

School activities ax cuts youth

If more youth in Sandy seem to be wandering the streets or hanging around with little constructive to do, it's because grade school sports died in levy defeat and nobody's filled the gap.

Oh, the city Recreation Department is trying to pick up the pieces with a recreation program Oct. 5 until Dec. 11. But the city can do only so much and so elected to make most leisure activities geared for adults, based on previous Community School class popularity.

You see, the Community School also went down the drain with defeat of Sandy Elementary District's B levy for school activities, sports, painting of the pool, Community School support and more.

The kids are the big losers, of

course. There was little enough for them to do here before. Now the 450-500 grade-schoolers to age 14 who found a constructive outlet in school sports have a lot more spare time on their hands and a lot less to fill it.

For adults who miss the old Community School programs, there's still exercise class, card night, Dungeons and Dragons, calligraphy or ornament and wreath assembly offered by the city rec department. But the kids have only basketball clinic, karate for 14-year-olds to adult and a children's film series.

Well, they should be grateful the city is trying to fill the gaps in their day. No one else has shown much interest in our kids here lately. (VB)

City winking boldly at industry

Sandy "sits in the cat-bird seat" in comparison to other small cities jointly working to attract more industry to eastern Clackamas County.

At least that's one early conclusion from realty consultant Norm Boice of a marketing team who helped appraise strengths and weaknesses of Sandy, Estacada and Molalla for future sales presentations.

Why the high marks? Sandy is ahead of the game, having already done much pre-marketing work. In fact, the town is ready to start selling itself with an aggressive, multi-pronged marketing approach capped by personal sales. But strongest marks for Sandy are given for its strong community image, labor supply, better accessibility to east Portland, labor rates most companies can live with, good industrial sites available now or in the near future, a nice recreational environment and a somewhat diverse local

economy.

There are a few drawbacks, of course. Sandy suffers a little from higher freight rates, water and sewer capacity limitations, limited local money and systems development charges as high as the average city in the Portland metro area—no plus for a hungry city trying to look aggressive.

The three small cities in Clackamas County are marketing themselves with a county block grant for economic development and technical assistance from the Port of Portland's city attractiveness program.

Soon the cities will coordinate their marketing strategy for a common flier with individual community profiles and public relations to hit industrial prospects early in 1982. With recent loss of Hildebrand North America, Sandy's industrial needs are immediate. But the prospects look good, relatively speaking. (VB)

Festival gets recognition it deserves

Hats off to Sandy's Mountain Festival Committee who were invited to present a slide show to an international convention of festival groups, so impressed were peers by the small town's big success.

It's true, the summer arts fest does have a big impact on the community's economy and traffic. Figure upwards of 60,000 weekend visitors and a multiplying factor of

six for every dollar they spend here. If every visitor spent just \$3, Sandy enjoys a million-dollar industry for that sort of tourism—directly or indirectly.

The festival members in Alaska this week hope to bring home an award for their slide presentation. We think they're pretty special anyway, for all the honor they bring this community. (VB)

Salem scene:

Workers comp news bright

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Amidst persisting dire predictions about the poor health of Oregon's economy, a little-noticed state report provides information that could serve to aid both its recovery and increased vitality in the future.

The report is a seven-page inter-office research and statistics memo to Workers' Compensation Department Director Roy G. Green, titled "1980 Oregon Workers' Compensation Premium Summary."

Hardly the type of document that automatically creates excitement among the public at large, it nonetheless includes unprecedented results that could well produce long-lasting economic improvement at a time when nearly everyone is starving for good news.

The good news is the fact the annual cost of workers compensation insurance declined in 1980 and is expected to decline even more this year. Furthermore, the cost decline is the first ever recorded, since the state adopted its present "three-way" system of protecting workers from job-related injury and illness in 1966.

The memo's conclusion accentuates previous announcements of decreases in rates paid for workers' comp insurance and provides positive evidence of an improving position of competitiveness among Oregon employers over those in other states.

Long the bane of this state's wood products-dominated economy, the cost of workers' comp insurance had risen steadily until it became the highest in the nation.

That means it was a deterrent to employers who wish to expand operations in the state, as well as outsiders who consider Oregon locations for new businesses.

Recent rate reductions and the first decrease in total cost under the present system combine to reduce the state's rank-



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

ing from most costly to perhaps tenth or eleventh, believes WCD Director Green.

Green is predicting another reduction in premium costs this year and thinks Oregon's national ranking will remain relatively static during the same period.

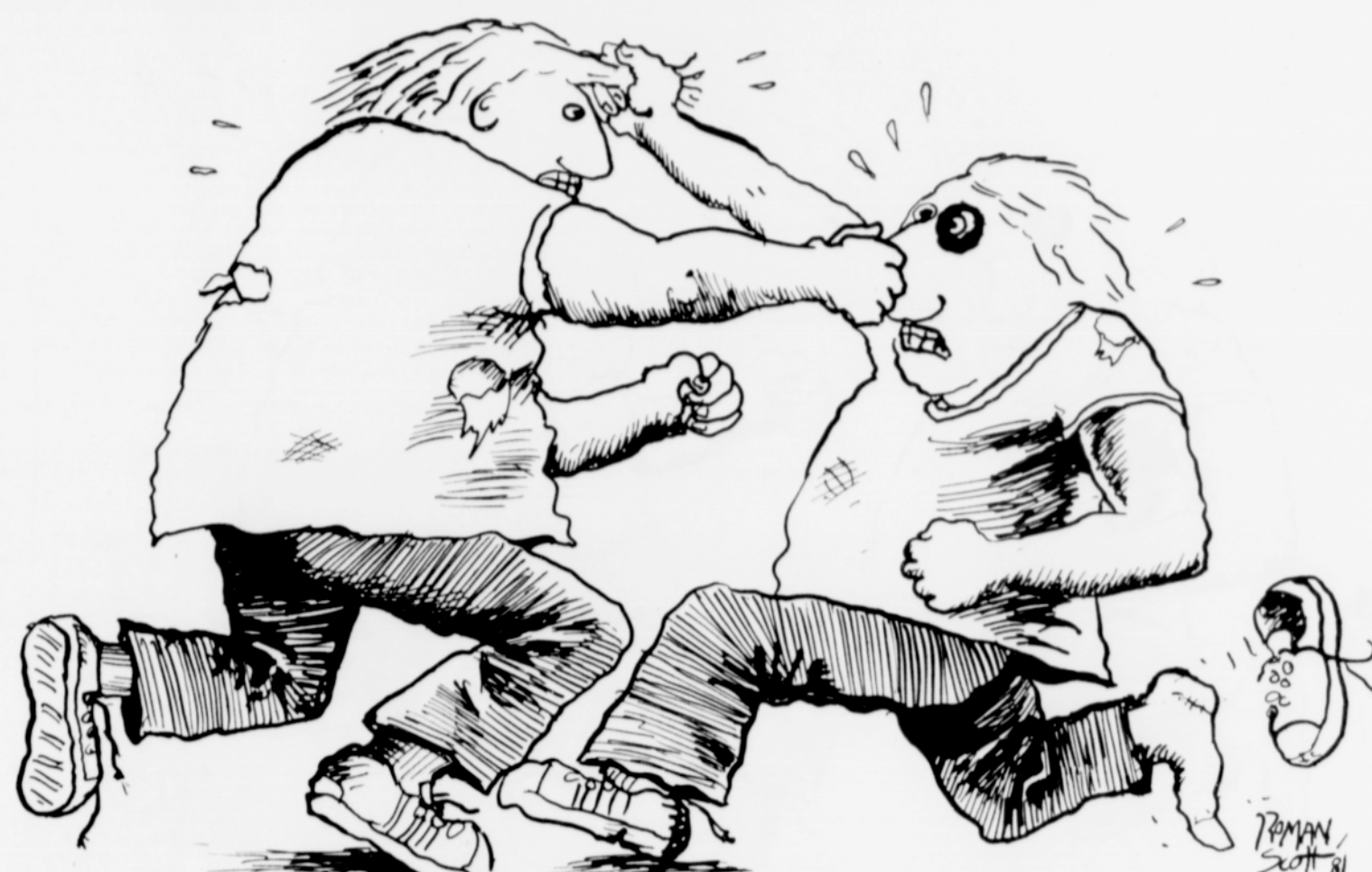
All of this cannot help but bode favorably for those pondering job-producing new or expanded business activity. It might even serve to blunt effects of a continuing recession.

Many factors influence the cost of workers' compensation, and the system is constantly undergoing change each time the Legislature meets in Salem. Some of the changes enacted in 1977 and 1979 only now are bearing fruit from a cost standpoint, according to Green.

This is despite the fact lawmakers also have mandated steadily rising benefits for claimants.

The benefit increases undoubtedly will provoke an increase in premium rates in the near future, he said. The rise, however, likely will be less than the most recent decrease last summer.

Actual cost of worker's comp insurance is staggering and ranks with the largest functions of state government.



THE ONLY AFTER-SCHOOL SPORT LEFT

Letters to the editor:

Reader cites American moral decay

Every time I read the news I think we need thousands of Paul Reveres to ride about and knock on doors, crying, "Wake up, America! Get smart to what is happening. Much that is fine and loved about our country is going down the drain."

At other times I think that we need many thousands of neighborhood groups getting together, as Benjamin Franklin and his friends did for study and dialogue about the important happenings of their day.

Our economic system has broken its stride and appears to be faltering. Our political system engages the serious consideration of only a few, and only about half of those eligible offer their country the minimal loyalty of voting.

We have elected a president and other officials who find our unemployment, lack of industrial efficiency and slowing production due to high taxes, regulations and government spending. To solve these problems taxes have been cut for the well-to-do on the theory that the money not collected for government use will go to investment and the production of jobs.

To cut government spending sharp cuts have been made in practically all people services such as food stamps, child nutrition, Medicaid health care,

unemployment compensation and care for dependent children. We have turned away from the constitutional mandate of "promote the general welfare."

Blacks are to be neglected, women given benign disregard and cuts made in provisions for the aged and handicapped. Government regulations protecting health, safety, clean air and clean water are to be weakly enforced or withdrawn. Public lands are to be generously opened to mining corporations and the timber industry.

Foreign governments that abuse their peoples are to be our friends, and this antagonism to civil liberties is to extend to the homefront in the "unleashing" of the CIA and FBI to act as they did in Vietnam days. The Freedom of Information Act is being gutted, so that what government does in secret can't be made known to citizens.

The pressure to cut spending does not extend to the military. It has received the largest increase ever and will be spending approximately \$188 billion in 1982. We are to lead the arms race, perfect our plans to kill 100-150 million Russians any afternoon and along the way bankrupt them, as they try to keep up with our latest inventions for mega-death.

We aim to be number one in military power and able to exert it anywhere in the

world with our airborne force of 200,000, should our oil supply be slowed or cut off or our recourse to metals and minerals be threatened. Our posture is one of confrontation, and we have the bombs and delivery systems to bring vast destruction anywhere.

Despite the fact that about 300 H bombs is all that's needed to decimate all major cities of our country or those of the USSR, we have approximately 50,000 between us, and both sides keep making more. There is an element of madness here, and we are not leading any effort to back away from a no-win, mutual destruction nuclear war. In fact, we are deploying neutron bombs, cruise missiles and intermediate-range missiles in Europe and planning for the MX system at home, with appropriated money for a nerve gas factory and readiness for a draft.

Our survival is not only a matter of avoiding nuclear death, but also a matter of our stewardship of God's creation. Two months ago it was reported that Iowa had lost half its topsoil to erosion by wind and water. Other food-producing states are in about the same condition. We have used up almost all our iron ore and import most of what we use. We scour the world for oil and minerals, cheap labor and luxury foods. We are still on the

"use it up—get another" binge in a world with finite resources.

Our ethic is growth and constant consumption of more, even though common sense tells us we can't keep consuming about 40 percent of the world's energy and raw materials with only 6 percent of the world's people. Other peoples are awakening to the loss of their wealth, and resistance is sure to grow.

Facing up to having carelessly used up vast amounts of our own and the world's natural resources, we should be planning on how to live well with less and promoting attitudes of co-existence, peace and love. On the way, we can recapture the American dream of a just and caring society.

W. Pete Sulzbach
Sandy

While the opponents seem to be a representative cross-section of residents, visitors and independent business people, those who favor rapid development of the Hoodland corridor are persons who seek personal enrichment and who are in businesses that may profit from this type of "growth". I am thinking particularly of people in real estate and adjunct businesses when I read the names of the proponents.

Once this beautiful area has been despoiled by hydro dams, trailer parks or urbanization, it can't revert to the natural condition in which it once was and still is—before bulldozers and speculators ruined it for everyone.

The time to speak up is now!

John Saemann
Brightwood

Scene develops

The Sandy Post is to be congratulated for its thorough coverage of continuing controversy surrounding Brightwood's Alderwood Mobile Home Park, incorporation of Welches and proposed construction of a dam and power house on Boulder Creek, a tributary to the Salmon River.

These projects are only the tip of the iceberg. Others just are waiting in the wings.

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.

Personally speaking:

You couldn't blow me off my mountain

Probably there's a little bit of Harry Truman in all of us. Not the first "Give 'em hell" Harry who took a bulldog stance for the right and might of the US of A, but the second little scrapper on Mount St. Helens.

This mountain man took a bulldog stance against the government's efforts to evacuate him for his own good.

I've lived on Mt. Hood three years now in a rustic house nestled in the trees, and I can feel what ol' Harry must have felt. At night you hear only the wind through the trees and the rush of the river. One gets the feeling that the mountain lives forever, with a pulse all its own. The beauty lies in its tranquility. That anything or anyone could disturb that tranquility and beauty is unbelievable or other-worldly.

So I've decided to stay on the mountain through the rumbling and quaking until the very end. Suicide is illegal, so I've secured a rubber raft to ride out the storm, should St. Helens' sister also blow, sending a torrent of mudflow down the river behind my house. Sort of like the American fly boy who rode the bomb



VON BRASCHLER

to the ground in the movie, "Doctor Stangelove."

Old Harry would be proud. Of course, he'd show more defiance by simply gathering his cats on the porch to watch the end with him. I'll

pack my 10 cats into the raft for the ride of their lives, knowing full well that they'd scratch holes in it at the first zig through Zigzag.

Defiance isn't what it used to be. Which is half the problem now in living on Mt. Hood with its occasional tummy aches. Cancellation of my low-cost government-subsidized flood insurance caused my concern in the first place. Yes, along with free school meals for poor kids, government abortions and welfare families worth more than \$1,000, low-cost subsidized flood insurance appeared on Reagan's hit list. Well, something had to give. Apparently the lessons of Johnstown, Texas and Mt. Saint Helens are forgettable in the wake of Moral Majority fiscal responsibility.

To buck the tide sounds foolhardy, be it new unaffordable flood insurance premiums or the coming flood itself. Still, I can see ol' Harry's point of view when he gathered his cats, rocking chair and favorite sippin' whiskey on the porch to watch the mountain fireworks. You can't hold back a flood, any more than you can deal sensibly

with the federal government. So his way of life gave way to a new dawn in the life of the mountain. He enjoyed his life and times to the fullest.

I can identify, living here on Mt. Hood. My wild-man boast to outsiders is that it would take dynamite to get me off my mountain. I don't believe developers, stop lights or fewer trees for more people would make me move. Making the county park a city park and putting a dam on my river wouldn't budge me, either. I love the mountain, as I suppose the newer residents are learning to love her, and I want to stay by her to the very end.

There's really no immediate concern, of course. Few government experts seriously expect Mt. Hood to blow its top tomorrow, even though the sister mountain to St. Helens is considered a dangerous place to live in the next hundred years or so. But a guy likes to plan his days for a little peace of mind. Meanwhile, the river sings and the wind plays against the trees like a flute.

The sirens lure me to sleep, as I pour wax in my ears and strap myself in my raft.