

SUHS budget defeat could hurt all

Critical times call for concerned boosters to rally round their school.

Sandy High School faces just such a critical test before voters May 19. At stake is the right of students here to a very basic education.

The levy ballot covers just the cost of operating and maintaining existing necessary programs at the school. There are no frills in the May 19 "A" ballot that asks District 2 school patrons for an estimated \$3.77 per \$1,000 assessed value. That's 41 cents less than the 1980-81 school levy (exclusive of levies for bonded indebtedness).

Even if approved, that meager amount likely will be insufficient, since the school has lost at least \$238,000 in state basic school support.

A school budget committee will reconvene 7:30 p.m., May 1, at Sandy High to ponder how the school will make up the unexpected shortfall in outside funding. The public meeting is a "must" for all who care about the future of Sandy High.

Disregarding the pending shortfall in state support, the district's "A" ballot levies \$1.8 million outside Oregon's constitutional limitation for operating expenses during fiscal 1981-81.

If this measure is approved, \$2.1 million of taxes levied will be financed partially by the state including a \$296,088 tax base.

At least that's the way school budgeters saw the picture back in

November, a more promising time. Now things look less certain.

To pass this critical budget — insufficient though local funding may prove — concerned boosters are organizing a telephone campaign and series of neighborhood coffee klatches for presentations. The concern is enuine when one views the school or community at large, because the success of this budget levy well could affect the whole community.

Fiscally responsible Sandy High School can't go forever without voter approval of a budget. Without guaranteed funds, in fact, the school likely would have to shut down around November.

Don't count on certain state aid during this fiscally tight year in Oregon politics. After all, the state already has withdrawn planned money for basic school support.

So consider the consequences of a possible school closure with 162 staff members onto unemployment here. The majority of them live in the district, with the rest so close that unemployment could have a heavy impact on an already limping economy.

It would be even more tragic to see 1,200 students aimlessly walking the streets, because they were denied a state-guaranteed right to a basic education.

That's a right written into the state constitution and something that district taxpayers all have enjoyed. Why shut the door to basic education now? (VB)



Guest editorial:

The Eagle's landed & looks grounded

by WILLIAM B. VAIL
Of Estacada

The gleaming tripods settled into the lunar dust. With calm clarity the words of brave men reached from beyond our imaginations to inform the world, "The Eagle has landed."

Remember the pride — the pride in ourselves and our ability as Americans?

Sometime since then in the chartless canyons of time, the knurled talons of the American eagle dug into a weathered limb on a high and precarious ledge. This time there was no one there to record this historic event: that again, the eagle has landed.

The symbol of freedom that has been kept aloft by the winds of courage, the strength and pride has come to rest. After two centuries of unbelievable flight the endurance of the eagle has ebbed. It seems to have run its course, brought down by the arrows of indecision of leaders



and overburdened by a maze of endless obligations.

We have watched America continually back down when confronted by major or even minor powers. We have stood like a powerful yet pathetic giant, unable to act knowing we are right, simply for fear of what other nations might think of us.

We have attempted to buy friends and form alliances, showering them with military and economic support,

only to be rejected by them when their leaders are deposed or need for us terminates.

What of our own people who would be better served with those dollars? What about our military that would be stronger, if we were not financially bled from the very heart of our country?

Our senses have been dulled by this ongoing frustration. We prefer to turn away from these seemingly unsolvable dilemmas and preoccupy ourselves, seeking fun, conveniences and material possessions — leaving our fate in the hands of a few without a thought for our future.

These problems have clouded the keen vision of the eagle that is essential for survival. In addition, we are pressured by demands of an ever growing government that is too cumbersome to be effective and too expensive to run.

In its blind concern for bureaucratic perpetuation, it clings to the self-consuming philosophy

that more government is better government.

The government of the people, by the people and for the people is rapidly becoming a myth from an era gone by. Each day brings with it the greater feeling of our citizens that we have a government versus the people and a system that has turned a deaf ear to needs of the people it was intended to serve.

This, too, has left the eagle void of a clear sense of direction.

This loss of individual freedom has crushed the creative spirit that long ago sent the eagle into flight on currents that inspired hopes and culminated in the realization of dreams.

We must be swift, if we are to recapture the dream before the memory of the dream is gone and with it the winds of reawakening and enlightenment that once again can send the eagle springing from its lofty pinnacle on the same outstretched wings of courage, strength and pride that gave birth to this great nation.

Some Oregon bills downright silly

A lot of bizarre bills have surfaced this session in Salem, and a Sandy Chamber of Commerce group at a recent Salem briefing heard a lot of them.

Purpose of the legislative briefing was for the Chamber delegation to prep on business-related bills for possible support or opposition by the general membership.

The Chamber has gone on record against a proposed state law that virtually would make it illegal for a business to close shop here without prior notice and against a proposed state ban on smoking in public buildings and work areas (except in designated areas).

Besides Senate Bill 370 Indoor Clean Air Act and Senator Ted Kulongoski's Plant Closure Bill, the local chamber anticipates written opposition to a House bill in the Energy Committee to prohibit commercial lighting October — December. Yes, to save energy, proponents urge a ban on outdoor

business lights at Christmas time.

But here's the capper for laughs, according to one chamber traveler to Salem:

One proposed bill would empower the governor to appoint guards to protect parking spots designated for handicapped persons.

Imagine a crippled little, old lady who tries to stop an angry guy with a buzz in his ears. It's their turf, after all, so the law must be enforced.

Perhaps the state could issue "stun guns" for handicapped guards to drop interlopers in their tracks.

But then there's the cost of the munitions and the level of dosage to be regulated.

A classic case of what happens when an immovable object meets an objecting immobile, compliments of Big Brother.

Come on, Salem. Let's get serious. (VB)

Salem scene:

Public testimony in Salem is tricky

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

A considerable body of American humor tends to disparage decision-making by committee.

Nonetheless — or perhaps because it contains a spark of truth — the committee system is inherent to our legislative process.

The Oregon Assembly is no exception. The current Legislature in Salem is divided into 35 committees, depending upon how you count budget-writing Joint Ways & Means. This session there are 17 committees in the House of Representatives and 18 in the Senate.

Testimony before a legislative committee — while a convenience to the public — often is not for the faint of heart. Lawmakers are people and some have more patience than others. Committee leaders also are people, and some are more adept at running a meeting than others.

For the average citizen, testifying before some committees can be trying, to say the least. Since there are two sides to most questions, it's possible that time expires before both pros and cons have a chance to speak.

Then there are the courtesies in the committee procedure that also tend to discourage the neophyte citizen who aches to provide testimony. Committee



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

leaders nearly always permit fellow lawmakers and other elected officeholders to speak first. Such testimony often is preceded by amiable bantering or barbed jibes between those testifying and those there mainly to listen. This ritual takes time and doesn't sit well with ordinary citizens, who may have travelled considerable distance at no small personal inconvenience to testify.

Good committee leadership makes every effort to permit such testimony.

Being told that time that day has expired means some witnesses will not return.

The inexperienced also should be wary of testimony if they are less than adequately prepared to survive cross-examination by committee members. While most lawmakers are courteous to a fault, many are skilled in the art of self-expression and have a decided advantage when it comes to countering the opinion of others.

The committee process — while constituted to provide information on which decisions can be made — most

often is successful.

Everyone knows the one about a committee being a

group of the unfit, appointed by the unwilling to do the unnecessary. It's likewise described as a group of three that succeeds only when member is sic and other absent.

Absenteeism is likely the sharpest thorn in the Oregon Assembly's committee bush — particularly when one considers the number of committees involved and frequency of meetings.

Then again, such decision-making is democratic. This fact promoted a veteran professional lobbyist to remark during the citizen-swamped 1971 session that democracy certainly fouls up the legislative process.

Decision-making by committee most likely is favored because of the belief that two or more heads are better than one. On the other hand, what about too many cooks and what they do to the soup?

Letters to the editor:

Grade school rates support

The last few issues of the Sandy Post have provided a first-rate description of the Sandy Elementary "B" ballot contents. It should be obvious to everyone that this is a "no frills" ballot. The ballot contains support activities necessary to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning.

As we check the list, we will find that the elementary school programs found on the defeated "B" ballot are crucial to the well-being of our children. Just as the concrete foundation is the most important aspect of the structural integrity of any building, the years a student spends in elementary school determine to a large extent his or her accomplishment in high school, vocational

school and college. Those of us who have been involved in filling entry-level positions know first-hand the difficulty in finding enough young people qualified in technical and communication skills.

Because our nation is locked in an economic contest with Japan and the Common Market countries — as well as even more serious confrontations with the Soviet Union in the Persian Gulf and our own hemisphere, it needs hundreds of thousands of well qualified young people each year to fill jobs in business, industry, government and the military.

If we want a strong America with a healthy, full-employment economy capable of meeting

challenges both at home and abroad, we cannot afford to let our schools slip into decay.

For the well-being of everyone in our community, let's pass the "B" ballot in the next election.

Harold Hayward
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.

