

Hundreds here need place to play

A large group of local baseball enthusiasts are working hard toward the day when hundreds of men, women and children may enjoy America's greatest pastime in Sandy.

The planning group, headed by John Dodson and Mike Kern, hopes to secure a field for adult softball and youth hardball in a summer recreational league that could involve 1200 ballplayers and supporters.

At least that's Dodson's estimate of Sandy's burning hunger for recreational outlet.

He points out that local youth have little recreational channels here, and that many serious young ballplayers find gaps in their playing days soon after Little League years.

The major organizing task has two early hurdles. The first involves fund-raising for all those

many teams. The second involves securing of a field for a ball diamond.

The enthusiasts harbor hopes that Firwood School might allow them to clear and prep a field for their community use. An alternative would be for them to secure the donation of a private field. If that fails, Dodson said they might even attempt to lease a field. There simply aren't enough places here to play—particularly if you're planning to field something like 22 adult and youth teams.

Perhaps someone out there might help. Such a gift could gladden many hearts. Just think how many bored, aimless youth this could take off the streets. Think how many heart attacks might be prevented among older residents who finally get in a little exercise here.

As county hungers, officials diet

County funds to help overweight government employees slim their waists with liquid diet food seems a waste of taxpayers' money.

That seems especially true today, when the masses in Clackamas county are tightening their belts and putting less bread on the table.

With rampant unemployment and current tight money, it's hard to understand county leaders spending \$57,000 a year in increased health insurance premiums in a "Risk Factor Obesity Control" program for fat cats.

Actually, the program's only for employees dangerously overweight by 50 pounds and aimed at keeping them healthy and productive workers—which could save money in the long run.

However, it's a big much to swallow—even at 300 calories a

day—to think the county is subsidizing the program through its medical insurance.

The weight-control program is just part of the county's risk management program.

Oh, yes, families of county employees also qualify for the government-subsidized weight-loss program through the insurance plan.

Somehow it sounds wrong, though, to expect your neighbor to foot the bill for your cans of diet food. At least that's what what lone Commission Stan Skoko argues.

Indeed. In these tight money times, this sounds as arrogant as recession President Martin Van Buren. He riled hungry rank and file citizens by taking milk baths. Fat cats here just drink the stuff.

Salem scene:

Another session probable

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

The 61st Legislative Assembly did what it was supposed to do, when it convened in special session last Jan. 18.

It enacted the bulk of Gov. Vic Atiyeh's Economic Recovery Plan. It passed bills easing the pain of unemployment, made it simpler to begin generating electricity by burning refuse and changed provisions of the veterans' home loan program to postpone foreclosures and facilitate resale of mortgaged homes and farms.

It also embraced a package of spending cuts and tax increases aimed at balancing income with outgo for the remainder of the current two-year budget period.

But it spend too much time and money doing it. And common consensus—even among lawmakers themselves—figures the budget-balancing act will fall apart later this year.

Furthermore, the record-long 37-day special meeting established some kind of new mark for bitterness and acrimony among members that appears to be growing, instead of dissipating since final adjournment at 10 minutes before midnight March 1.

When it came to balancing the budget, lawmakers reduced spending by a total of \$136.1 million, increased taxes \$193.9 million, authorized exemptions and spending totaling \$9.4 million and provided for an ending balance of \$6.9 million.

In the process, they cut agency budgets, reduced basic school support and the emergency fund and sliced into the property tax relief fund.

They raised income taxes, accelerated payment of withholding taxes, cracked down on delinquent taxpayers and disputed tax payments and boosted the cigarette tax.

Bulk of new spending involved interest exemptions for savings plans, the economic recovery program and cost of more aggressive collection of delinquent taxes.

Altogether it was a patchwork that failed to satisfy anyone completely and provided an ending balance most believe is only paper thin. Even before the complicated compromises were struck, many were predicting they would have to return to Salem again—probably in June—to wrestle with yet another revenue shortfall.

This particular Legislature faces the unenviable prospect of setting yet another record on top of the many already established. Its first occurred Nov. 4, 1980 when voters elected 20 women



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

The next involved the length of its regular session, substantially eclipsing the longest previous session in 1973 that lasted 180 days. It tied the Legislature in 1933 that conducted two special sessions when it convened its second in January of this year.

Another special session this year will be another record for frequency.

Little wonder members are bitter and acrimonious.

Some have thrown in the towel. Opting out for a variety of reasons. One veteran retiree said it isn't fun anymore. A likely candidate for understatement of the year, the attitude nevertheless appears far from universal.

Secretary of State Norman Paulus has reported filings by persons seeking to become candidates during the May primary election are up 37 percent over those aspiring to candidacy two years ago.

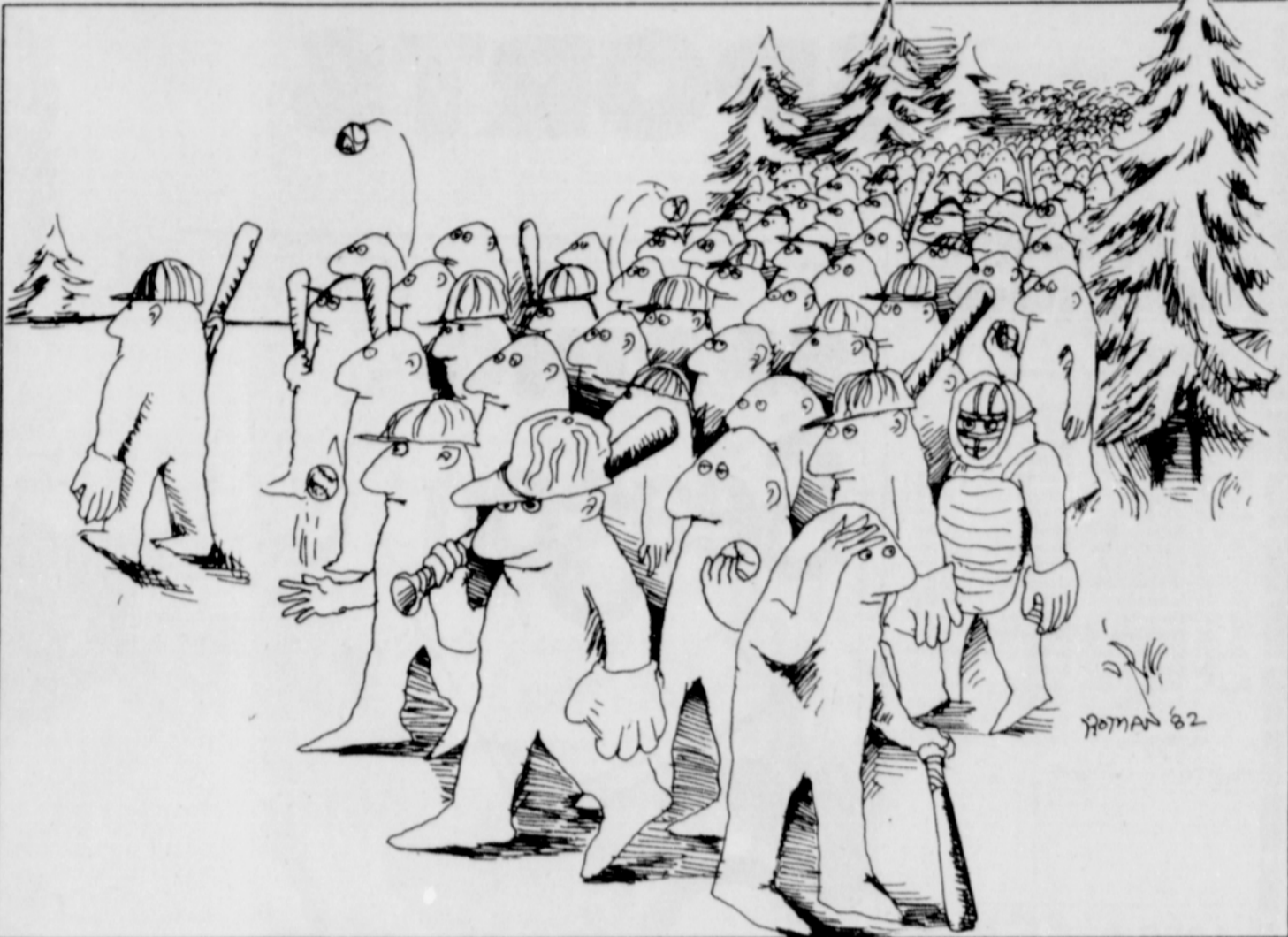
While some lawmakers are stepping down, it appears there are plenty of aspirants willing to take their places.

It's difficult to pin down, but a rash of filings may mean there's significant dissatisfaction out there for those who have been toiling in this Assembly.

On the other hand, some observers—noting unemployment is high—suggest a job in the Legislature may appear better than no job at all.

Only time will tell. As recessionary conditions continue, two likely developments emerge. One involves possible overhaul of the system by which state and local governments raise revenue and spend it. The other involves the manner in which the Legislature deals with that system. Both are undertakings of considerable consequence.

Voters may force the first development, if a property tax limitation initiative gains ballot status. But the Legislature makes its own rules. If the next Legislature is forced to restructure the tax system, substantially change government spending habits and alter the way it conducts its own business, then the 62nd Assembly in 1983 truly will be a contender for some new titles of its own.



Tax, guns, govt. draw fire

'Ban cars'

I feel I must reply to the letter from Pete Shields of Handgun Control Inc.

This year near 50,000 anniversaries will roll around of dear people tragically killed last year, and nearly 3 million injured—not by a gun or any particular size or shape, but by something most Americans own, including you, Pete—the automobile.

It's very interesting to note how the news media reacts to how a person dies. Guns and airplane crashes rate top news billing, yet 50,000 deaths by automobiles gets a ho-hum. Only on a three-day holiday do we get the predictions of how many will die by automobiles.

Strangely enough, we don't see any group starting a coalition to ban all Saturday night automobiles. Why is it, Pete, we accept death by automobile as part of life that we condone? Some people use their automobile like a weapon.

I own both automobiles and handguns. I do not intend to harm anyone with either one. Both have their legitimate use in sport and collecting—as in antique cars, hot rods and recreational vehicle use. You and I have a much greater chance of being harmed or killed by an automobile than by any firearm.

Tell you what, Pete. When you and those that think like you about firearms, start a coalition to ban automobiles, we who own handguns will seriously think about giving up our handguns.

Yours for the right to own and safely use both an automobile and a handgun.

Bob Pearson
Welches

Watch board

This year Sandy is favored with an interesting election. In the past the interest in the school has not been strong. In most cases, only one or two candidates expressed an interest.

This year we have five candidates for two positions. First, let me say that I am not a candidate this year, as I was last year. Of five candidates, four are either on the five-member school board or members of the budget committee as freeholders.

This is important, because you as voters have an opportunity to elect to the school board two members who have proved by their budget activity just how they stand on budget matters.

The budget committee decides the dollar figure that will be the proposed

budget for the election. This committee is comprised of the five school board members and five citizens of the district, who are not on the board.

This ten-member committee not only decides the dollar figure of the proposed budget, but makes recommendations as to what programs should be cut or added in arriving at the proposed budget.

If you feel that the budget is an important issue, you now have the opportunity to determine how most of the candidates voted during the budget committee meetings and cast your

vote for the school board with some knowledge of how your candidate will react to future budget sessions.

I am not, in print, supporting any candidate. I am just informing you that some of the candidates who were on the committee pushed for making larger budget cuts. Some pushed for presenting the current budget, which—due to state funding cutbacks—will represent a 30 percent higher tax levy for district residents.

If you check the records of the committee meetings or ask those who were there, you can find out that in both positions that are up for election, there is a candidate who favored more budget cuts than were approved and a candidate who favored the higher budget that was submitted to the voters.

There is also an excellent candidate who was not involved with the budget procedure.

It doesn't matter to me how you vote. I only ask you to check into the records of the candidates. It would be a shame for Sandy voters to vote down the budget and then elect the candidates who were instrumental in proposing a larger budget or vice-versa.

Harold Hayward
Sandy

I refer to the Mar. 4 article "Sandy considers tax base levy, water sharing." I interpret this as supporting an increased tax base, in part to pay for growth in its water system. The excess water would come from the Little Sandy and be sold to communities near Alder Creek.

The article also points out that Portland holds Lit-

tle Sandy water rights. The possibility should be considered that Portland might choose to hold on to its rights and someday sell water. For many years it has sold Bull Run water to many metropolitan area water districts.

There could be advantages to Sandy and Alder Creek citizens in having Portland develop the source (a costly endeavor), and sell the water to them.

The Little Sandy empties into the Bull Run River and hence is part of the Bull Run watershed. A simple boundary change in the Bull Run Watershed

already.

I would think that any candidate, even the seven up for re-election would feel the same way. I doubt there is anything to hide. But that story of the missing \$600,000 keeps nagging away.

Ted Rowell
Portland

Correct WPPSS

The WPPSS disaster will cripple Oregon's economy for decades, unless we act now to deflect the unfair nuclear debt away from Oregon. The ratepayers'

revolt has just begun, and our electric rates have just begun to rise.

As a Democratic candidate for governor, I have identified three steps we must take to correct this rapidly deteriorating situation:

1. We must form new municipal utilities and people's utility districts and shed these bad nuclear debts. This action would leave the liabilities with the utilities that made the investments and not with Oregon's innocent ratepayers.

2. We must implement Article XI-D of Oregon's Constitution and develop Oregon's abundant renewable energy potential under the direction of the three-member elected commission, authorized by the Constitution.

3. We must work to repeal the Northwest Power Act of 1980. Allowing a giant federal bureaucracy to control development of a decentralized power system, based on small renewable energy sources, is contradictory.

I have worked for these programs in the past and now they are of the highest priority to us all. I urge all Oregonians to begin taking these three steps. The economic stability of Oregon depends on our actions.

Gerald H. Rust Jr.
Eugene

Trim budget

I, and the rest of the people of the state have just witnessed the most irresponsible session of the state Legislature, regular or special, in the history of the state.

The Legislature now has balanced the state budget, as required by Oregon law—on paper at least.

This has been accomplished by cuts in some budgets—but, most importantly—by raising taxes in area legislators thought would get least amount of "flak" from the public and constituents who elect them.

They have solved the state's problem—for a few months—and balanced the state budget, but have not told the taxpayer how he or she is going to balance his or her checkbook.

The state Legislature, along with Congress, refuses to recognize (or are too blind to see) that there is nothing left out here to tax.

The action of the Legislature in its special session is a "finger in the dike" solution.

What do we do, when the finger gets tired and there has been no permanent repair to the dike? The answer is obvious.

We, as individuals, cannot spend more money than we make without going bankrupt, and we cannot tax anyone or anything to make up the difference. The government—state or federal—is no different, except that it can keep taxing until there is nothing left to tax. Then it, too, will go bankrupt. Low and behold, the next serious depression.

At that point evernone says, "What happened?" "Why don't we have any money?" "Why doesn't the government take care of us?"

Why? Because we are the government. We sent those people to the Legislature and to Congress, and we said, "Go ahead and take care of us, but don't let it cost me anything."

We cannot blame the Legislature and Congress as a body, for they are of our bodies. We created them, but instead of us taking the responsibility for what they do, we want them to take responsibility for us. They cannot, for government produces nothing. It is only a consumer and consumes that which we give it to consume.

I fear for this nation and state. It took one thousand years for Rome to destroy itself, based on a philosophy of the government controlling the people instead of the people controlling themselves and the government.

The tail will continue to wag the dog, until we stop it.

Force government to face the budget problems squarely and honestly. We must face our own.

Lowell D. Njust
Welches

Letters to the editor

Management Unit could include all of the Little Sandy drainage above the ingress of Aschoff Creek within this Unit. Such a change is permissible under new Bull Run law.

It would give Portland a degree of control over management practices in the watershed that could enable Little Sandy water, like presently used Bull Run water, to escape a need for (expensive) filtration.

Sandy has no opportunity for such control, and probably would have to filter.

Joseph L. Miller Jr.
Sandy

Audit Metro?

I am a candidate for Metro Councilor Position from District 8, and many things perturb me.

On Thursday, Feb. 25, Metro Council voted down by 6-4, a Washington County request for the Metro Council to seek a state audit of Metro's books.

Of course, with Metro's finances being strained, this action would further deplete the General Fund.

A solution might be effected, as Councilor Craig Berkman suggested: "If there are people out there who don't have confidence in our audit, they should pay to have a look at it."

I would like to start the ball rolling toward a "State Audit of Metro's Funds" campaign.

Hopefully, the outcome of a State audit would ensure that a continued "condition of dignity" would prevail within the councilorship.

If elected, I would want and expect to start on a clean bill of health and not end up on the short end because I was forced to depend upon "last years audit" as happened

Gerald H. Rust Jr.
Eugene

Guard water

I refer to the Mar. 4 article "Sandy considers tax base levy, water sharing." I interpret this as supporting an increased tax base, in part to pay for growth in its water system. The excess water would come from the Little Sandy and be sold to communities near Alder Creek.

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