

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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

Arts center proposal attractive

Sandy High School Board's proposal for a new multi-purpose performing arts center could be a big plus for the whole community and certainly rates serious discussion.

The facility — already a year in planning — could stage plays, concerts and other arts, besides housing classrooms for home economics and business economics and making room at the old building for library expansion.

Admittedly, the school suffers from overcrowding, and the proposed \$2.1 million arts center across the street would solve some housekeeping problems with a bold step forward. It's sort of like turning a problem into an advantage.

The facility would be built on school grounds between North Bluff Road and the football field. It could include a pedestrian over-

pass on Bluff Road, something that's needed anyway.

The proposal is part of the school's long-range plan and high on recommendation of consulting engineers who now are polishing the plans for a review by the public at a school board meeting — probably in June. Public input is desirable.

After all, the entire community stands to gain along with the student body with construction of such a fine center. It could be available to the general public, much like the grade school's community swimming pool. And the price tag — while discouraging to some would-be supporters now, perhaps — could be considered cheap. The Portland architects say the same multi-purpose center could cost \$3.3 million by 1985. (VB)

Never fear; Easter bunny to appear

This may be remembered as the year the Easter Bunny bolted town and nearly disappeared for good.

That almost happened last year when the bunny's visit was threatened by dissolution of the Sandy Jaycees who annually hide the mythical and marshmallow eggs in Meinig Park for not-so-mythical hords of marshmallow-lipped tots. Luckily, then, the local Kiwanis club stepped forward to continue the tradition.

The effort proved worthwhile. Despite a cold downpour, mothers and wide-eyed youngsters came out of the woodwork to hunt for eggs. By afternoon, the scene was cleaned and restored to a rustic park. No muss, no fuss for the Kiwanis volunteers, Boy Scouts and Builders Club — except for the dozens of eggs the middle schoolers colored for the fun.

This year, the Kiwanians hoped to find new sponsors for the egg hunt, however — not because they didn't find the day rewarding, but because club efforts generally follow other courses of busy community service. Besides, grandfathers serving tots is sort of like Silver Threads in reverse.

Well, they looked and they asked for volunteers among other local service groups. Sandy Civic Ser-

vices make the Fourth of July and summer carnival their master stroke. The Festival Committee is busy with the summer arts fest and Mountain Days parade. Optimists organize great teen dances and circuses. Everywhere you look in a small town, the busy few have their hands full with two or three consuming civic projects.

But this bunny story has a happy ending — this season, at least. The men of Kiwanis apparently will stage the egg hunt again this year, and say they are happy to do so. After all, the joy of all those happy tots is pretty contagious.

Future volunteers are needed, however. Perhaps a group could walk through the planning and execution of this egg hunt with the Kiwanians in preparation for next year. Then, a new group could organize just for the annual fun of putting on the Easter Egg hunt in Meinig Park. Actually, it's easy with enough volunteers to share the load, and the whole event takes only two or three days of work.

If you'd like to join the fun of setting up a local Easter egg hunt, call The Post at 668-5548 and leave your name. Maybe we can form a little grassroots group and have fun together. (VB)

Salem scene:

Long sessions new 'marvel'

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Lawmaking in Oregon appears to be costing more and taking longer to accomplish less.

They base their contention on comparisons between this session and its immediate predecessors — coupled with similarities and differences during a span of more than four decades.

Too few Oregonians are aware of the Assembly's six-month, all-encompassing biennial marathon sessions are a product of only the recent past. Seldom until the late Forties did a session in Salem last longer than a couple of months and consider even as many as 1,000 bills. It wasn't until 1967 that a session exceeded 150 days and considered closed to 1,500 proposals.

The plethora of lawmaking occurred during the Sixties and Seventies. Average length of session in the Sixties was 135 days, and the total time stretched to an average of 168 days during the Seventies. In the Sixties, Oregon lawmakers mulled an average of 1,449 measures and enacted slightly less than an average of half — 670. In the decade just passed, the Assembly considered an average of 2,453 measures and enacted slightly more than a third — 865.

In the Sixties — as adjournment neared — lawmakers worried lest they'd have to work on Memorial Day. In the Seventies that concern involved the Fourth of July.

The problem came to a head during the 1973 session, which consumed 180 days in the process of enacted 841 measures out of a record-shattering 2,841 proposed. The system nearly collapsed of its own weight, spawned a suspension of floor activity and day-long committee session in order to clear massive jams of pending legislation.

That session drew 16 gubernatorial vetoes and two special sessions to deal with mistakes.

This first session of the Eighties appears to be following the trend. Despite the many amenities the Assembly has created for



Legislative Report from the State Capital EXCLUSIVE to Oregon's Weekly Newspapers from Associated Oregon Industries.

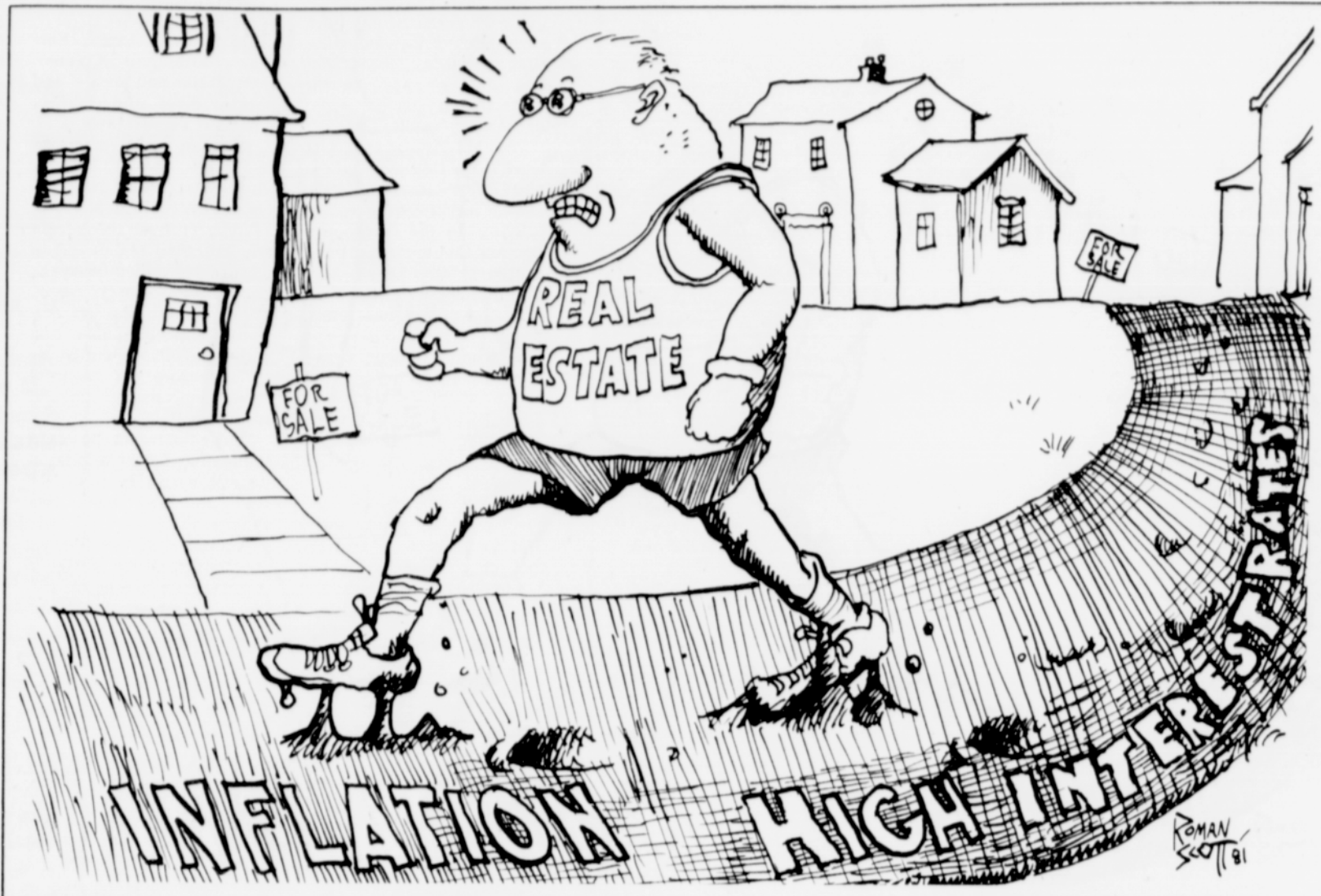
itself, results are emerging slower than ever. Although sessions are longer, more decisions are being made in a shorter period of time near session' end. That pattern was established in 1977 and 1979. Both sessions produced more than 900 measures, but 700 were enacted during the last five weeks. In 1979, a total of 571 achieved final passage in the last three weeks.

At about the same time last session, 400 fewer measures had been introduced than in 1977. A dozen fewer achieved passage by both houses. This session — at the same time — about 300 fewer have been introduced but eight less than in 1979 have been passed.

Another logjam appears imminent. Excuses for this situation abound. There's the lagging economy and lack of accurate revenue projections. All too familiar. The same argument was offered in '71 and '75. Some blame new Senate leadership for lack of activity. The same leadership excuse dogged every session of the Seventies in other chamber or the other. Next to the budgetary problem, school support and property tax relief are favorite reasons.

Actually, there's no lack of activity early in a legislative session — especially this one. Hearings are being conducted, work sessions are in progress and evening meetings — usually reserved for crunch time — have been with us since session's start.

The only thing missing seems to be a willingness to make more deliberate decisions now — instead of frantically three or four months down the line.



Letters to the editor:

Factions clash over quarry

Problems seen

I am writing in reference to the letters by Mr. Burke and Mr. Day concerning the Obrist quarry in Brightwood. First of all, gentlemen, we are not trying to make it impossible for Mr. Obrist to operate in the area.

We only feel that if he is going to continue, that it should be under conditions that would pertain to anyone who operates a quarry.

It is untrue that there are "no problems." Obviously, anytime a rock quarry is operated in a populated area, there are going to be problems. This does not mean that some type of agreement can not be met, which is what we are striving for.

We're not "trying to fool anyone." Mr. Day. The facts and the people will speak for themselves at 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 23, at Welches Grade School.

There may be no problems for yourself and Mr. Burke, but there are for quite a few others. See you there.

Judy Decker
Brightwood

Nix controls

I once read an article that prophesied the shape of things to come, a time when

a homeowner would be as obsolete as a whale-bone corset, the choice of an automobile would not be his own and individuality would be lost in a welter of regulations. All this is coming to pass, though we have twice swapped horses in mid-stream at the polls.

At the present moment purchasing a home is not within the reach of the average wage-earner, and one cannot afford to buy or operate a luxury car. The clothing market is flooded with shoddy goods manufactured overseas. It already has gone beyond the imagination of the prophet who wrote the article.

Manufacturers have gone overseas to subsidize cheap labor and thereby stagnate our own productivity. They gradually are strangling the goose that laid the golden eggs in our home market.

If we are going down the tube, it is inspired by greed and avarice. Our new administration immediately lifted the controls on fuel and oil prices and pleads innocence of the immediate result — a sharp increase in prices. The hucksters got on the bandwagon by promoting the sale of foreign automobiles.

I have been criticized sharply for purchasing a luxury automobile at a bargain

price, since such transportation is described as a dinosaur.

At my age, however, it likely will be the last car I ever own, and should I be involved in an accident, I will not have to be removed from the wreckage with a blowtorch.

We no longer have control of our own destiny in the marketplace. A change in administration appears only to be another step in the wrong direction.

Politicians have for some time shared the limelight with those in the tinsel world of Hollywood. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, it has come full-blown.

Fred Alomar
Brightwood

Play successful

A bundle of thank-you's to the Sandy Post and the community at large. The opening weekend of Sandy Community Players' production of "The Curious Savage" was a smashing success. We broke all past attendance records for the opening weekend of a production.

This never could have happened without the fine publicity and articles written by the Sandy Post and the support of scores of peo-

ple in the community. We all are truly elated.

"The Curious Savage" runs for the next two weekends, Friday and Saturday evenings. We are looking forward to the rest of the community enjoying an evening of rollicking fun, laughs and family entertainment.

With this type of community support, the sky's the limit for the future of live theater and the performing arts in Sandy.

We proud of you and proud of us.

Jim S. Wilhite
Director

"The Curious Savage"

Church celebrates

This is a letter of thanks and gratitude for the persistence, patience, dedication and cooperation of the many people (parishioners, city officials and contractors) who overcame great obstacles to make possible the preservation of the old and joining of the new. Our special thanks to Father Gimpl for his personal and spiritual guidance.

We of St. Michael's Catholic Church are proud of our new worship and educational facility. The "family of St. Michael's" of Sandy

feels great pride in this accomplishment, and we offer our thanks to all of the people who kept the faith and made this possible.

Pat Stone
Sandy

Band tours

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the residents and local merchants who helped the Sandy Union High School band go on a spring tour to San Francisco. Although we were only gone five days, we saw some really beautiful sights and met some nice people.

I also would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. John McMahan and sons, Mrs. Loren Goracke, Mrs. Les Edgren, plus our director Mr. Steve Christensen and wife Nancy, who were our chaperones.

Without these people, we would have gotten nowhere. Also a big thanks goes to Len and Joyce Paola, who have helped us in many, many ways.

I know everyone involved with the SUHS band program feels the same way I do.

Thank you, everyone.

Mike Boring
Vice president
SUHS band

Legislator's report:

Timber-outdoors clash seen

by WAYNE FAWBUSH
State Representative, Dist. 56

In 1974 the Land Conservation and Development Commission adopted 14 goals to be achieved by long-range land-use planning. Goal 5 of these original 14 goals is "to conserve open space and protect natural and scenic resources."

In a state as dependent upon timber production as Oregon, such a goal is inevitably going to create major conflicts. That is exactly what has happened. The counties are required to identify and preserve wilderness areas, wild and scenic waters, ecologically and scientifically significant natural areas and other natural heritage features. Many of these areas exist on private and publicly-owned lands that someone has planned to use for timber harvest.

Confounding the problem of defining and preserving "open space, natural and scenic resources," is the fact that the entire state of the art in statewide and long-range land-use planning is extremely new. Oregon was one of the first states to mandate comprehensive planning.

Moreover, it is unique in the country, because it is the only state that leaves the actual planning to the local government units: It is very difficult to pass policy recommendations on a statewide basis that can be applied to each county and



municipality.

Therefore, it is understandable that LCDC has been forced to change its policy recommendations on application of Goal 5 to the counties' comprehensive plans.

A complaint from the timber industry and individuals who own timber-producing land is that — because of the uncertain directions LCDC is giving on enforcement of Goal 5 — they are not confident they will be able to use their lands as intended, for timber cultivation and harvest.

Representatives of Associated Oregon Industries have pointed out a number of inconsistencies in LCDC's review of county plans vis-a-vis this goal.

The inconsistencies have shown up in two major areas. One has been the matter of inventories of land.

In the mid-70's, LCDC funded the Nature Conservancy to compile a list of "natural heritage" areas, or those fitting some of the basic requirements of Goal 5. The commission took this step to aid the counties in assessing the property within their boundaries.

However, the commission has not been consistent in its directions to counties as to how binding this inventory is. Some counties have been allowed to disregard up to two-thirds of the inventory.

Another problem has been that of conflict resolution. In the past, the state agency told counties to prove they are "seeking to resolve" conflicts, such as situations where the county identifies as a natural area land that a timber company intends to log. The counties were required to show that had a working method of conflict resolution.

In recent years, however, the commission has determined this policy to be unfair to local landowners, because they will not have a firm decision on the use of their land until after approval of the comprehensive plan.

Department of Land Conservation and Development staff has been concerned that counties have been postponing critical land-use deci-

sions and have leeway to postpone those decisions indefinitely under the old policy.

On March 18 and 19, a subcommittee will present a new policy recommendations to the commission that state all identified conflicts must be resolved before approval of the county's plan.

As we approach the time limit on state funding of LCDC and the time to decide how much of a commitment we will make toward land-use planning, we must closely examine Goal 5.

The House Committee on Environment and Energy (of which I am chairman) will be looking at a great deal of legislation directed at LCDC this session. One of those bills was drafted with input by the timber industries in Oregon. It will attempt to bring together the concerns of timber interests with the goal of preserving natural areas in the state and to minimize some of the conflicts that have occurred between individual property owners, logging interests, major industries, the counties and the state planning agency.

Send your comments to the House Committee on Environment and Energy, Room 60E, State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310. Or write to me directly at Room H488 in the State Capitol. You may call me by using the toll-free number, 1-800-452-7813.