

Voter backlash shouldn't hurt kids

It's unfortunate to think a backlash May 19 may have caused Sandy Elementary School's key 'B' ballot's second defeat at the polls. Many good programs at stake may die for lack of funds when the supplemental budget goes before voters one final time June 30.

Take the grade school's exemplary program for talented and gifted students, for example. Sandy boasts perhaps the state's highest percentage of TAG students who qualified through tests and other criteria for a two-week enrichment program utilizing facilities at University of Oregon this summer.

Unfortunately, the eight local students must sell cream sachets door-to-door to raise the \$320 tuition and boarding fee for each.

The pared-down program, despite being one of the best in the state, operates on only \$32,161 for 50 students in 'B' ballot.

Other grade school programs ask small amounts, too, to continue superior programs.

Other low-cost, effective programs on the chopping block in-

clude community schools (\$14,300 matching fund), outdoor school for sixth graders (\$11,658) and counseling for grades one through six (\$21,490).

The district also requests \$65,500 for needed school buses and a grounds maintenance tractor plus \$6,000 to paint the outside of the community's swimming pool which the school maintains.

Co-curricular athletics and activities could die, too, without \$33,672 in fresh funds.

That's all district's asking—which isn't nearly enough with anticipated shortfall of nearly \$146,000.

Sadly, it was budget cut of a \$160,000 kindergarten that may have killed the pared-down 'B' ballot the second time out. Such backlash by pro-kindergarten voters doesn't accomplish much, though—particularly for the kids.

Let's forget the kindergarten for now, and save what programs remain on the grade school's ballot June 30. (VB)



Letters to the editor:

Safety, death concern readers

Sound off in a newspaper free

It's nice to know something's still free—in some corners, anyway.

We've always promoted free access to this Editorial & Opinion Page as a place where citizens could vent their feelings in letters to the editor. This is an age-old practice in American newspapers. No one to our knowledge ever has charged a cent for the time and materials necessary to set readers' letters into print.

That is, until this month when Ben Cannon, former publisher of the now-defunct Hoodland Courier, launched "Sound Off!" This "new concept in Portland's newspaper world" in his "way of preserving

your right to be heard." Cost is only \$5 for each 100-word letter.

This unique approach to publishing letters may catch on great in larger cities, and we sincerely wish him well. Larger newspapers select a small percentage of letters for publication. Most area newspapers including The Post, however, seek to publish every letter it receives. Free. And we want even more letters to print. Free.

You have a right to free access in a free press. Community newspapers are a forum for community topics raised by residents. So keep those cards and letters coming. (VB)

Rescue prompt

I would like to thank the many people that came to my son's rescue 10 p.m., Saturday.

My son, Doug Gillum, was melting lead over a campfire to make fishing weights.

The stove exploded, throwing melted lead and white gas onto his face and arms. Doug called me from his home on Rude Road to ask me to find a doctor in Sandy and to say he and his wife, Samie, would be right over to my home on Allgeier Road.

I did my usual thing when one of mine is hurt and panicked. I did manage to dial the emergency number I had tacked above my phone: 911.

The lady that answered handled it like the pro she surely is. Finally I conveyed to her that Doug had been burned and needed doctor in Sandy. About the only information I was able to spit out was my address. She assured me the help would come to us.

Doug and Samie had to come about 1.5 miles to my home. The help, I assume, came from Sandy 4.5 miles away.

Doug hardly walked through our door when the rescue outfit got here in full force, including ambulance.

I personally don't know one soul that came to our rescue. I don't know if they are paid or not or how much of their own live these people give up to serve me and you. All I know is when we needed help, they were here.

This is not the first time my family has had a very serious emergency and asked for help. But always without exception our emergency agencies have been at our side in record time.

I'm sorry to say that I take this for granted, along with my others. We shouldn't.

Thank you, once again, I, for one, do appreciate you. Dixie Marshall (P.S. The number is 911 for emergencies. It works.)

Safeguard water

Stanley G. Wallulis, P.E., president, Wallulis & Associates, Pendleton, (letter, May 28) urges everyone to spread the word that pristine water sources are no longer safe, in part because beavers and other animals transmit giardiasis. His letter implies that the only safe water is deep well water or filtered, treated, surface water.

I disagree. Even deep wells can become contaminated. We should protect any remaining pristine water sources we have left. If man's encroachments are excluded, water from them may be the purest available and not need filtration. (Incidentally, filtration is not free.)

Early this year, John A. Googins, M.D., chief, Disease

Monitoring and Control, Oregon State Health Division, had this to say about giardiasis and filtration:

"In most outbreaks of giardiasis which have been investigated where there was a possibility of beaver source of pollution, there also was the possibility of human contamination.

Where the latter exists, it is difficult to rule out the possibility that the beavers found to be infected acquired their infection from human sources....Because water filtration and treatment systems can and do fail, it would be unwise in my opinion to give up the added source of protection which comes from controlling access to and activities in watershed areas...."

Unfortunately, the unwarranted assumption that all surface sources will have to be filtered no matter how well they are protected, takes away an incentive to protect the source and actually encourages exploitation.

References on the above may be found in the Bull Run Interest Group open file in the central public library in Portland (Social Science Room) under reference numbers 224 (p. 18), 238 and 227.

Joseph L. Miller Jr., M.D.
Sandy

Nix heliport

I would like to make it very clear that the following remarks are those of a concerned resident of the Hoodland corridor and in no way represent singularly or aggregatedly the opinions of the Welches School Board, as I also happen to be a member of that organization.

Upon close review of this controversial subject dealing with the proposed heliport, I feel compelled to speak out.

There has been a lot of media attention and rhetoric associated with this proposal. There have been claims, counterclaims, and allegations of its real purpose. As far as I am concerned, the real issue is the proximity of the proposed heliport to the Welches Grade School and the Hoodland Womens Club, since the Pre-school and Senior Center are located there.

Joseph Stein and his group would lead you to believe that residents of the Hoodland corridor are backward, anti-progress and general reactionaries. The proponents of this project have not even explored an alternative site.

I personally do not object to a heliport in the Hoodland area, as long as it does not interfere with the school or women's club.

The proposed flight path is the perimeter of the Welches' Grade School. The proposed site is within 200

yards of the school. The noise, disruption, possible safety features and supervision of this heliport are all very questionable, as they relate to approximately 340 students and staff.

There is no way at this time to anticipate commercial application of this proposal.

Ron Worrell
Brightwood

For death penalty

Are you one of those people who voted for the death penalty in 1978? Are you angry, because a judge overruled your wishes? Are you further enraged, because the Legislature refuses to heed the wishes of the majority of Oregonians and reinstate the death penalty? I have sent dozens of petitions to people all over Oregon, as well as getting signatures of people who want the death penalty reinstated in our state.

In The Journal, May 21 I read "Death penalty bill snuffed by committee." Was your senator one of those who "snuffed" this bill? Are you going to vote for him again, when he again asks for your vote? I can truthfully say I will vote for my senator, because he was one of two who voted for Senate Bill 806, which would have reinstated the death penalty.

In case you missed the article in The Journal, these are the senators on that committee and how they voted: For the bill were Robert Smith from Burns and Kenneth Jernstedt of Hood River.

Those voting against the bill were Jan Wyers, Portland; Ted Kulonowski, Junction City; Walter Brown, Lake Oswego; Ed Fadeley, Eugene; Jim Gardner, Portland.

Mr. Wyers said, "I oppose the motion, because I oppose the death penalty."

I was under the impression our elected officials were sent to Salem to represent the people who voted them into office? Well, it seems things have changed. I cannot believe that all the people represented by the senators who voted against this bill are against the death penalty.

Somewhere in Oregon a vast majority voted for the death penalty in 1978, so who are these Senators representing? Like Mr. Wyers, are they representing themselves and not their people?

If your senator voted against Senate Bill 806, I hope you will work very hard to see that he is defeated when next his name is on the ballot—that is if you are for the death penalty. If you are not for the death penalty, you will need no prodding because you will be out in full force working against the majority of Oregonians. This is what is called the vocal minority.

Concerning the means of carrying out the death pen-

ty, a lethal injection or the firing squad is both inexpensive and effective.

It seems our people voted themselves a pay raise. I hope a petition is started to make it illegal for a pay raise for public officials without a vote of the people. It is time for some changes to be made in the way things are run in Salem & District of Columbia.

When the voice of the people is ignored, then maybe it is time for the people to take the reins of government and vote the rascals out.

Ann Lucas
Estacada

SCP support sought

During the past few months it has been brought to our attention several times that there are some people in the Sandy area who do not understand what Sandy Community Players Inc. is.

While it would be difficult to enumerate all that it means to those of us heavily involved in working to bring quality live theater to Sandy (and all of the Portland area), it is not difficult to stress to our patrons and those who may inquire that we are definitely non-profit and charitable. No one who works in SCP receives a cent in remuneration.

Sandy Community Players Inc. has been adjudged a non-profit corporation in the state of Oregon since March 20, 1980. Any funds we receive are used in building sets, purchasing costume material, paying rent and utilities and a myriad of items that seem to come upon us unforeseen and unplanned. Even though our audiences are larger all the time, it seems our budget continues to grow at an astonishing rate!

While no one earns any money working in SCP, we do feel we generate an enormous amount of business for Sandy area merchants. We promote Sandy heavily, and in this manner we feel we earn the respect of our fellow residents.

We thank those who have been supporters of Sandy Community Players since its inception and are grateful that each production brings more willing, talented volunteers whose hard work and dedication are worth more to the growth of SCP than ever could be verbalized.

Our final production of the 1980-81 season opens July 3 for three consecutive Fridays and Saturdays. "The Odd Couple" will bring light and happy entertainment, and we sincerely hope many plan to attend. The 1981-82 season is being set and will be posted at the theater with audition and production dates. We welcome anyone with any interest in SCP.

Mariene A. Tebo
Secretary, SCP
Sandy

Copter in the way

As a first-time candidate for an elective office, I would like to thank all the citizens that voted for me in the Welches School Board election. I was surprised and flattered by the support shown me.

I feel that I owe my supporters a small explanation regarding my "non-campaigning." I decided against actively seeking to be elected when it was suggested that my opposition to the proposed Zigzag heliport might be viewed as part of a campaign strategy. I felt that the outcome of the heliport controversy was so important that it should not be clouded by personalities and political motivations. I, therefore, chose not to put up campaign posters.

I offer my congratulations to Don Thornberg, the incumbent, for his re-election. I also want to thank again those 100 friends that I have on the mountain.

Carolyn Smith
Rhododendron

Land grab cited

My wife and I came to this country as free persons in 1953 and in 1960 because naturalized citizens of the United States, pledging ourselves to "defend the Constitution and laws of the United States against its enemies, foreign and domestic," a pledge to which we still adhere.

Then, beginning in 1967, we were unlawfully attacked by government agencies, and others acting in conspiracy with them, to prevent either of us from exercising the God-given rights enunciated in the Declaration of Independence. All kinds of property have been illegally removed from us by force.

We finally learned that the reason for these actions stemmed from (a) a long-standing conspiracy to overthrow the Constitutional government of the United States by force of arms, which we unwittingly helped to thwart during World War II, and from (b) a further conspiracy to destroy that government from within.

All this has involved, not the mere impairment of our obligation of contracts, forbidden by the U.S. Constitution (Art. I, Sec. 10, para 1) but the discriminatory cancellation thereof altogether.

Lawful inquiries, of both the Attorney General and other elected officials, brought responses conclusively indicating that they consider the Constitution not to be absolutely binding, and that government agencies hold dictatorial power to constitute anyone "outlaws" without due process of law, a procedure obviously repugnant to the Constitution.

Norman H. Crowhurst

Salem scene:

Salem's greed not exemplary

JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

There are those in Salem who believe the Legislature passed up a chance to enhance its credibility with the public at a time when its confidence quotient is on the wane.

The event occurred Memorial Day, when most of the state took the day off.

Rep. Jeff Gilmour (D-Jefferson), co-chairman of budget-writing Ways & Means Committee, forced a vote in the House of Representatives on a minority report on House Bill 3170. The simple proposal would have cut the base pay of legislators 15 percent. That's a pay cut of \$105 monthly from \$700 to \$595.

Debate on the issue was fascinating. Gilmour advocated the Legislature set an example for all of state government by accepting a salary reduction, while considering other reductions in the state's biennial budget.

We've heard a lot of talk about biting the bullet," he said. "This gives us a chance to take the first bite...."

He went on to explain many people believe the Legislature is comprised of "fat cats and limousine liberals down here to feather their own caps at the public's expense."

He said the pay cut would be a signal to the public that lawmakers are willing to sacrifice also in the process of reducing state spending.

One opponent claimed legislative service demanded financial sacrifice anyway, and the pay cut would be unbearable. Another said reducing legislator's pay would create a body where only the wealthy could serve.

Rep. Wally Priestly (D-Portland) supported the cut and pooh-poohed the suggestion that reducing pay would make a difference in the quality of legislators. Based on his 16 years in the Assembly, he said the quality of people serving has "consistently been bad."

He spoke from the advantage of having served first in 1965 when lawmakers were paid \$250 monthly and received \$20 a day in expenses for only the first 120 days of regular biennial sessions.

When the vote was finally taken, Gilmour's proposal attracted a surprising 26 ayes. That's not sufficient to pass, but a significant number against the 29 nay votes cast.

With that kind of backing, Gilmour noted the number of members absent and asked for reconsideration next day. That vote was close, 28-32. Gilmour and his supporters may have earned some points with the folks back home, if politics can be compared with horseshoes.

But close doesn't count when it comes to enacting legislation.



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

The maverick Ways & Means leader had something more in mind than saving an estimated \$238,900 that could be applied to the staggering multi-million dollar budget deficit facing this Legislature.

He also wants lawmakers to stop setting their own rate of pay. He wants an independent commission to establish salaries and expenses for elected officials.

"On what other job do the workers decide how much they're going to be paid?" he asked.

All told, members of the current Assembly received the \$700 base monthly salary, 17 cents a mile for travel, \$44 per diem expenses when on legislative business and \$300 a month for expenses between sessions. Total recompense for a two-year term averages about \$32,000.

By way of comparison, Oregon's current average annual wage is \$13,588.64.

Another way to approach the lawmaker salary situation is to note the manner it has increased in recent years. Since 1971, salary is up 166 percent, per diem is up 76 percent and intering expense is up 140 percent.

Lawmakers also receive fully paid family medical and dental insurance coverage, retirement and a modest life insurance policy.

During the time these increases have occurred, the Portland Consumer Price Index has increased an estimated 139 percent.

While Gilmour's proposal may be dead this session, other bills touch on the same subject. HB 3031 would peg salaries at \$1,200 monthly for the first six months of a biennium and drop to \$200 monthly thereafter. HB 2538 would allow legislators to refuse any salary increases granted after July 1 this year. And SB 361 would reduce salaries to \$500 monthly and be adjusted—plus or minus—according to the Portland CPI each year.

All of this means some legislators are concerned about how much money they make and who decides the amount. But there are too few to do anything about it.

Instead, it's likely this Legislature will ask the people to pay more taxes to support state government.