

New speed control at Sandy wise

Sandy city council finally has gotten attention of the state to slow down traffic at the edge of town from 45 mph to 40 mph.

The concern is real. In spot speed checks, the state found that 32.5 percent exceed the present break-neck speed of 45 mph. There were three accidents and two injuries at these outskirts compared to only two accidents and one injury more downtown from Jan. 1, 1978, to June 30, 1980.

As city hall sees it, speeding cars have trouble breaking to 25 mph in a few blocks before hitting downtown—to say nothing of big trucks. Indeed, it's tricky for pedestrians to cross Highway 26 in town, and a bad wreck often seems likely.

Recently the state speed control board staff reversed an earlier stand to recommend the board lower Sandy speed limits to 40 mph

just east and west of town on Highway 26. The board meets soon to hear the recommendation.

The city asked for reduction to 35 mph, but sounds content with the proposed new speed limit.

Proposed changes call for 40 mph on the Mt. Hood Highway from .43 miles west of Bluff Road to 300 feet west of Bluff Road and 40 mph on the highway from 200 feet east of TenEyck Road to the city.

Additionally, amendments call for 20 mph limit when children are present from 150 feet west of Shelley Avenue to 50 feet east of Shelley and from 50 feet east of Bruns Avenue to 50 feet west of Smith Avenue.

City staff and council have fought persistently for saner speed limits on the highway that rips through town, and deserves praise for their concern. (VB)

Broaden local support for center

Sandy along with other cities in Clackamas County is pursuing a possible cooperative arrangement with the county for continued maintenance of its senior center.

Decreasing federal funding—a scare for many municipal programs—prompts the consideration. Local governments that seek to continue programs formerly funded from the federal level now must seek to spread the funding burden uniformly on the backs of local program users.

The county commissioners, hence, have suggested an operating levy for a countywide senior center program—similar to the city-county library system.

Sandy and other smaller cities

enjoy good libraries today, because county funding guarantees operating money from all users in the service area—both inside and outside the city.

This approach seems fair, since many city-based services are uniformly enjoyed by the broader community.

Indeed, many members of Sandy Senior Center live outside city limits, but enjoy the benefits of a city-sponsored program.

That program, like many others, could be crippled without new funding sources during federal funding cuts. A county service-area levy sounds like quick footwork on solid ground. (VB)

Festival looks good, but has needs

Plans for the 1981 Sandy Mountain Festival already are in high gear, with committee work a month ahead of schedule.

The July 11-12 arts festival in Meinig Park is drawing more people each year, and this year organizers filled all booths for exhibitors early, leaving more than 20 would-be artisan guests waiting in the wings. Food booth space also filled fast. In short, the summer fest is booked solid.

The festival committee does have a couple of needs, however. One is for funding—both sponsorships and booster button sales, to compensate for business donations down with the economic slump.

New 1981 buttons are available with information packs, displayed in lovely wood racks donated by local craftsman Hugh Armstrong. The buttons are available in area stores.

Salem scene:

Cut funds slow sewer starts

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Although they probably don't share Ronald Reagan's political persuasion, Oregon's no-growthers should be cheering the President's attempts to reduce federal spending.

That's the conclusion one must draw, as this state's municipalities struggle with a virtual impasse caused by regulations for sewerage standards and lack of funds. Money shortage makes it especially tough to play by the rules.

The result—even in the face of continuing population growth above national average—is more moratoriums on construction of homes, businesses and industrial and service facilities.

There's more at stake than meets the eye. Projected cuts in federal sewerage construction grants also would prevent compliance with environmental standards, required under present conditions.

Meat of the nut involves a proposal to drastically reduce three to one federal sewerage construction funding grants to cities and sanitary districts.

The proposal either would wipe out current federal participation or, at best, reduce that participation by 40 percent. At stake immediately are some \$305 million worth of Oregon sewer projects—some underway and others with planning completed.

There are so many interrelated problems at issue, they nearly boggle the mind. They appear to date back to establishment of present provisions under the Federal Clean

Water Act. The Congress, recognizing the need to bring the cities' sewerage systems up to environmental standards, promised local governments lots of money to do the job. This was in recognition of the fact such a massive undertaking would be unbearable, if tackled only with local resources. Consequently, Congress pledged 75 percent federal assistance.

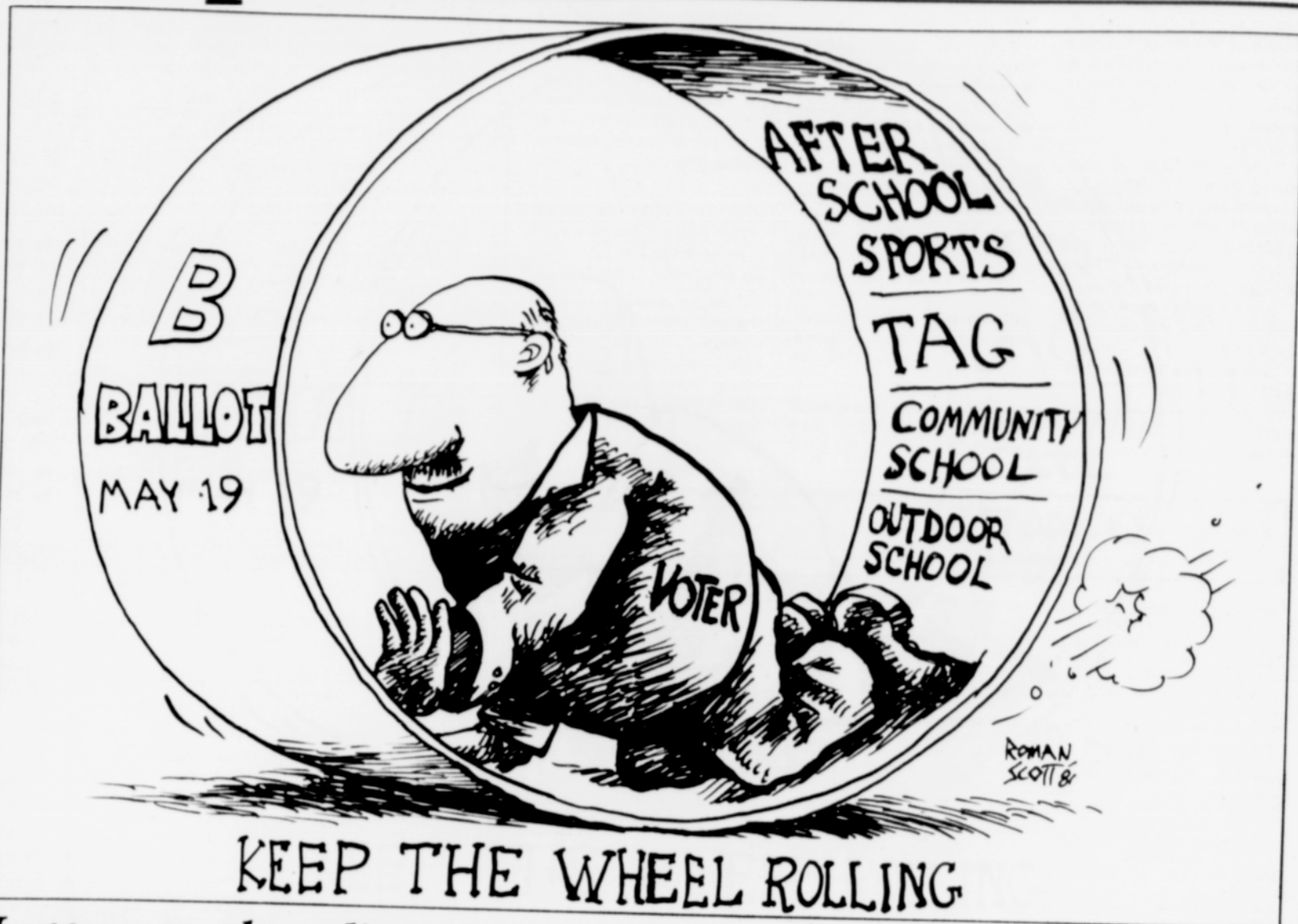
Oregon, with Department of Environmental Quality standards in some cases even more stringent than those mandated by the federal Environmental Protection Act, became a leader in complying with terms of the Clean Water Act.

Most Oregonians are aware of the many success stories involved.

Nonetheless, many projects lagged, because Congress steadily underfunded its promise. Much work remains in order to achieve statewide compliance. Further underfunding—in the face of soaring construction costs generated by the combination of delays and inflation—exacerbates the situation to devastating proportions. No clear solution yet has been advanced.

Cutting federal participation puts an unbearable burden on all sewer users. Further state participation—which now consists of lending Oregon's credit for bonds to cover local government's 25 percent share—virtually is unthinkable in view of the current general fund budget problem.

By the same token, the high cost of money and present levels of bonding for other vital state programs likely prohibits additional bonding for sewerage construction.



Letters to the editor:

Food, farms, copters stir readers

US priorities?

Rep. Denny Smith came to town last Friday morning and spoke with about 30 people at the Haneberg Community Center. I attended the meeting out of desire to know what sort of society our congressman had in mind for our country and what ideals motivated him.

Rep. Smith gave the outward appearance of a handsome, younger man—friendly, and ready to speak with anyone. He is strongly for the Reagan program and defended the proposed cuts in such social services as food stamps, legal aid, nutrition programs and others by showing that the total of federal expenditures in the coming Reagan years would not diminish but actually grow.

Showing these projected growth steps on a chart, he asked, "Where are the cuts?" He did not explain that increases in the military budget would be a major factor in the increases in federal spending.

When asked about increases in an already huge military budget and about the several hundred million to be spent in economic and military aid for the government of El Salvador, Rep. Smith's response was that Russians were spending a vast amount of money on their military.

No philosopher here, who would present a thoughtful discussion of war and peace and national ideals!

The Reagan administration intervention in El Salvador looks like a Vietnam-type empire-building military adventure to me. I had hoped Rep. Smith would express reser-

ervations about it. The Institute for Food and Development Policy says the Salvadorans are the hungriest and poorest people in all of Latin America. They have a government that has killed 18,000 of its own people. Wealthy land owners employ "hit" squads that assassinate any who dare suggest change.

Peasant leaders, union officials, school teachers, and clergymen have been frequent targets. American nuns and others drawn to El Salvador by a desire to help its suffering people also have been killed.

Bishop Camero, who said, "In the name of God, stop the repression," soon was shot to death, while saying mass.

Our former ambassador, Robert White, calls the El Salvador military, "one of the most out-of-control, violent, blood thirsty groups of men in the world."

It is helicopter gunships supplied by us that are hunting down people in El Salvador, and the only foreign soldiers in El Salvador are our Green Berets.

Our government has placed itself in support of a tiny minority of wealthy land owners (14 families) and has deserted our own ideal of "government by consent of the governed." We have not shown the decency of allowing the great majority of the people to struggle for a government of their choosing.

W. Pete Sulzbach
Sandy

Save farms

On May 11, 1981 the Clackamas County Board of

County Commissioners will hold a hearing on several changes to the Clackamas County Comprehensive Plan.

The plan, although acknowledged by LCD, does not meet several of their standards, and they have requested Clackamas County to make several changes.

The major change that will effect all agricultural areas that they are requiring a definition of a FARM.

The Planning Department has submitted a new wording, and there has been one hearing with the Planning Commission. The wording would all but eliminate any building in the agricultural and forest zones on any amount of land.

To qualify for a residence, you must meet the criteria of a commercial farm. This has four criteria which must be met. The most significant is that net income must be a major source of income for the resident, and the produce must contribute substantially to the farm market.

I know of very few existing farms that meet this criteria, and I see this as a major threat to the privately owned small farm, which offers an excellent training ground for such programs as 4-H and FFA.

These farms also contribute as small truck farms for a wide selection of farm products.

This change in wording means that only big money and large corporations will be able to afford farms. Also, a legal lot of record has no bearing, in fact, I'm not sure what the definition is of a "legal lot," since it has changed several times during the last 10 years.

It is very important for property owners to present and testify either at 2 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. May 11, 1981, at the county court house.

Call Ardis Stevenson, director for public information, on these changes. Our County accepted these plans, and we should make sure our county commissioners stick to what the people (and they, at least in some part) agreed upon.

Ginny Brewster
Sandy

Nix heliport

This letter is to call attention to the recent recommendation of establishing a Heliport in the Zig Zag-Welches community.

Conceptually, the idea no doubt is born in recent concern for life-saving emergency evacuation needs. We all know the value of human lives and prevention of suffering. This community always has responded to these needs and will continue to perform meritoriously in the future both professionally and with highly skilled and knowledgeable volunteers.

Our community concern is that the proposed location is fully unsatisfactory. The area is located approximately 100-200 feet from U.S. Highway 26, a major East-West thoroughfare.

Approach to a Heliport in this location would be over the Welches Public Grade School and playground facilities (enrollment of kindergarten through eighth grade is 360 students.)

The area is within 100 feet of a public park and tennis courts, present location of Hoodland Women's Club, Mt. Hood Preschool Coop, a

visitor information center and a senior center.

The road junction is heavily traveled and considered a high density recreation area. The area is used for tennis, playground, picnics, Little League games, Easter and Fourth of July celebrations plus as a rest stop.

We should, therefore, conclude that for safety sake and common sense that this request be denied. Should an aviation accident occur, the result would be catastrophic. There is no way to fully mitigate the safety hazards of such a proposal.

In the past, emergency needs have been met within the surrounding area and there is no attempt to diminish this necessity. The salient point is that the proposed site is not ideal for a commercial, frequent or long term facility. Escort or chauffeur service to developed recreation sites or the expansion of present protection organization should not be within the scope of the proposition.

A feasibility study should be conducted on economic analysis, emergency need and frequency and criteria that are not self-serving and commercial.

An environmental analysis should be written to address such items as noise pollution, impacts on existing uses, predictable hazards and probable cause assessment.

Budd Blake
A Public Meeting concerning the safety and alternatives to a proposed heliport will be held Friday, May 8, 8 p.m., in the Welches School gym, located on Highway 26 and Salmon River Road at Zig Zag.

Legislator's report:

Shouldn't people decide death issue?

by KEN JERNSTEDT
State Senator, Dist. 28

Four related bills to resurrect the death penalty in Oregon apparently are doomed to die themselves in committee.

Last week supporters tried to convince the House Judiciary Committee to approve bills to eliminate

technical flaws in a law approved by Oregonians in 1978. That law was struck down on constitutional grounds last January by the Oregon Supreme Court. Supporters sought to establish lethal injection as the method of execution and refer the death penalty question to voters again in May, 1982.

But the votes just weren't there. One of the representatives commented that—since the Senate Justice Committee appears to be against the death penalty—the House would be put through an



agonizing debate with no legislative function, if the bill were brought to the House floor.

Not all members of the seven-man Senate Justice Committee are opposed—because the 1978 initiative was approved by a large margin.

Senator Bob Smith of Burns and I are among sponsors of SB 806 to revise murder statutes. The bill

would require that the jury—rather than the judge—determine if the death sentence should be imposed.

Unfortunately, this bill probably will never see the light of day either. It was assigned to the Senate Justice Committee on March 20th and has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.

Chances are slim that it ever will be scheduled since Chairman, Jan Wyers—an avowed opponent of the death penalty—has made the broad statement that "the Legislature is not apt to make a bad law good, if it is one we don't agree with."

In other words, the initiative system is in effect, only when a handful of liberal legislators on one committee happen to agree with laws initiated and approved by the people. Bills not to his philosophical liking can languish and die, unheard.

It is a dark day for democracy and

our representative system when a vote of the people can be stolen by a handful of willful people, who want to jam down the throats of the majority the will of the minority.

It is not the job of the Legislature to rehash the pros and cons of the death penalty. That issue already has been decided by the people of Oregon at the ballot box.

It is now the obligation of the Legislature to see that the wishes of the people are fulfilled.

After the session adjourns, there will be another petition drive to enact a constitutionally clean death penalty law. The Governor has agreed to spearhead such an initiative drive.

I'd be interested in hearing from citizens who want to circulate or sign such a petition.

My Salem address is S317, State Capitol Building, Salem 97310. The toll-free number is 1-800-452-7813, extension 8-8850.