

## Kindergarten good 1st step for all

We hope the grade school board in Sandy does a better job of "selling" the voting public on merits of a new kindergarten program here May 19.

If properly informed, district patrons surely would opt for passage of Sandy Elementary's supplemental "B" ballot, rejected recently by some 300 votes.

Research indicates that children do better academically in school when they have attended kindergarten. Former Bull Run School superintendent Wilber "Pete" Sulzbach says the evidence is overwhelming. District Superintendent Clark Lund agrees.

"Statistically, there is an academic as well as social advantage," Lund notes. "I'm saying that from a research as well as personal perspective." In Central Oregon, Sandy's superintendent helped organize such programs.

Today, Sandy stands as one of only six districts out of 32 in the county without a kindergarten program. There are good church-sponsored programs available locally, however.

Cottrell recently adopted a public school program.

Kindergartens today prepare tots for an early start academically in primary grades, with emphasis on classroom instruction — not romper room play.

Kindergarten, therefore, has great educational possibilities

against a backdrop of nagging concern about high school students who can't read well or spell well. Educators agree generally that first years in school are critical in the eventually picture, and kindergarten is a great first step forward.

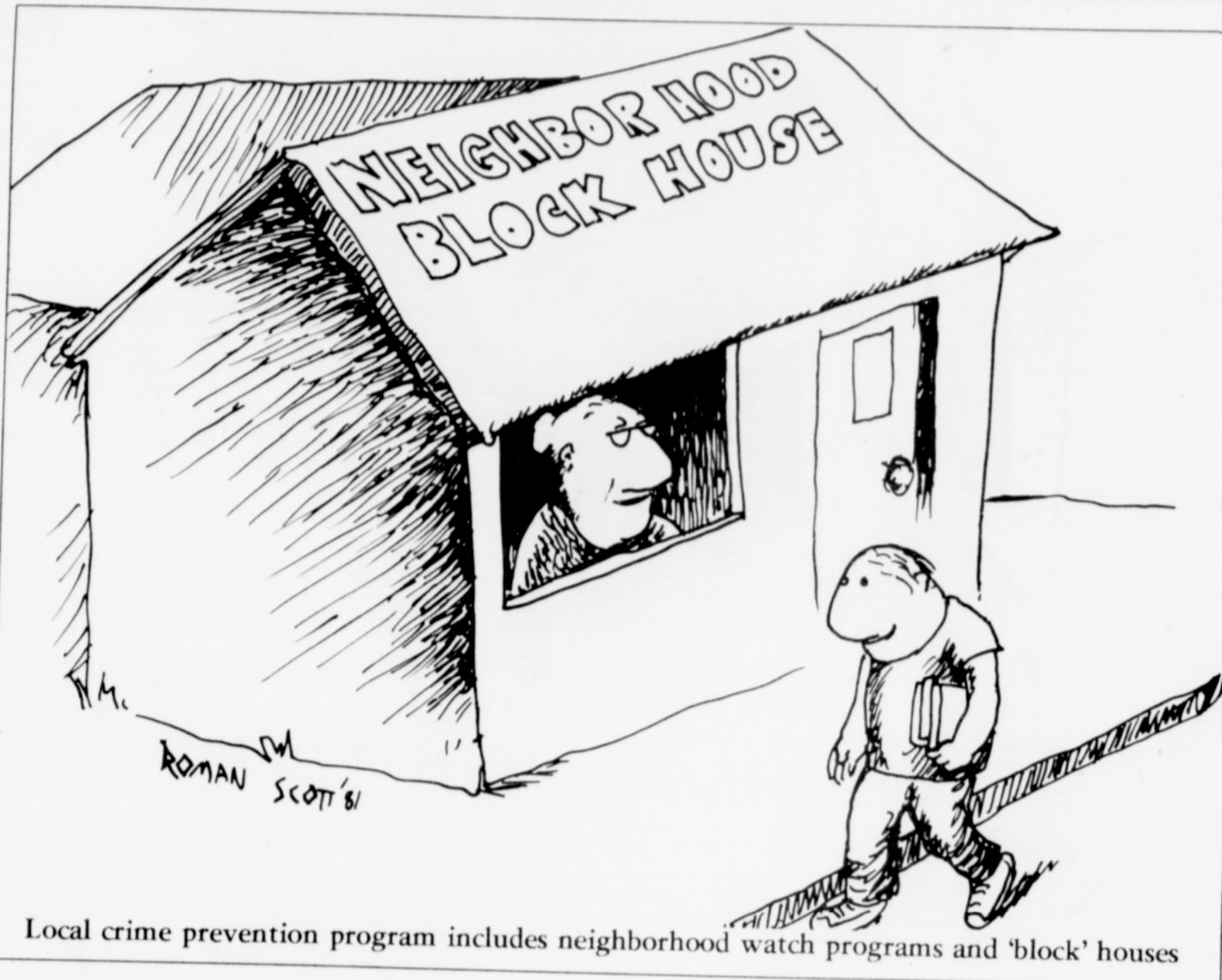
This key first step has been exploited by the Soviets, among others, who find even daycare tots three to five years of age ideally receptive for learning languages and music.

But not in Sandy, and we wonder why? If it's the cost, this misconception should be corrected.

The kindergarten program with eight half-day sectors in all neighborhood schools would cost only \$148,313 of the proposed "B" ballot. The rest of the supplemental ballot would fund important things like Community School (local matching funds), counseling, the talented and gifted student program and Outdoor School. Residents in years past have supported these worthwhile programs faithfully.

If district patrons are rejecting the proposed kindergarten program because of existing local church schools, they are short-sighted.

Membership or compatible religious creed shouldn't be necessary for attendance in kindergarten class. Kindergarten should be available to all.



Local crime prevention program includes neighborhood watch programs and 'block' houses

## Salem scene:

### Capitol calls made easier

by JACK ZIMMERMAN  
Associated Oregon Industries

Lack of largess doesn't seem to be dampening citizen interest in activities of the Oregon Legislature.

In fact, the revenue crunch pressuring budget-writing lawmakers may be a major factor in sustaining public involvement in the current regular session of the 61st Assembly in Salem.

At any rate, normal indicators show citizen participation during the first 12 weeks of this session just about equal to that registered during the same period in 1979.

Capitol guides report the visiting public about on par with members previously registering for tours and attending legislative hearings. Visitations by student groups are somewhat less than recorded two years ago, presumably because school district travel funds are not as plentiful.

On the fourth floor of the capitol building's Senate wing, operators serving the Legislature's unique telephone information service report inquiries down only slightly from numbers recorded two years ago.

As far as keeping busy is concerned, the two operators on duty this year are kept hopping, handling a load similar to that served by a three-member staff in the 1979 session.

The Oregon Legislature's telephone information access service is one of the more interesting behind-the-scenes functions of this state's lawmaking process. Oregonians long have prided themselves for efforts to encourage and facilitate citizen observation and participation in developing statutes that guide operations of state government.

A major reason for expanding the capitol building during the Seventies was to provide more spacious rooms in which to conduct hearings on legislative proposals. Likewise, expanded budget for public broadcasting and facilities to accommodate newspaper, radio and television reporters has contributed to a high visibility quotient for the biennial machinations in Salem.

While these developments have added to public curiosity, the opportunity for a direct, personal telephone link with the Legislature and its members appears to provide the greatest degree of actual public awareness on specific issues.

The Legislature's telephone information service this session is provided by Mrs. Jessa Morisky and Valerie Blagg. Both possess more than average experience in communicating with the public, and Mrs. Morisky is a 12-year veteran of the state's telephone system, having retired recently as chief operator. Miss Blagg, a naturalized citizen from Canada, adds still another dimension by virtue of an insatiable thirst for knowledge and admiration of the process governing her adopted country.

From 8:30 in the morning until 5:00 each evening — Monday through Friday — they respond to as many as 350 callers each day, providing up-to-the-minute reports on specific proposals on their way to becoming law. At their fingertips are a number of references, including the Legislature's daily calendars, cumulative indexes, Blue Book and a television terminal that links them with the computerized system that keeps



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track of the process.

In most cases, callers need only mention the subject matter involved, and Mrs. Morisky or Miss Blagg quickly will recite the bill or bills involved and what has happened to them so far. More sophisticated callers, who know the actual assigned number of a specific bill of interest, receive even speedier response.

By fingering a keyboard before them, the operators obtain a televised history of bills, along with times, dates and places for subsequent public hearings on those particular issues.

The Legislature has provided this so-called "bill-status" service since the 1973 session. The service didn't attain its present state of sophistication until 1977.

During that session, two operators logged more than 50,000 calls and as many as 592 on their busiest day. Total calls have dipped to about 30,000 last session and 467 was the greatest number of calls on a single day. Statistics so far indicate calls this session about match those recorded two years ago.

The fact total calls this session and last session won't equal the number answered in 1977 doesn't indicate a diminishing amount of public interest, according to Mrs. Morisky. Another development occurred two years ago that has made lawmaking in Oregon even more accessible by phone.

The Legislature established toll-free service directly to individual members from any point throughout the state, and use of those numbers has taken the load off the initial information system.

Consequently, the service provided by Mrs. Morisky and Miss Blagg now is dealing primarily with status of bills.

"Callers have become more sophisticated," she said, explaining that most know the numbers of bills they ask about and call their legislators direct when wishing to express opinions or discuss specific issues of interest.

Following are toll-free numbers available, if you want to check on the progress of legislation or deliver a message to your senator or representative:

Status of Bills — 1-800-452-0290 or 378-8551 in Salem

Legislators — 1-800-452-7813 or 229-5700 from Portland, 686-7500 from Eugene-Springfield and 378-3131 in Salem.

**EDIT. NOTE** — Jack Zimmerman writes a regular column for Associated Oregon Industries, a state lobbying group. His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Sandy Post.

## Slur upsetting

Needless to say, my husband and I were understandably saddened by his recent loss in the Elementary School Board election. He offered this community his excellent qualifications, but by a narrow margin was turned down.

However, this is nothing compared to the shock and deep hurt we felt upon learning from many reliable sources that there had been a slanderous verbal campaign conducted among the persons who supported the opposition.

Our faith in the basic goodness of mankind was reaffirmed, though, by the knowledge that people who heard these smear tactics found them to be distasteful and disturbing.

Many friends, neighbors and supporters also has expressed to us their sincere concern about personal insults entered into the political arena. In a nice, respectable area like Sandy, it is outrageous and degrading.

At this time we will refrain from defending my

husband's honor against these lies. Let the truth speak for itself. We hold the philosophy that justice ultimately must prevail.

Yet there is one interesting area upon which I feel compelled to elaborate. Since one of the opponent's major qualifications for a board position was that he was a "Christian" man, this is a direct implication that Mr. Hayward must not be a Christian. We would like to know when a baptized and confirmed Catholic was not also considered to be a Christian. In all of my 15 years of Catholic education, I never received such teachings! And in my husband's convert classes many years ago, the Paulist Fathers made it quite that we were followers of Christ. In fact, I feel it safe to say that Catholics have been Christian from the day I A.D. And once one has become a Catholic, one is always a Catholic.

In conclusion, I want to clarify that this is not the weeping of a poor loser, but rather the final hurrah of one who has fought a good, clean fight and lost. In this connection, the imperishable words

of Grantland Rice come to mind:

"For when the One Great Scorer comes to mark against your name, He writes not that you won or lost — but how you played the Game."

Mrs. Harold Hayward

## Blood needed

The goal of the Sandy High Blood Drive 1-5:30 p.m., Monday, April 13, is to enable our community to meet the total needs of all blood products found in our life-saving fluid.

People, such as a hemophiliac boy who stores cryoprecipitate in his refrigerator at home, could bump his knee or cut himself slightly and then bleed to death, if it weren't for a blood component such as cryoprecipitate. Other people, like Dave Workinger who have had or needs heart surgery, depend on availability of blood at the blood bank.

Hunting accidents, involving people in our area or all-too-familiar traffic ac-

cidents and cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, account for many other units of your life-saving fluid.

Becoming a blood donor is a unique human transaction. The only reason for giving blood is to support the survival of someone else. Since people in good health are our only source, we urge you to take some time out of your schedule Monday, April 13, from 1 to 5:30 p.m. to meet some new and old friends at the Sandy High library.

Your help is needed.  
Stan Bowman  
Sandy Area Blood Coordinator

## CCC thanks voters

This note is to express my thanks to all those who helped pass the tax proposal to cover college operation costs. Without community support, Clackamas Community College has little purpose or direction.

In the near future, I hope to announce a comprehensive community outreach program designed to help the college and community

open new and better lines of communication. This program will be broad in scope, touching many communities and seeking the advice and counsel from all corners of the college district.

The college district voters have placed their trust in the college, its staff and board. We appreciate their trust and will do our best to insure continued trust in the future.

Dr. John Hakanson  
President  
Clackamas Community College

## 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.

## Legislator's report:

# Tax burden lightened, still necessary

by WAYNE FAWBUSH  
State Representative, District 56

"Taxes are revolting. Why aren't we?"

It's the slogan of the taxpayers' revolt, and the signal that many people are fed up with paying too much to local, state and federal government.

As a member of the House Revenue Committee, I recognized that people have been feeling a real burden from their taxes. I was a strong supporter of property tax relief during the last session. As a result, the state is paying roughly 30 percent of your property taxes to the county in which you live. Now you can enjoy the same level of local services, without having to pay such high property taxes.

In addition, last session our Revenue Committee turned out a package that reduced your state income taxes.

America's first national income tax dates back to 1861, when the federal government needed to raise money for the Civil War. That tax was discontinued in 1872. But even before 1850, some states had begun taxing individual incomes within



that state. In 1913, a change in the U.S. Constitution made a continuing income tax possible, and Americans have been paying this tax since then. In 1943, the federal government began withholding taxes from individuals' checks.

As you can see, the income tax is not a "new" idea, nor is it some recent concept imposed by radical lawmakers attempting to steal from their constituents. It is a longstanding method to fund government, first used by the states and then adopted federally.

In the last few months, we have heard stories about individuals who

have decided that it is illegal for the state and nation to tax labor. They have taken it on themselves to avoid paying withholding taxes by changing their W-4 withholding forms. Some people write that they have a very high number of dependents, others claim that they are exempt because they won't make enough money this year to pay taxes.

According to Allen Brown, regional manager of our district for the Revenue Department, there have been 35 cases from area in which people have indicated, inappropriately, that they should not have taxes withheld from their checks.

The Revenue Department reviewed the cases automatically and found that none of these people was eligible to avoid withholding taxes legally.

The Department notified the employers to withhold tax, as if these individuals had no exemptions until each person filed an accurate W-4 form. Of the 35 people caught falsifying their forms, 25 people have filed new forms, and 10 people are still being charged enough withholding tax for no exemptions — the highest taxing rate.

As we are all aware, if you fail to pay the taxes for which you are responsible at the end of the year, you will be penalized. The same goes for falsifying tax documents. Under Oregon law, an employee can be fined up to \$1,000 and spend one year in prison for filing a false W-4 form. Additionally, he can be forced to pay a penalty for failure to file income taxes, plus interest on the amount owed. Federal charges might also be enforced.

Avoiding taxes is no joke. I'd like to point out a story related in "Newsweek" March 9 about a fellow who didn't believe in paying taxes. John Reeve, a tool-and-die maker in suburban Detroit, signed up for 99 exemptions on his W-4 form. He ended up paying \$30,000 and spending two months in prison.

Don't get caught in that trap. There are people organizing in Oregon — particularly in The Dalles area — who are encouraging others to falsify their W-4 forms. It's illegal, and you won't get away with it.

If you have any questions about your taxes, please call our office on the toll free number, 1-800-472-7813. Or dial the Revenue Department toll free at 1-800-452-2838.