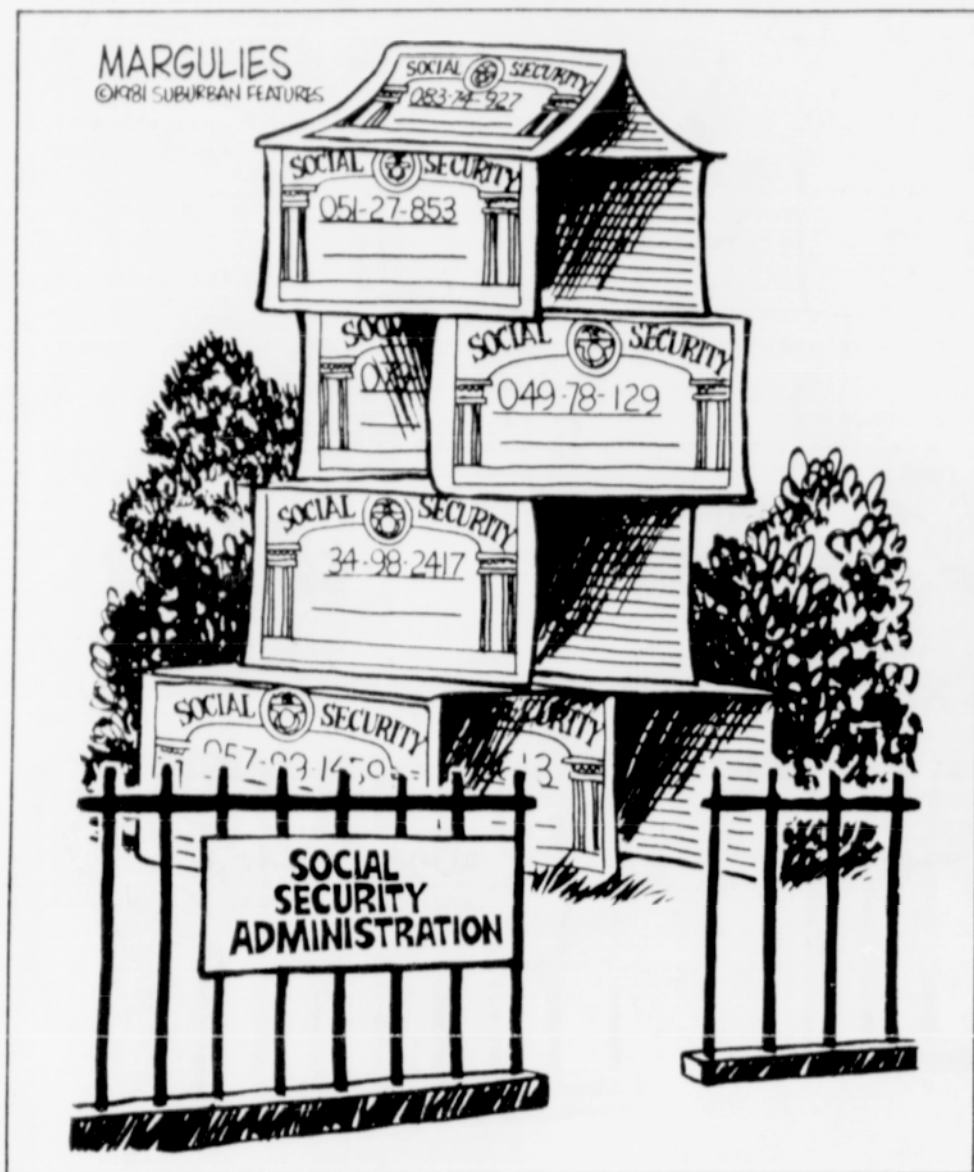
These 3,000 petitions were delivered to Governor Victor Atiyeh, so that he could pass them on to the President. Copies were also forwarded to Senator Hatfield and Senator Packwood.

While almost every major nation in the world has long since outlawed the use of nerve gas, the United States continue to stockpile these dangerous agents. It is time for individual sentiment to ring out above the clamor of a few who seek to profit most from the production of nerve gas. This in itself would be a small but important step toward creating a world free from the horrors of war.

Meredith Burke
Portland

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.



FFA youth beautify downtown

Downtown Sandy's longtime battle over weeds and who will pull them appears ended, thanks to volunteers from the Sandy High Future Farmers of America.

In fact, the club has offered to assume the total task of caring for the long-ignored planter boxes in front of downtown Sandy stores.

Many of the planters — originally installed to beautify downtown Sandy — have been ignored by small shops who simply didn't have the personnel, time or money to keep them up.

Some shops said the maintenance of planter boxes should be the city's responsibility. The city's position, however, is that individual merchants are responsible for the planter boxes adjacent to their stores.

Enter the FFA and their "Building our American Community" program to the rescue. The teenagers will spray the planter boxes for weeds and also bark dust. Best yet, the service is free to any downtown shop that wants their help.

The youth are not charging for either their labor or supplies. Neither will the high school foot the bill. That all comes out of the club's own treasury.

The FFA students even hope to plant some perennials downtown.

Strangely, the helpful teens had to wait for final go-ahead for permission from local businesses. City

hall acted as liaison in obtaining permission from involved shops.

Obviously, very few merchants could pass up such a deal. Nonetheless, the high schoolers did confront at least one who did. A few other businesses have landscaping programs of their own, so won't need the assistance.

There are limitations to the kindly offer, of course. The FFA students won't landscape or maintain property of personal homes in the downtown sector. Also, there are no guarantees for the summer months, when the high school club adjourns for vacation.

Already, the youths have sprayed much of the downtown area planter boxes with two chemicals. Evidence of their work may be seen at Clackamas County Bank, the Rader Building, Triple XXX and the two vacant lots downtown.

The busy teens plan to do some heavy bark dusting downtown later this week.

It's a real labor of love on the part of these community-minded youth, and the fruits of their labor can be enjoyed by all who live here and visit in the months ahead.

Hats off to the Sandy High FFA club, as they celebrate National FFA Week February 21 through 28 with more than slogans. These youths are committed and an example for us all. (VB)

Salem scene:

Some state bills 'trivial'

JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

There's a bill that calls for the death penalty by injection, including a safeguard for the injector. He is absolved from the practice of medicine — a protection presumably provided to prevent suits claiming malpractice.

Another bill would make it a crime to call someone on the phone and not say anything. Obviously aimed at heavy breathers, it fails to specify breathing. It also would prevent calls from anyone told not to call — a worthy idea, but rather difficult to enforce.

There's a bill to establish wind energy easements that would limit what you could erect upwind of your neighbor. It's reminiscent of the solar airspace bill last session that would have prohibited casting shadows on your neighbors.

This particular bill defines wind as any air movement averaging more than 8 miles-per-hour and some critics claim many lawmakers exceed that definition whenever they make a speech.

There's a disorderly conduct bill aimed at threatening language and in the process deletes as a disorderly conduct cause the use of obscene gestures. It will be interesting to observe whether such gestures are demonstrated when the proposal is heard in committee.

Other well-intentioned bills would prohibit

breathalyzer tests for bus drivers, prohibit drunks and drug addicts from practicing dentistry, permit 18-year-olds and older persons to grow three marijuana plants and let Oregonians bring more booze home from out of state.

This last bill would raise the import quota from a quart to two liters — and if the price of liquor gets much higher, might make occasional trips to Reno quite worthwhile. A cautionary amendment might warn against making such trips in the company of a Legislator, however.

Unemployment pay always seems to attract some real gobblers. Examples this session are bills to exclude from qualification people who don't work for pay and to include people on strike and school janitors during summer vacations. Parking by mailboxes is a real problem. One bill would prohibit the practice within 10 feet, another in 20. Another distance bill would sanction proximity of adult bookstores and residences at more than 600 feet.

There's a bill to repeal the loyalty oath for civil defense personnel, doubtless based on the premise enemy agents wouldn't tell the truth anyway.

One appears to strike a blow for privacy by exempting library card information from the public records law and still another would require serving free breakfasts in public schools.

(EDIT. NOTE: Stephen Wynne is a sophomore at Sandy High School. This article originally was written for a journalism class assignment.)

by STEPHEN M. WYNNE

The magnitude of the mass media explosion was not anticipated by the founding fathers. From moveable type and weekly newspapers to television and satellite communications, the ever expanding media of the 20th century encircle the world. However, the Constitution shows a foresight and an understanding of the effects of the free press on society. The precepts of the Constitution survive, despite the media explosion and its ramifications.

Without prior restraint, the press is free to serve as a "watchdog" over the power of government. Before Thomas Jefferson became president, he expressed his belief in the press by saying, "Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

The purpose of a free press, however, was not to enshrine itself as the Fourth Estate or another branch of government like the existing executive, legislative and judiciary branches provided by the Constitution. But the men who wrote the First Amendment and established the system of checks and balances between the three estates knew that a free press would curb excess in all areas of government.

An excellent illustration of the role of the press as a sentinel over the abuse of power in government is the Watergate expose. When two

reporters on the Washington Post discovered the administration of Richard Nixon was involved in the Watergate break-in, it was the beginning of a long, in-depth in-

GUEST ESSAY

vestigation by the press. Eventually it was demonstrated that the president knew about the break-ins and tried to conceal his part. Watergate is one of the finest examples of investigative journalism.

Traditionally, the press has given new presidents the benefit of doubt in a grace or "honeymoon" period in the early part of their administrations. If President John Kennedy's "Bay of Pigs" fiasco in Cuba was the beginning of the end for the honeymoon tradition, Watergate probably eliminated it.

As president-elect, Ronald Reagan received criticism through the news media on issues that range from statements concerning foreign policy to choices of his cabinet.

The 1980 elections brought the usual television network competition to project the winning presidential candidate. Mr. Reagan's victory was projected before the last votes were cast. Moreover, President Jim-

my Carter conceded before the polls in the West were closed. Even though the predictions did not affect the outcome of the presidential election, which was a landslide for Mr. Reagan, the turnouts for local elections in the West were lessened. Competition to be first to project the winner in the presidential election demonstrates that a press without prior restraint does not always serve the people.

The early American leaders knew that the press at times would be self-serving. Nevertheless, the questions raised over the consistence of the news media in upholding professional standards are greatly outweighed by the benefits of a free press.

The people must be able to use the media selectively, because the press cannot be trusted always to convey information in a balanced manner. The users of information must make decisions by sorting out from a deluge of ideas, persuasions and facts what they need to know in order to act effectively as citizens.

The English author, John Milton, declared opposition to the British licensing of the press in "Areopagitica", addressed in 1644 to Parliament:

"... so Truth be in the field, we do injuriously by licensing and prohibiting to misdo her strength. Let her and Falsehood grapple; who ever knew Truth put to the worse, in a free and open encounter."

When freedom of expression was guaranteed by the First Amendment, it was a new concept in the history of world governments. Today, this freedom must be carefully guarded. The struggle for liberty is

constant. Therefore, defense of the free press also must be unwavering. In addition to the First Amendment, some states have freedom of information acts, or "sunshine" laws that allow more freedom of access to government files and other data. On the other hand, most states lack "shield" laws that protect reporters from fines and jail sentences for refusing to divulge the identity of informants.

A free press is necessary for the unrestricted flow of ideas as well as information. Even the feat of prosecution, for refusal to compromise an informant's identity is a dangerous restraint in the stream of information conveyed by the media.

The sunshine and shield laws are examples of the continuing struggle for free press access to information. The real issue, however, is not the freedom of access for the press, but for the people.

In America, the government is responsive to the people. If the people have the information they need and vote intelligently, they will continue to have representative government. If the public is apathetic, the government will tend to take to itself powers not intended for it to have and which are not in the interests of the people. Failure to vote and to vote intelligently means risking loss of power and eventually losing freedom as well.

The people's ability to use information conveyed by a free press is equated with the public's capacity to vote intelligently, and thus to involve itself in democracy. Furthermore, the people must be aware of the importance of a free press and their obligation to protect it.

Legislator's report:

Three bills concern state senator

by KEN JERNSTEDT
Dist. 28 State Senator

Naturally, I always am very concerned with proposed legislation which will affect large numbers of my constituents. Three bills have surfaced that worry me and bear close watching. The bill numbers and summaries follow:

SB 351. Redefines persons and actions covered by farm labor contractor laws. The bill also

— Modifies requirements for licensing and bonding of contractors. Adds required disclosures to workers by contractors.

— Enlarges worker protection from retaliation for discussing, inquiring or consulting with anyone concerning violations of farm labor contractor laws



— Expands worker right of action against farm labor contractors who fail to give written wage receipts or falsely represent terms and conditions of employment.

— Provides worker right of action

to recover statutory damages of \$500 from employers using services of unlicensed contractors.

— Provides worker or Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries with injunctive relief against contractors who violate farm labor contractor laws.

SB 352. Requires producers of perishable agricultural crops who employ workers in crop production and harvesting to make certain disclosures of terms and conditions of employment. Exempts situations where disclosure has already been made by farm labor contractor. Authorizes Commissioner of Bureau of Labor and Industries to impose civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. Authorizes worker to bring action for damages under certain conditions.

SB 353. Requires employers to permit free and full access by the public to housing provided to their employees. Declares as unlawful employment practice any retaliation against employee or member of employee's household for specified activities. Authorizes same civil and criminal remedies and penalties as provided for other unlawful employment practices.

SB 351 and SB 352 have had initial hearings. SB 351 and SB 353 also will be heard before the Senate Justice Committee, on which I serve.

I would be glad to send copies of these bills to anyone who is interested in them. Call toll free by dialing 1-800-452-7813 and asking for Extension 8-8850, or write to me at S317 State Capitol Building, Salem, Or 97310.