

Suspicious neighbors needed here

Friendly little towns like Sandy can turn vicious, too. We refer to a recent rash of malicious mischief and destructive violence. In some cases, innocent people have been harassed, according to some reports of concerned friends and neighbors.

Just last Monday night an \$18,000 Corvette reportedly was stolen from the showroom of a local dealer and driven to the river where it was filled with sand and smashed to smithereens. Motive? Well, the tires were stripped from the \$18,000 hulk.

Then there are recent reports here of elderly persons being harassed by bullies to the point many are downright scared at night.

Of course, the burglary and theft cycle continues to plague

businesses and residents alike, despite best efforts by local police to educate the public in a crime prevention campaign.

Some of the crime, however, lacks both motivation and sense. Take, for example, the senseless murder of puppies and accompanying note to boast of the act left for the elderly owner. She found them with their heads bashed in.

It may take a social psychologist to determine what sort of diseased mind provides such horror. Watchful neighbors and inquiring parents, however, can help put a stop to it.

If you see someone acting suspiciously, don't hesitate to report it to the local police. If the suspect's truly innocent, he'll see you as the concerned citizen you are. (VB)

State bill may end local school flaps

Arguments over a proposed kindergarten at Bull Run School has helped split another once-harmonious school district. Once again, it's sad to see parents and educators fighting over what kid gets what.

Every school child in the state is entitled to a complete, uniform education—the best available.

Yet some elementary students seem to get a head start socially and educationally in district-organized kindergarten programs, not available to students a few miles down the road in another school district.

The same fight over kindergarten unfortunately has

split support for Sandy Elementary School District.

Possible bandage for battle-torn school districts awaits final confirmation in the Oregon Legislature. Mandatory kindergarten for all Oregon public schools has been approved by the state Senate, effective 1989, and awaits concurrence by the House.

The uniform kindergarten bill could prove a godsend in settling range wars at district borders, with the state involved in financing and curriculum. If you agree, tell your state representative. Let's get on with quality education for all, and stop treating the kids like pawns in a battle. (VB)

State "sin tax" a budget savior?

Governor Vic Atiyeh's attempt to balance the state budget with so-called "sin taxes" on cigarettes and liquor shows creativity worthy of support.

After all, no one's come up with a better scheme to raise new dollars to operate state government. Hence, it's hard to understand resistance by the Oregon Legislature.

While \$240 million in taxes is asked by the governor in all, a nicker more tax on a package of cigarettes and increase in liquor prices sound mild. It's almost like turning a problem into a solution, if one sees drinking and smoking as health problems with social impact.

Atiyeh's creative sin taxes—along with a half-percent corporate tax increase, premium tax increase on foreign and domestic insurance companies and revision of the energy tax credit—would

balance the budget. As it looks now, the governor's expense plans—including increased support for schools to help offset federal cuts—exceed revenue projections by \$257 million. His plan sounds a lot better, though, than a legislative alternative that calls for a 10 percent cut in all state budgets including state aid to local schools and homeowner property tax relief.

Some new revenue in state receipts from a federal tax cut (\$16 million estimate) could help balance Atiyeh's picture of a fiscally responsible general operations budget.

Add to this the governor's call for increased highway fees in a state plagued by deteriorating roads, and the entire budget suddenly is buoyant.

And so is Oregon, if state legislators don't stick little needles in his bright new balloons. (VB)

Legislator's report:

Salem winding down, not up

by KEN JERNSTEDT
State Senator, Dist. 28

Last Friday marked the 145th day of the 61st Legislative Assembly. It also marked the first committee shut-down. Leadership has been quoted as hoping to end the session by mid-July. If so, it will be the first time in my memory their prediction has been accurate.

Now that more definite and discouraging information has been received about expected revenues for basing budgets, the pace has picked up. There are more than 800 bills still in the busiest committees, however. There are still 387 in Ways and Means, 261 in Judiciary and 198 in Revenue.

Governor Atiyeh has not given up the ghost on his revenue program, but a recent survey of legislators showed it hardly stands a ghost of a chance to be adopted.

There are some legislators who are opposed to any tax increase, period. There are some who will only support hikes in the so-called "sin taxes" on liquor and cigarettes.

There are some who can support the governor's revenue program, but only as a package with his spending recommendations. These legislators will not support his revenue proposals to fund someone else's version of which programs should be funded and to what degree.

The current session has reached an impasse on the budget issue, and the only two alternatives being considered are flounder-

ing because of a lack of public support and an absence of political support in the Legislature.

The first is a balanced budget proposed by Governor Atiyeh. It is a sound and responsible program for Oregon, but its political albatross is its dependence on tax increases of at least \$240 million.

The other is a 10 percent cut in all state budgets, including state aid to local schools and homeowner property tax relief. This alternative faces the same obstacles as the governor's program. It lacks public support, and it doesn't have enough votes in the Legislature.

And for good reasons. A 10 percent cut in state aid to local schools would wreak havoc, especially in those districts that already have voter-approved budgets.

The effect of a 10 percent cut would be chaos and crises, more school closures (as already planned in Portland) and an increase in property taxes.

A 10 percent cut in homeowner property tax relief would be a political stab in the back for Oregonians, who ratified 9-1 the contract proposed by the 1979 Assembly. A cut would mean a property tax increase, without a vote of the people.

Ruling out these alternatives leaves only one possibility: forget about increasing taxes, fund state aid to local schools and homeowner property tax relief and trim all other budgets by as much as 15 percent for the next two years.



Letters to the editor:

Mountain now condo corridor

SCP open group?

I am writing in response to the letter from Marlene A. Tebo, "SCP Support Sought," which appeared in the June 4 Post. I have met Ms Tebo, and she is a lovely woman—undoubtedly dedicated to the Sandy Community Players. However, having read her letter, I felt compelled to relate my own experiences to date with this organization.

I was introduced to SCP last fall by one of its members. Since then, I have tried unsuccessfully to become involved with the group. Ms. Tebo writes that "each production brings...willing, talented volunteers," but how much volunteering must one do, before the offer is accepted? I received a call in February to work on the lighting crew of SCP's "The Curious Savage." I arrived at the theater at the designated time and was unceremoniously informed by the director, Jim Wilhite, that there had been a misunderstanding. I would not be needed. In front of a dozen or so people, I walked out.

I spoke by telephone to the director of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and again offered my time for whatever needed to be done for that production. I never was called.

I have spoken with the director of SCP's upcoming "Odd Couple" and again offered my services. As yet I have not been called, and by now—with the play opening in three weeks—I really don't expect to be. As Ms. Tebo writes that "we welcome anyone with any interest in SCP."

I have auditioned three times for SCP productions, and have yet not been lucky enough to get a part. This letter, however, is not written from disappointment or bitterness. Indeed, if that were the case, I would never have volunteered my time to work on the technical end of any production. I simply want to get involved! I have attended every play presented since last fall as a show of support and because, quite frankly, the productions offer an entertaining evening of excellent live theater.

Come on, Sandy Players. Is it my deodorant? Do I need to switch to a different mouthwash? Or could it be because I live in Gresham? Oh well, there's always the 1981-82 season. I'll try again.
Donna Nash
Gresham

Over-developed?

When we bought our home in the mountain, it was not in "Hoodland." It was on the main highway between Rhododendron and Zigzag. The traffic on the old two-lane highway was gosh awful on the opening or trout season or the Fourth of July. We had a terrible time backing out of our driveway.

Sometimes we had to wait as long as half an hour for a break, but we were not in a city and did not expect city conveniences.

After all, why else did we come up the hill, if it were not to enjoy a little back-to-nature roughing it. Cooking food that tasted wonderful on a wood stove, and even the uncertainty of constant electricity was something new, challenge and fun. With firelight, a toddy, a kerosene lamp and a fire crackling in the kitchen stove, you were the richest person in the world.

Then came the Hoodland Chamber of Commerce. Those things must go. We must become urbanized for the sake of all those who in the past had logged of all the beautiful hills and valleys and were now left with property on the little entities of Brightwood, Welches and Rhododendron.

In union there is strength. Strength to further the growth of trailer parks and condominiums. And wonder of wonders, the gods of progress have said, "Let there be light," and a traffic light is born unto them that will foul up traffic from the seventh day unto the seventh day.

If the providers of all our recent blessings can guarantee that all cars stopping at the light on Highway 26 will be driving with snowtires or chains or that the snow plow will always have the highway sanded when there is six inches of ice and snow on the road or a good cover of black ice or that all trucks and recreational vehicles will be so equipped, then I might say with Lee Gunderson that there could be just a few rear-enders.

However, given the length of the curve in question and the rate of speed it is being approached, I can guarantee more than a few deaths. I'm sure all of you will agree, when you recall trying to take off at a signal in town behind a car with smooth tires during an ice storm. How about the feeling down the back of your neck when, at the same time, a car comes along fast behind you and has trouble stopping?

I hope the taxpayers of this state are willing to pay for repair after repair keeping that light operating. If you don't think that convenient target won't be appreciated by the local nimrods and visiting mighty hunters with itchy guns, you are out of your tree. That would be self-denial above and beyond the call of duty, and that light will be out more than it is in.

To add injury to insult, there's a proposal for a heliport, which I am told will be based on publicly-owned property. This for the benefit of promotion for the Condo Corridor.

Are we to develop a port authority to govern the maintenance and use of air space with the ensuing liabilities? No way! If the

Welches recreation areas wish air service, let them provide it for themselves on their own property at their own risk. I'm sure they have found that it would be very unprofitable for the only times when helicopters are of use on the hill during storms or highway blockage. If it is a wind storm, they can't land because of the prevalence of cross winds. The mountains surrounding the area cause the winds to ricochet, and as badly as their help was needed during the 1964 flood and as hard as they tried to land and take off, it was too dangerous and they had to give up.

I don't feel any great compulsion to take on a tax burden, so that some big shot coming up to "ripping off rivers resort," who has more money that he wants to sit on driving, can fly up.

Geraldine Radmilovich
Rhododendron

Heliport favored

Regardless of his claim not to represent the Welches School Board, Ron Worrell will have to live with his record of denying reasoned judgment on merits of a proposed heliport at Zigzag.

He was there. He heard our discussion of this proposal as a member of that board, and then chucked reason out the window along with dispassionate judgment, such as we should expect from such a board.

It was he who said that no matter how much data we brought for the merits of the case, we could not convince him and other opponents in this "emotional issue." To paraphrase, "Even if it is good I won't like it."

To talk of another heliport site is irrelevant. The proposed location is as suitable, as safe and as practical as any of the numerous heliports in Portland—notably those at the hospitals, where helicopters land much closer (even of the roofs) than they would at Zigzag.

We have as much regard for the good of Welches School as anyone else, which is why we propose the safeguard of a good heliport.

In paranoid reaction, the opposition would permit landings—not 200 yards from the school as Worrell says—but right on the playground. This is what we strive to prevent.

Helicopters already fly here in 1981 with increasing frequency. They land wherever they can in unprepared, unprotected places. Pilots themselves would prefer a well-placed heliport for safety and good order, as well as convenience.

That, not emotion, is the basis of our proposal in the best interest of the community.

Randall Priest
Welches
Gale Peterson
Zigzag
Joseph A. Stein
Zigzag

Market opens

The Sandy Country Market vendors would like to extend thanks to the people who came to participate the past two Saturdays at Pioneer Park.

A lot of hard work by many volunteers has made the Country Market possible. It was started with the idea of bringing local artisans and producers of fruit and vegetables together with people of our community.

Weather has been less than perfect, but our vendors are there to serve you—rain or shine—each Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

It is a fun time with old-fashioned visiting, sharing and getting to know people in our community.

We have room for more vendors and welcome wandering musicians that have an urge to entertain. Two booth spaces are available to local clubs and organizations for fund-raising each Saturday.

Anyone wishing more information about Sandy Country Market may call the Community School at 668-5744.

Pam Hauff
Sandy

'Nix counselors

The additional programs that are arbitrarily slipped into the budget year after year, which may seem perfectly alright to the people making up the budget but not to someone who's been asked to pay for it!

For example: can someone explain why a 1st through 6th grader would ever need a counselor? This sounds like parents dumping their responsibilities onto the school system!! Or someone has a friend who needs a job!

Wouldn't it be a shame if that one ridiculous item was keeping the entire levy from passing?

Ralph A. Sandercock Jr
Sandy

Graduation rapped

Chairman, Board
Sandy Union High School

Dear Sir:
I am writing you to let you know my feelings on the conduct of some of the activities at Sandy High School.

My son was in the graduating Class of 1981, and I want you to know first that I am thankful that he has graduated and received his diploma.

I do have a few other things to be thankful for in regard to the high school and its administration.

First, let me thank the administration for their original ideas in seating for parents at graduation. My wife and I were lucky enough to have a seat where we could not see the graduates at all and only could catch a word now and then from the speakers. Since the time

when I graduated from Sandy High School some time ago, I always rather have enjoyed hearing the valedictorian and salutetorian speeches, since usually they reflect to some extent the general attitude of the particular class.

So I would sort of have liked to hear them this time hopefully to gain some insight into the attitudes of my son's contemporaries. But, what the hell. So he only graduates from high school once in a lifetime. And the same goes for watching him receive his diploma. Who really needs to see that? I might have liked to take his picture, instead of buying one from the photographer. But since I couldn't hear his name announced, I guess I didn't need that, either. The thoughtfulness of the administration overwhelms me.

I also would like to thank the administration for allowing the marvelous idea to hold the prom in downtown Portland. Because of the cost of a trip we had planned for our son as a graduation present, he was forced to choose between the trip or th prom. Financial limitations would not permit both.

He and many of this friends therefore were excluded from the prom. Of course, his girl friend couldn't go, either, so neither of them will have the memory of a prom.

On the other hand, if it had been held at the school, most of them could have attended. But what's a prom mean to a bunch of high school kids, anyway. After all, I suppose it really should be held out of town in this manner, so only the affluent can participate. Otherwise, just about everyone might get to go, and we don't want that, do we?

And don't tell me the students are running the show, because if they are, we probably don't need some of you folks.

In conclusion, I want to say that I always have believed that since I either did not have the time or wouldn't take the time to personally look into how the school was being run, then I always should vote for anything you proposed. And I always have done just that, for as long as I have been voting.

My attitude in that regard has changed dramatically this year, and I thought you should know about it. I therefore make you this promise: I will vote for no budget A or B, no levy, no tax base or anything proposed by the high school, until these ridiculous situations have been corrected.

Jerry L. Lawson Sr.

LETTERS POLICY:
The Post asks that all letters to the editor be typed, double-spaced and signed. Deadline is noon, Tuesday.