

Put school debates aside Tuesday

Area schools have suffered their share of lumps lately.

Flaps have covered everything from costly construction woes in Welches, teacher contracts not renewed in Bull Run, drugs and dissension in Sandy High and kindergarten debate at Sandy Elementary.

When residents close the curtain on their voting booths Tuesday, however, we hope they can put all that debate behind them to vote "Yes" for schools. They should do it for one very good reason: for the kids.

Everything from curriculum to discipline, spending priorities and graduation seating has been tossed about by bickering adults in recent months with fervor that threatens to split the community.

In spite of these differences, local school children remain entitled to a basic education. What their parent generation enjoyed should not be denied them, simply because taxes seem higher today and classroom curriculum more questionable.

One might quibble about the level of funding in these school budgets, but in all cases the amounts have been pared down to just what money the schools need to continue quality programs. Now the very survival of some quality programs are in danger of checkbook cancellation come Tuesday.

That's certainly the case of Sandy Elementary's program for talented and gifted students, Sandy Community School, Outdoor School

and counseling for grades one through six.

The district's asking only \$197,716 to continue these programs plus paint the community pool, continue athletics and activities and purchase needed buses and a grounds maintenance tractor.

Similarly, Sandy Union High School needs passage of a \$355,292 levy (only 74 cents per \$1,000 valuation) to balance its budget. Cut funds make the district's 'B' levy as supplement to the previously approved 'A' levy even more of a blood drive for caring community supporters.

As state and federal funds fail our local schools with the current recession, local support become more and more the life-blood to sustain our local programs.

Beleagured Bull Run School asks only \$12,819 outside state limitations to fund current educational programs and related services.

We think the kids deserve the cash to continue their programs, and we consider the amounts in question reasonable requests. A 'Yes' vote is urged in support of Bull Run, Sandy Elementary and Sandy High on Tuesday.

Later we can resume the debates over curriculum, discipline, construction and personnel. Debates, after all, can prove helpful and therapeutic.

Let's not clog the channel now, though. Without the life-blood of tax dollars, the patient may die. (VB)

School levies ignite readers

Support schools

Where will the parents be next Tuesday? Those that walked the picket lines last fall and demanded the school board give the teachers salary increases they wanted.

Hopefully, they'll be at the polls voting 'Yes' on the 'B' budget.

And, Jerry, who do you think you hurt voting 'No'? Administrators still get paid, and if it gets too tough to fund a good educational program, they'll go to another system. (By the way, administrators at Sandy High have decreased from seven to four in the last four years.)

Jerry, you should get involved. Things never will be as we want, and I personally know that the principal was just as upset as you.

They were very agreeable to my suggestions of ushers, handicapped and older people sections and more direction to the audience on procedure.

Graduation should have showed anyone the immense problem of crowd-control faced by the school. Just think, the school faces a crowd of kids twice that size every day of the week.

People tend to think of Sandy schools as being small. They have more students than any school in the Portland area excluding Beaverton.

How "short-sighted" we are to short our kids. Our tax dollars are wasted much more at all other levels of government.

Also, parents and taxpayers can make a difference at school. But it does take time and personal risk. (Only two people have shown up at budget meetings in four years.) Let's try for positive change and improvements.

I know you can call Dennis Crow at the high school and he will put you to work on his volunteer system. An example is business people from Sandy actively involved in the economic classes next year.

One parent helped FFA wire the barn, and another is a volunteer counselor. They need help in college counseling, too.

'No' votes don't help anyone and certainly don't solve problems.

Vote 'Yes' Tuesday. At least you can find the person who's spending your money and tell him what you think.

That's a privilege that isn't available at any other level of government.

Ginny Brewster
Sandy

SUHS problems?

I am writing in regards to a letter that appeared in the June 11 edition of The Post. This letter, written by Mr. Jerry L. Lawson Sr., concerning Sandy Union High School's graduation and its prom activities was—as the saying goes—"just the tip of the iceberg." Actually Mr. Lawson's letter really only scratched the surface of the ice.

I became a resident of Sandy in January. My family and I came to Sandy at great personal sacrifice to be near my father's brother and for me to take employment with Sandy Union High School, District 2.

Our move to Oregon has been a real fine thing for our family. We thoroughly enjoy the community, the way of life, the people and the country. Literally everything we have come in contact with we have enjoyed—with one very large exception. My employment with Sandy Union High School was one of the biggest mistakes I ever have made. With two exceptions SUHS is being run by a group of politically motivated, money-hungry, self-satisfied, petty bureaucrats. Let me state here that in my opinion there are only two administrators in the high school who are worth their salt and only one board member who cares. Mr. John McMahon, the principal and Joan Hay, the

district business manager are the administrators.

I think voters of Sandy and surrounding areas who have children presently enrolled at SUHS or who will have, should ask themselves if they are being cheated and ripped-off.

Recently the voters were asked to pass a school budget of more than a million dollars, and we will be asked to pass more money in the next election. However, ask yourselves where the money will be going and where will the cuts be?

Several of the statements

counselor.

Although I assume most citizens have a more realistic perception of the pressures today's children must cope with, I feel compelled to respond.

Today's children live in a different world than we did 40, 30 or even 20 years ago. Today, fully one-half of our children will live with a single parent at some point before they turn 21. Those lucky enough to have a mother and father often will find both working when they get home from school, some nights and weekends to

Counselors in our schools are not hired to work only with the seriously disturbed child on a "one to one" basis. They include special preventative programs (given to all classes) to help children meet developmental needs and to prevent future problems. How a child adjusts in school directly affects how he will later adjust in society. Guidance works hand-in-hand with the entire curriculum. It is a state law that schools provide guidance at the elementary level.

Mr. Sandercock Jr refers to the school counselor issue as a "ridiculous item." I'd like to quote a statement in an article in the June 18 Oregon Journal entitled "Teenage Suicide:"

"Yes, we are seeing a great increase (nationally 500,000 a year) in suicide attempts among young people..."

Need I say more? Mr. Sandercock, aside from the word "ridiculous," I am in complete agreement with your last statements.

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

Yes, it would be!!!
Anita Elgin
Teacher, Firwood School

Vote 'No'

It's election time once more, and the school board is submitting the same 'B' ballot they submitted in the last election—no cuts.

Why would they do that? Is it because they think we're ignorant and possibly won't notice or perhaps it could be the fact that the 'B' went down by only 100 votes, and through a very heavy campaign on the part of certain special interest groups, the tide can change?

Potential "yes" voters are being bombarded with phone calls and propaganda urging them to vote, while the more apathetic "no" voter sits by and watches his taxes go up—again.

At a recent community school meeting, the topic for discussion was how to get our funding. This is one special interest group that I support wholeheartedly!

Sandy has possibly the best program in the entire state. It is deserving of every dollar of its \$14,300 portion of the \$184,781 total budget on the 'B' ballot, but in all good conscience, I cannot support a hefty increase in our taxes, just to see my special interest group receive funding.

We, the voters, have a duty to be fiscally responsible for giving our children quality education, but the 'B' ballot goes beyond this into frills. Our community school, as well as the other programs listed in this levy should be made to stand on their own two feet. Any program worthy of support can go out and earn its own way.

I say, go to the community of Sandy as individuals for financial support, and if we as individuals support a program, it will be successfully funded privately.

Why vote "yes" for the community school and at the same time take our medicine in the form of \$170,481 in extra taxes?

Why not get out there next Tuesday and say "No," but I will do my part to help our community school in the form of private support? Don't be just another apathetic American. You have a chance to say "No."
Becky Hawley
Sandy

Bull Run School

(EDIT. NOTE: A letter from Roger Atkins, a parent at Bull Run School, last week cited curriculum and personnel management problems dividing the school recently. The Post regrets accidental omission of his name with the letter and the final paragraph, printed below:)

I believe all of us have in common the desire to provide quality education for our children. On June 30 there is a levy election in

which the constituency will vote on a reduced budget. I would like to urge the support of everyone in passing this levy.

The children of the district should not be penalized because of adult disagreement.

Roger M. Atkins
Sandy

'B' levy sound

We feel we must speak up on the 'B' ballot for the Sandy Elementary School. The third and final election will be June 30.

The programs that are going to be effected—sports, able-bodied and outdoor school are an essential part of our children's development and education. Two of our boys have been to outdoor school, and it is an enriching, growing experience that all youngsters should have. The children learn a way of working and sharing with others that cannot be duplicated in a classroom.

As for the able and gifted program, why not have something especially for the bright, inquisitive mind? Let's not lose these talents. Let's develop them.

The sports program is so essential it seems unreal we may lose it. How many young people have dropped out of school, because they never found a special place they could excel?

Studies prove that children who work hard physically also are more motivated academically. We have so little besides church and organizations such as scouting (which our family is very active in) to offer youngsters in our town.

To the parents who are unhappy that kindergarten was taken from the ballot and may vote 'No,' we must say this: These programs will be important to your children in such a short time.

You have at least for now the option to enroll your child in one of five private kindergartens in or near town. When it comes to these other programs, none of us has the opportunity to fill in with any like programs being offered.

Let's not lose something that has been part of our school district for years now. We all are taxed to death, and we also are feeling the economic crunch every day.

Can we really place a monetary value on our children's future, though? How many kids walk the streets feeling left out of life, getting into trouble? How many more to come. Our kids really will be the losers.

William & Iva Christman
Sandy

Hoodland park

A sense of genuine accomplishment was had by all the mountain folks who were the first active participants in the Hoodland Park Association's clean-up project last Saturday. The energy put forth Saturday yielded visible results giving all concerned a great feeling of satisfaction.

Special thanks must go to you who worked so diligently and enthusiastically in spite of the typical Oregon weather and overall wet conditions.

The following people got wet: Art Bock, Christy and Casey Buck, Shelly Butler, Jim and Judy Donaldson, Stephanie Harper, Maria Kraeger, Marilyn Leslie and family, Ike and Dortha Mann, Nick Montoy, Dawn and Tom Morrison and family, Carol Smith, George Sheets and family, Dick Taylor, Nat and Margie Wicks and family, Penelope Wilburn and two boys whose names were missed.

Thanks to anyone else who came and helped whose name we might have missed. This is your park. If you are a resident, you are a member of the Hoodland Park Association.

There will be a booth set up at the Fourth of July festivities. Feel free to stop by and ask questions.

Hoodland Park Association

Salem scene:

New plant-closure bill up

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

During a legislative session that has generated more than its share of bad news, a bill has emerged from deliberations in Salem that belongs in the good news category.

It is Senate Bill 947, the Employment Development Act of 1981.

It's good news for a number of reasons. It addresses problems arising when economic conditions cause layoffs and business failures. But it is a far cry from the punitive so-called plant-closure bills introduced last session and again this year.

Indeed, it is positive in its approach. One is tempted to call it a plant-opener bill.

Another reason SB 947 is good news involves both the manner in which it was conceived and the methods it suggests for resolving problems resulting from large-scale disruptions in commerce. Its conception was a cooperative effort, and its methods don't involve creation of massive new bureaucratic procedures.

It calls for positive utilization of existing procedures. It avoids the heavy-handed approach of the plant-closure being championed by segments of organized labor.

For the most part, those bills require notification, before an employer can lay off workers or shut down and stiff penalties that would do little more than hasten the demise of businesses hard hit by economic conditions beyond their control.

Still another measure of good news accompanies SB 947, because its principal author also is a labor official aware that without employers there are no jobs or workers to organize.

He is State Sen. L.B. Day (R-Salem), a Teamster official when not serving the public in a number of elected and appointed government positions.

Senator Day's Economic Development Act is deceptively simple. It provides assistance for troubled businesses in place of penalties.

That assistance is extended also to employees of firms in trouble and the communities in which they are located.

In no way can it be described as a government bail-out for mismanagement in the private sector. Its checks provide balances of the most positive nature.

Here's how it would work:

A business finds itself in trouble and must lay off part of its workforce or shut down. The business, the community in which it is located or an organization of affected workers applies to the Department of Economic Development for assistance.

The application of the local economic action advisory committee causes the Economic Development Department to devise an economic adjustment strategy to



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meet specific goals. This may involve loans and tax credits for the existing business, formation of a community or employee corporation to assume control of the troubled firm or a variety of other types of assistance to workers and the community, if it is determined the business cannot continue under any circumstances.

This assistance includes extended unemployment compensation, job sharing and a combination of both. It provides incentives for employers to employ affected workers in other locations. It provides assistance for worker relocation and vocational training for those who may have to make a career change.

It even provides assistance through the Commerce Department's Housing Division and Department of Veterans' Affairs to facilitate re-establishment of homes for workers forced to establish their families in different communities.

All provisions of the act carefully are coordinated by existing state agencies, from the office of State Treasurer, which administers funds dedicated to the Economic Adjustment Strategy Account, to the Employment Division of the Department of Human Resources that certifies conditions under which provision of the act are permitted to take place.

It is highly speculative at this late date to predict possible enactment of such innovative good-news legislation this year. The bill has had one hearing in Senate Labor Committee and been assigned to a subcommittee for further study.

Because it requires initial funding from the state's General Fund—estimated in the neighborhood of \$2.5 million—SB 947 also must with approval of budget-writing Ways & Means Committee. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives has before it two more plant-closure bills—HB 2550 and HB 3225.

One can only hope that SB 947, even if it can't be funded by the present revenue-short Assembly, will convince lawmakers there are better ways to resolve this important social and economic issue than by kicking a producing segment of the economy when it is downed by reasons beyond its control.

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