

## Concerned volunteers should link

With federal and state budget cuts, more and more social service shortages are coming home to rest on local shoulders. It's a problem some neighbors in Sandy refuse to dodge.

Father Lindsay Warren of Church of the Good Shepherd and St. Jude's Nursing home is one such neighbor. He's spearheading a group of concerned residents who read like a Who's Who of civic clubs here.

Established service groups here want to get involved, they note. What's needed is a little coordination and communication with those in need.

Sandy Action Center's a good place to start. Pete Sulzbach and his all-volunteer band of faithful feed, cloth and give other emergency relief to hundreds who present themselves at their doorstep each month.

It's a program that works, as demonstrated by the samaritans' preliminary approval by advisory committees for funds for a new center. (They operate out of one of the oldest houses standing on Pioneer Boulevard.)

The city of Sandy, recognizing municipal government couldn't handle welfare services nearly as inexpensively or efficiently, has backed Action Center's bid for new building funding.

Perhaps the easiest and best way to help neighbors out of work

is to plug into the busy Action Center.

A jobs bank could be posted by the chamber of commerce and others with knowledge of available jobs and interested job-seekers here.

A comprehensive list of civic groups and the kinds of social service work they prefer as group projects could be posted at the Action Center.

And, of course, the Center always could utilize more volunteers—as groups or individuals, along with food, clothing and even cash donations. It's a very cost-effective program, and no service group in town could do better than to fuel the Center's efforts. It could mean the difference between a family not eating right or going without shoes, a coat or gas to get to work.

Sometimes a couple gallons of gas and a decent set of clothes make all the difference between sitting home hopelessly and getting out to improve one's situation. And Sandy Action Center has staked a lot of citizens to an emergency can of gas to get them going again.

Perhaps Sandy's new volunteers and Sandy's veteran samaritans can get together to discuss a combined assault on social problems posed by government welfare cutbacks.



## Cost-sensitive school voters 'blew it'

### Reduce budget

Since the Sandy Elementary School budget has gone down in defeat, I feel free to share with you some of my concerns related to the manner in which the budget was conceived. As a member of the budget committee who voted against submitting this large of a budget, I feel qualified to discuss the subject.

At the outset of the budget committee proceedings, I pointed out to the committee that the actual tax bill the property owners were required to pay has increased at a rate far exceeding inflation during the past eight years. In good economic times this can be justified. In the current crisis, it cannot. Several of us suggested that cuts be made to reduce the budget to a level that taxpayers could afford. In other words, let's get back to basics.

These suggestions were not agreeable to the vast majority of the budget committee. The school board members especially were opposed to significant cuts. In the end, the five school board members and two freeholders voted for the large budget. Three of our group, all freeholders, voted against it.

Our task was made more difficult by absence of opponents to a large budget in the audience. Teacher representatives, as well as representatives of other

school employees, supported the higher budget.

My opinion of the prevailing attitude was that no matter what budget was submitted, it would lose. Let's save our cuts for later. I find this type of attitude to be unfair to the public who has to pay for the expensive elections. Since the budget only lost by a little more than 100 votes, it is conceivable that it could have passed, had

gifted lady who has the wisdom to be both a child's advocate, as well as advocate of financially troubled taxpayers of this district.

When construction workers, mill workers and loggers are out of work and those retired on pensions are having difficulty keeping their homes, chances have to be made. Every teacher and administrator is concerned with children.

human being from simply being "the bag lady" into being Ovella Weimer—a person with a history, a set of beliefs and a little bit of the weirdness that makes us all different from each other.

I appreciate the fact that you chose not to censor the article to turn her into either a saint or a crackpot. By portraying her as a human being, you help us all to shed our prejudices and misconceptions.

Pete Sheppard  
Sandy

finally will come into effect.

Commissioner Robert Schumacher voted to stay with the decompression chamber, because he isn't convinced it's cruel. It appears he's either unwilling or unable to accept this sad fact. His personal feelings are irrelevant. The people decided to change by passing Measure 52.

Only Commissioner Ralph Groener acknowledged the people's decision by voting to change to sodium pentobarbital. The reason he voted to make the change was the excuse county commissioners had used for four months after Measure 52 was ruled invalid by an attorney general's opinion. The opinion stated that a veterinarian is not required to administer sodium pentobarbital. It added that a veterinarian is not required on the premises.

Commissioner Groener addressed this issue, saying the cost would not be prohibitive, since it would not be necessary to hire a veterinarian.

Groener's decision to change to sodium pentobarbital is only one of the two votes needed to give animals a humane death. We are counting on Commissioner Skoko for the other one, since he is reconsidering his original vote.

Donna Sebastian  
Oregon City

## Letters to the editor

the committee done a good job of paring it down.

What I find interesting is that two of the three persons on the committee who wanted a leaner budget were rejected by voters of Sandy in their bid for election to the school board. What is more interesting is that opponents who defeated them were on the budget committee and supported the larger budget.

The Sandy Elementary School district is the largest business in the Sandy area. Its multi-million budget far exceeds any other operation in Sandy. Yet there is, to my knowledge, no one on the school board with business background. One of the defeated candidates is a man with years of experience in the business world, who could have brought valuable business talents to the board. The other candidate was a

I am sure no one would run for the board without this same concern. What we need is someone who has concern for residents of the district, as well. We need a new philosophy of austerity that will emphasize basics in public schools.

Sandy voters had a chance to bring about this type of change. The Sandy voters blew that chance.

Harold Hayward  
Sandy

### Shed prejudice

I imagine you'll get a lot of mail, pro and con, concerning your article about the "bag lady." I suppose some people will say you shouldn't have published it, for one or another reason.

Personally, I think it is an example of the sort of thing small-town newspapers do best. You've transformed a

### Death inhumane

On Nov. 3 it was decided by vote of the people to stop the decompression chamber and change to sodium pentobarbital in putting county animals to sleep.

On March 11 Clackamas County commissioners voted to continue using the decompression chamber, in spite of the vote of the people.

Commissioner Stan Skoko voted to continue the decompression chamber. Fortunately, he now is asking for a two-week extension to reconsider his original decision.

Let us all hope he intends to consider the decision made by the people to ban the decompression chamber and change method of euthanizing animals to sodium pentobarbital. Then Measure 52, passed Nov. 3 by the wide margin of 1915 to 796,

## Salem scene:

## Unemployment checks help

by JACK ZIMMERMAN  
Associated Oregon Industries



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

Everyone knows Oregon's economy is in bad shape, but it could be worse, perhaps \$400 million worse.

That \$400 million is the amount that will be paid this year to jobless Oregonians by the state's Unemployment Compensation Insurance System.

It's a significant shot in the arm—not only for workers who are unemployed, but for many other Oregonians as well. In fact, those jobless paychecks actually help other workers keep their jobs. Together they make a sizeable impact on an economy that reels from the causes of joblessness.

Unemployment compensation got its start in this country when Congress passed the Social Security Act in 1935. It mandated that each state must organize and administer an unemployment compensation program. The system has been in place in Oregon since adoption of the program by the 1937 Legislature.

Unemployment compensation insurance is a totally employer-paid protection plan, designed to tide over workers who become unemployed through circumstances beyond their control. It was conceived to help such workers sustain themselves and their families temporarily until they obtained other employment or their previous jobs were restored. The concept was established in early industrialized Europe much earlier. The program wasn't adopted in this country until business failures and massive layoffs during the Great Depression.

The economy never is stagnant. It has its ups and downs. Employers recognize the importance sustaining the workforce during down periods. The reasons go beyond humanitarianism. Jobless pay goes a long way toward keeping skilled workers available for re-employment when the economy again turns upward.

We are witnessing such an occurrence in Oregon today. Migration here virtually has ceased. Some workers are seeking jobs elsewhere. Weekly checks to thousands of unemployed, however, are helping prevent anything approaching mass exodus and a serious erosion of the workforce.

Benefit checks currently range from \$41 to \$158 weekly, depending on wages previously paid the unemployed. The regular pay period is usually as long as 26 weeks. When unemployment hits a certain percentage of the workforce and lasts for an extended period, most covered workers become eligible for still another 13 weekly checks. During the special session of the Legislature this year, lawmakers approved still another 13 weeks for those who qualify.

In the past year, as many as 93,614 checks were issued in a single week. Total checks in 1981 were 2,925,074, representing \$308,444,404 paid out last year. Average check size was \$105.45.

That may not seem like much. It's considerably below the minimum wage. Unemployment benefits are not taxable for most persons and that extends the benefit value considerably. Authorities estimate jobless pay is spent first to keep food on the table, pay utility bills and whatever is left goes toward rent or mortgage payments.

With an estimated \$400 million due to be paid in 1982, one begins to understand more fully the program's impact on the present economy.

By way of comparison, \$400 million is considerably larger than the total payrolls of the three largest forest products producers combined. It's greater than the combined payrolls of the four largest utilities and five times greater than the total payroll of Oregon's biggest retail chain.

It is interesting also to note the amount paid out this year will greatly exceed the estimated \$221.5 million employers are taxed to support the program. This is because Oregon employers have been willing to pay taxes higher than normally needed to cover average costs and build up a sizeable reserve. (When the current economic recession began, the fund had \$300 million in reserves to protect its solvency. It will remain solvent even if current conditions prevail well into 1985.)

Not all states act this responsibly. Some 17 states have not accepted such procedures and are heavily in debt after borrowing from the federal government to pay their jobless benefits. Congress now has decreed those states are going to have to raise unemployment insurance rates significantly in order to pay those debts.

So while some states have maintained artificially low-cost status for unemployment insurance, they now are destined to become high-cost states compared with Oregon. The situation should be of assistance to those hoping to lure businesses and industries to our state and thus ease our unemployment problem by creating new jobs for the jobless.

## Personally speaking

## Danger hides in quiet, little kitchen

There is a danger burning through America.

It can be found in nearly every home and unless used properly, it can maim.

Your children have probably tried to use it. Your neighbors may use it regularly. This menace, with the ability to alter the way people think of themselves and you, could threaten our very stability.

I'm talking about the kitchen. Every time I enter mine, the musical theme from "Dragnet" pounds through my head. I half expect Jack Webb to step out from behind a stack of dirty dishes and grimly charge me with impersonating a housekeeper or cooking with intent to kill.

I find the easiest way to make my kitchen more presentable is simply to shut its door so I can't see it from the living room.

On my list of household chores, the one I check off most frequently is "Close the Kitchen Door." The second most popular is "Resolve to Wash the Dishes."

But that's not why I'm bothered by the kitchen.

There are more ghastly things that come from that room than the aromas of over-ripe cantaloupe and science experiments



by DAN DILLON

in the lettuce bin. The kitchen has a stove and, in the wrong hands, that can be hazardous.

Frozen pizzas I'm adept at. Boiling spaghetti in the electric frying pan isn't too great a problem either—except that I have to keep adding water when its shallow depth threatens to boil dry.

It's the things that can happen with a stove and the intestinal havoc I can wreak with one that

frightens me.

But that isn't why I'm bothered by kitchens either.

Of all the rooms in the house, I'm convinced that it's in the kitchen that we learn the most about ourselves and that's frightening.

Never mind that I have my telephone in the kitchen and have taken my share of up-against-the-wall phone calls.

The real lessons are in the rest of the room.

Those dishes over on the counter, hiding Jack Webb, and those unreturned sacks of empties over there by the refrigerator, hiding his partner Harry Morgan, have told me I'm a procrastinator. That doesn't really bother me.

I can deal with it tomorrow.

The way I throw frozen pizzas into the oven at the drop of a growling stomach or boil my spaghetti water in an electric frying pan, because it's faster than a two-quart kettle, have hinted that I might be growing more impatient.

But I don't have time to worry about that now. I have to finish this column.

Maybe the impatience that prevents me from laboring over a bunch of fresh ingredients until it

becomes haute cuisine signals some heretofore unseen willingness to settle for second best.

Now, that can't be. I buy the expensive frozen turkey pies and preheat the oven the allotted time. I don't scribble on sardines either. I eat them one to a cracker, just like I was taught.

And the kitchen is a place of learning, not only about ourselves, but about others.

I was chased out of my own kitchen in the middle of preparing a romantic, little dinner by a friend, who'd developed surprisingly hard fists, for offering helpful hints on what kind of salad goes with oysters. Never mind that I'd never eaten oysters in my life. I still think bean dip and cottage cheese is a taste treat.

She eventually let me back in the kitchen and I learned how to tear lettuce and throw it around in a bowl with a bunch of other ruffage and not have it look like something the cat brought in.

That was nice. Which is another thing I've learned in my kitchen. If you take the time to do it right, you'll enjoy it more.

Even if it is sardines and crackers instead of haute cuisine.

The Post gratefully acknowledges essays and written opinions from readers to appear on this page—separate from the unbiased news reports on other pages of this newspaper. Your opinions generally will be printed as letters to the editor, while ours generally will appear as editorials. Occasionally, we are able to print guest editorials. We attempt to print all signed letters of good taste, legible form and reasonable length. Our deadline is noon on Tuesdays.