

# Editorial & Opinion

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## Salem scene:

### Game changes to 'hardball'

by JACK ZIMMERMAN  
Associated Oregon Industries

It's only natural for politicians to play politics.

Likewise, when the Legislature convenes in Salem, one expects the game to commence.

Actually, some preliminaries predate each session, as individuals vie for positions of leadership during exhibition contests. The first ball is thrown from the stands by the governor in the form of his budget proposal.

The game's tempo during a session's first few innings resembles the slow pitch variety. Everyone gets a cut at the ball, while bills are being introduced. As committees begin deliberating, intensity increases. During that period, there are a few sidearm deliveries and an occasional overhead zinger.

But it isn't until a session's final weeks that politics really start playing hardball.

Salem watchers were exposed to the beginning of that phase of this year's game last week, when a measure dealing with the future of land-use planning in Oregon was defeated on the Senate floor.

Touted as one of this session's major issues in pre-game ceremonies, the Assembly's task was to determine the role of the Land Conservation & Development Commission in post acknowledgment. The latter means the period after all cities and counties have achieved approval of comprehensive land-use plans within terms of goals set earlier by LCDC.

A major problem involves the fact only 104 of the state's 277 cities and counties have had their plans approved. It will take at least two more years to complete the compliance phase.

Another problem dates back to 1973, when LCDC was established by the Legislature—and even further back in Oregon's land use history. LCDC has been extremely controversial. Though the 1973 bill has been repeatedly upheld at the polls, its tenets sharply have divided rural and urban populations.

As one would expect, that division has been reflected in a general sense by lawmakers with either rural or urban constituencies.

An interim committee, headed by Sen. Jack Ripper (D-North Bend), studied the problem and introduced SB 300. A second measure, SB 314, was offered by Senators Ted Hallock (D-Portland) and L.B. Day (R-Salem).

It appeared particularly significant from a bi-partisan standpoint and because Hallock's long involvement had earned him the nickname of Father of Land Use Planning. Furthermore, Day served as LCDC's first chairman.

A Douglas county bill—SB 419—also went into the hopper, sponsored by freshman Sen. John Kitzhaber (D-Roseburg).

All three were referred to the Senate's Environment & Land Use Committee, chaired by Sen. Debbs Potts (D-Grants Pass), a two-term Senate president in 1967 and 1969. Serving on that panel are Hallock, Day, Ripper, Tom Hartung (R-Beaverton), Ed Fadeley (D-Eugene) and John Powell (D-Halsey).

Only Powell was not in the Senate, when SB 100 created LCDC in 1973. The following year he unseated former Sen. Hector Macpherson, co-sponsor with Hallock of SB 100—partially by campaigning for local control in land-use decisions.

It is interesting to note Potts is the only member of the panel who voted against SB 100 in 1973. However, his nay vote was shared by current Senate Pres. Fred Heard (D-Klamath Falls), Sen. Tony Meeker (R-Amity) and Sen. Bob Smith (R-Burns)—four of a total of 13 upper chamber veterans still serving.

From the beginning, it appeared odds were stacked against the committee's chances to produce a bill to please the many interest groups involved. Potts named a subcommittee of Ripper, Day and Hartung to start the task. It labored daily beginning at 7 a.m. for some eight weeks, seeking a compromise vehicle.



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

The result failed to satisfy anyone completely, but achieved a do-pass recommendation and headed for the Senate floor.

Since it was an amalgam of the three initial bills (but differed from them in many respects), it was suggested a new number be assigned to enhance its chances of passage. SB 1000 was available and had a nice ring to it. Oregon's initial land-use planning statute was created by SB 10 in 1969. SB 100 followed in '73.

That idea quickly was scotched when the committee realized news media and opponents would have a ball claiming SB 1000 was 10 times worse than SB 100. Then, too, the watch-dog 1000 Friends of Oregon lobbied extensively on the issue and might appear to be linked to the compromise measure, even though it was far from satisfied with the bill.

It became SB 945. Proponents believed it was a shoo-in. Day carried the bill, spending more than an hour explaining its provisions. Debate continued another hour. A motion to refer it to committee failed by one vote. The bill failed by one vote. Day served notice for reconsideration next day, but couldn't line up the necessary 16 ayes. He gave up in exasperation.

Sen. Charles Hanlon, who voted to kill the bill the day before—along with Burbridge, Fadeley, Gardner, Hallock, Kitzhaber, Kulongoski, McCoy, McFarland, Monroe, Roberts, Trow, Wingard and Wyers—sought to change the rules, so he could move for reconsideration.

Backers of SB 945, knowing the bill would not survive in the House of Representatives unless it received overwhelming Senate support, scotched Hanlon's motion.

It was hardball, sports fans. Hallock and Fadeley opposed the committee position and led the opposition, along with Kitzhaber. Hanlon had reasons of his own to oppose the bill as a show of spite against Senate Pres. Heard.

The action plays into the hands of those who believe land-use planning is controlled by city folks at the expense of those who own and work the land.

Next inning will be played in the House. Ten more bills already are under consideration by that chamber's land-use panel, chaired by Rep. Wayne Fawbush (D-Hood River).

Twelve members of the House served in 1973, and four of them voted against SB 100. All have significant constituencies among their peers this session. They include Ways & Means Co-Chair Jeff Gilmour (D-Jefferson), Minority Leader Paul Haneman (R-Cloverdale), Intergovernmental Affairs Chair Glenn Otto (D-Troutdale) and Bill Markham (R-Riddle), co-chair of two other House panels.

Next inning's House lineup likely will include consideration of provisions in SB 945, but with a different number on its uniform. Those provisions probably will include portions of other bills—even more unpalatable to Senate liberals.

Then there's the question of LCDC's budget for the coming biennium. Wily veteran Senator Potts from his vantage point on Ways & Means has said he will keep that budget captive, until a satisfactory land use bill is passed.

More hardball. Long-time observers believe it will be difficult to adjourn this session of the Legislature without an LCDC budget.

The ballgame is far from over. Extra innings appear likely. And it's big league politics—throwing hard and swinging for the fence.

## Letters to the editor:

# School flaps draw reader fire

### Bull Run School

For the past several years we have had children in the Bull Run School and always been happy with the school and teachers. Consequently it came as a shock to us when we learned that the school board was not renewing the contracts of four of the six teachers, retaining only the two teachers they hired the previous year plus the principal.

Our feelings and those of many other concerned parents rapidly changed to frustration and anger, as we found our attempts to communicate with the school board met with total lack of response. When questioned, they have replied, 'Our responsibility is to the children,' while avoiding the real issue—the right of parents to help decide what is in the best interest of their own children.

The attempt to restructure the teaching staff at Bull Run makes it apparent that the school board is attempting to create what they feel will be a superior educational environment. However, there are those of us in the community who feel that the reasons we have local school boards is for the desires and objectives of the community to be carried out.

The board's educational philosophy is being forced on the community, without asking parent involvement and caiously disregarding the rights of teachers. This is the problem that must be resolved.

The constituency of the Bull Run School needs to have its faith restored in the school board. This can be done if the board will start involving the public in setting policies and objectives of the school. Almost 50 people attended the last board meeting. These people could be utilized in committees on discipline, curriculum, goals and objectives.

This controversy can be turned into an advantage for all concerned, if the board will capitalize on the interest and concern of parents to involve them in the decision-making process. Nothing would heal the breach more quickly.

### Grade school levy

The "B" ballot measure covers the maintenance, supplies and personnel expenses of the Sandy Community School. If it fails June 30, this model for other communities will cease to exist.

The Community School is located in a module trailer donated by the Mt. Hood Community College and nights and weekends utilizes local grade school classrooms that otherwise would be vacant.

The classes run the gamut from local history lectures and tours to physical education, crafts and debates. All



are painstakingly selected, analyzed and approved by local community advisors to make sure all segments of community interest are represented.

This is perhaps the only enterprise where cooperation and funding has been combined within the district to include help from Mt. Hood Community College, Sandy City Council and the local Sandy grade school.

The adults enjoyed 33 classes this past quarter, and the children almost have as many scheduled for this summer session. All instructors are volunteers who donate their talents, time and expertise. They offer a whole world of resources that otherwise would remain untapped.

Don't think of the Community School as an adult social club or a child's kindergarten, but as a learning experience for all ages. It knows no bounds. In fact, it is underutilizing the voluntary talents and resources available and still untapped in our community.

Corbin Willis  
Sandy

### SCP involvement

In response to the letter that questioned the openness of Sandy Community Players and alleged difficulties in becoming involved, I would like to share the following information with the community.

When I directed "The

Curious Savage" several months ago, I had 46 people show up for auditions. There were 11 speaking roles in the play. Of these roles, seven were cast with brand-new people who never before appeared on stage in a SCP production. There also were several new people involved with production of the show.

During "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" there were more than 15 new faces in the cast and production crew. The upcoming play, "The Odd Couple," also features several new persons.

It is pure delight to see so many new persons trying out and getting involved. As with any volunteer organization, we goof occasionally in not following up and finding areas to involve a newcomer.

If you are interested in SCP or if you have a complaint or suggestion, give me a call at 661-0218.

Our SCP board meetings are open to anyone to attend and speak out. Our next auditions will be Monday evening July 6 at the theater. You should arrive between 6 and 7 p.m. There are parts for men and women ranging from 16 to 75 years of age. The play, "A Barrel Full of Pennies," is a delightful comedy that appeals to all ages.

A bundle of thanks to the community and the Sandy Post for your past and continued support.

Jim S. Wilhite  
Vice Chairman, SCP  
**Nix heliport**

Since the Zigzag heliport controversy began six weeks ago, the mountain community has become increasingly vocal in opposition to the proposed location.

All concerned organizations to vote on the issue have been unanimous in their opposition. These groups include the Welches School Board, Hoodland Senior Citizens, Mt. Hood Preschool Co-op and the women's resource group.

The county has received many letters by individuals opposed to the heliport site. In addition, ECOS has turned in petitions with more than 200 signatures against the heliport location.

Due to all the negative input from Hoodland groups and individuals and the Planning Commission report to deny the proposal, Commissioner Ralph Groener has addressed the issue as "dead" at the commissioners' level.

However, ECOS will continue to keep close watch on any further development proposals with a questionable impact on the area. Environmental Committee on Suitability

Blythe Creek George Sheets  
Carol Smith Marilyn Leslie

### Park clean-up

The property bordered by Salmon River Road and

Highway 26, adjacent to and including the community tennis courts, the tot playground and the building leased by the Hoodland Women's Club, is county-owned and known as Hoodland Park.

This land consists of approximately 11 acres, of which a very small portion currently is developed.

Improvements and expansion of the developed area is necessary to insure continued existence of Hoodland Park. Clackamas County currently does not have funds to develop this property. As residents, we can make the necessary improvements and expand the existing facilities.

Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., the first community clean-up of our public park will be held.

Bring a garden tool (hoe, rake, wheelbarrow, etc.) and a lunch. Enjoy being a participating citizen.

Penelope Wilburn  
Connie Hamlin

### 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:

# Higher education should share cuts

by KEN JERNSTEDT  
State Senator, District 28

The people of Oregon founded our system of higher education more than a century ago, and they generously have maintained it ever since.

Now despite its quality and achievements, it is coming under its closest legislative scrutiny since 1969.

At that time the attention was occasioned by violence and destruction on campus, the interruption of academic freedom and the disruption of the educational program for all students.

This year, however, higher education is under the microscope because of money.

Or—more precisely—because there isn't enough money to go around to please everyone, which is a major change from the recent past when the cups have runneth over.

Because of this, higher education budgets already have been cut by agreement of Ways and Means Committee members. Higher education is being submitted to a new and



frightening experience: a cram course in Priorities I-A.

This situation, of course, is greeted with anguish by those who believe any legislative scrutiny into higher education constitutes nothing less than full-scale assault on academic freedom. I have received scores of complaining letters on the subject.

In the past, higher education has been held less accountable in a fiscal

sense than any other department or agency. The Legislature hasn't given it a searching fiscal look in a number of years, and the Secretary of State's Office finds it the most difficult agency to audit.

Higher education is the only agency that does not submit its budget in what legislators call line-item form, telling how each dollar is to be spent.

The Legislature approves large, round figures for higher education, and then the system takes over. Seldom do legislators receive the detailed accountability they demand from all others.

Necessity, however, requires the Ways and Means Committee to identify every possible economy. It is trying to determine whether or not higher education's demand for "full funding" is justified—particularly when all others are taking reductions in growth and when a cut in state aid to local schools is an alternative being seriously discussed.

These budgetary dilemmas involving both higher education and local

schools have denizens of the ivory towers in an uproar, and have unsettled local school boards who have nowhere to go but property taxpayers to absorb a major cut in state financial aid.

In his original budget, the governor funded basic school support below the recommended 40 percent goal. Now the possibility of a further 10 percent cut across-the-board has been presented. In checking a preliminary report giving statistics for 28 of the school districts in my Senatorial District, I find that 21 would suffer cuts placing them under the 1980-81 figure and only 7 would benefit.

Hopefully, something will be done to correct this gloomy picture.

On a more hopeful note, I agree with Sam Johnson, veteran former legislator and now mayor of Redmond. He suggested higher education must bear its share of the austerity burden with cuts in unnecessary, duplicative curricula and elective courses not at the core of a basic education.