

Alternate finance SUHS answer?

Sandy High's budget levy Sept. 21 looms as a critical showdown between school boosters and tax-sensitive property owners over continued operation of the school.

The union high school failed in an earlier attempt this year to establish a new tax base and recently joined only a handful of state school districts who failed a second serial levy try.

Fall sports are threatened by possible supplemental B levy failure Sept. 21 and the entire school could close by the end of September with failure of A levy for basic operations.

Alternative financing for avoiding future budget levy scares therefore sounds pertinent for long-range planning.

A universal sales tax on all items except food and drugs might prove logical successor to property tax as primary local support for schools. Property taxes for schools discriminates against citizens who own real estate. Meanwhile, younger parents who rent logically present best voting support for continued school funding. Maybe we should put these renting parents behind the wheel now, too.

Another alternative, consolidation of SUHS and Sandy Elementary School District, might save taxpayers a bundle on busing alone. Possibly there are other

duplications consolidation could erase to save dollars.

A grassroots steering committee of former area educators could be formed to help review the possibility of consolidation. The two district school boards themselves couldn't do it.

Volunteerism as cost-cutting measure in the school is another alternative worth discussion. Staff teachers to save their jobs might volunteer to serve as coaches, monitors, chaperones and advisors. Much of the athletic budget, for instance, could be whittled by donation of time by coaches and assistants. If no staff members volunteer to coach, perhaps the school could fill in with volunteer lay persons where qualified. In fact, Sandy High is a pioneer in creative use of outside volunteers and could expand its established program for greater public involvement.

Public finance of large schools like Sandy High is difficult these austere times no matter how you slice it. The SUHS board may have stepped on many sensitive toes already to make the district's crucial Sept. 21 levy palatable to voters.

It behooves all of us now to get behind our public school to support it during its hour of need and share the task for planning to avoid such pain in the future. (VB)

Civic volunteer scarce commodity

A lady caller at The Post this week questioned whether former city councilman Bruce Cook legally could serve on Sandy's screening committee to review city manager candidates since moving to Thomas Road on outskirts of town.

Indeed, who can serve on city advisory committees?

While some positions like mayor or city council member require residency within municipal limits, many advisory committee appointments can be filled by non-residents. The major qualification is public concern.

A boundary that separates where you sleep from where you work is no major concern. What's important is a strong sense of community and service, so lacking these days of television existentialism and solution-less problems.

Will Sandy establish financial security as a municipality with a

new tax base, as proposed? Will Sandy continue to grow as a bedroom or add new commerce and local jobs? Should the city core revitalize with floral landscaping or western pioneer fronts? Will the municipality be left holding the bag over costs of a costly Heritage Square parking lot? Will Sandy be ruined by a proposed shopping center near the Boring interchange, with city hall fears over lost business or possible sewer demands on Sandy?

Why stand back and wait for these results to roll over us like vertical patterns on a sleepy television? Put in your two-cents worth now by attending city meetings and volunteering to get involved any way you can.

City hall and council members always are looking for concerned individuals to share the load of democratic government—whether you work here or sleep here. You, too, have a stake. (VB)

Salem scene:

'Work-share' may save jobs

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Recent election campaign rhetoric to the contrary, Gov. Vic Atiyeh is doing positive things to improve Oregon's economy.

A previously little-noted piece of legislation, however, is just now bearing fruit and keeping significant numbers of workers on their jobs to earn a living and paying taxes.

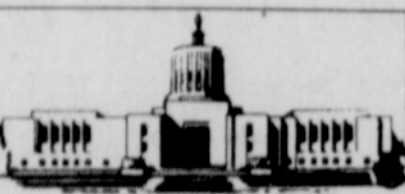
The measure, first introduced early during the 1981 regular session of the Legislature at Gov. Atiyeh's request, deals with a concept known as work-sharing and traces its beginnings to Europe in the Twenties. It was enacted first in this country by the California Legislature as a hedge against feared large-scale layoffs of public employees as a result of Proposition 13. Canada has the program on a national scale, and Arizona also has embraced work share legislation. Pending before Congress is a measure that would encourage all states to consider implementation.

Simply put, the Oregon work-share plan enables employers to avoid worker layoffs or shutdowns by reducing work weeks and spreading work among more employees.

It's administered through the Employment Division and enables employees to work fewer than normal hours and receive unemployment benefits for the balance.

Interested employers need only apply to the Employment Division of the Department of Human Resources in Salem (378-5743) to find out if they can qualify.

Qualifications include a workforce of three or more, a 20 percent to 40 percent work reduction in lieu of a layoff. Workers



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must have been employed continuously for six months or for a year on a part-time basis.

For example, a firm needing a 20 percent reduction might lay off a fifth of its work force. As an alternative, the firm could reduce the hours of work for its total force by 20 percent. An employee who usually earns \$230 a week would work four days instead of five, receiving \$184 in wages and a \$30 (tax exempt) work-share benefit.

Although proposed by Atiyeh early in '81, the bill languished in committee and died when that record-long session ended. Rising unemployment prompted the governor to try again during this year's first special session in January and the work share concept was included in another bill, enacted and became effective a little more than a month ago.

Is it working? Employment Division already reports 35 employers at 42 business locations have qualified for the work-share program. Some 2,365 workers are participating. Many of whom might otherwise have been laid off their jobs completely.



The Innocent Bystander:

School tots find market profitable

Oh, what a heart-stirring scene it was at the Fullertons the other evening! In front of one and all, our friend George Pickering came out of the closet.

"Friend" is perhaps too strong a word. Glynda and I have known George ever since he married Midge ten years ago. And, to our knowledge, he's never had a friend. It's not that he was unlikable—merely secretive and standoffish.

He certainly lacked the social graces. He clearly disliked parties. As soon as we began talking about who'd made how big a killing on which piece of real estate or how that house down the block that someone had bought for \$82,500 two years ago just sold for \$167,000, George would skulk away.

"I'll bet that place of yours has tripled in value, George." I remember saying to him once in an attempt to draw him into the conversation.

But all he said was "Humph" and went off to pour himself another drink. (How did I know he was only renting?)

But the big mystery was what



by ART HOPPE

George did for a living. Asked directly, he would duck his head, shift his eyes and evasively say something like, "Oh, not much and excuse me while I get an ashtray." And when we mistakenly put him up for membership in the club, he listed his occupation on the application form as "Yes." Naturally, he was dinged.

Glynda, who is something of a romantic, thought he was either a CIA agent or a former Mafioso in hiding. "I'm sure he's had a fact lift," she whispered dramatically. But as Glynda thinks thousands of people have had face lifts (albeit all of them females) I discounted this.

Besides, I had a clue of my own. On several occasions I had seen George on the bus reading magazines disguised in plain wrappers "I'm sure of it," I told Glynda confidently. "He's a porno king."

"And they drive an old VW?" she asked.

"Maybe," I conceded, "he's a porno prince."

The mystery, as I have hinted, was resolved last Friday evening at the Fullertons. George, wearing a new three-piece suit, attracted our attention by popping a champagne cork.

"I think it's high time you knew the unvarnished truth about me," he said. "I am now and have been for the past ten years..." Here he paused to put his arm around Midge and beam out at all of us "... a stockbroker!"

There was a moment of silence and then we all surrounded him to pat him on the shoulder or grab his hand. Midge was looking up at him adoringly. "He only told me today when the market hit 869," she said. "You could have confessed to me, George. I would've stood by you."

"I know, Midge," he said, patting her hand, "but I didn't want the kids to know their father was a..."

"And all these years when you went out every morning and came home every night and never would say where you'd been, you know what I thought?" Midge smiled in embarrassment. "I thought you were leading a double life."

"Gosh," I said, "a stockbroker. Think I ought to buy Moonbeam Preferred? It's gone up three points in only two days."

"Right now I'd recommend a flyer in electronics," said George, "with a hedge blue chip..."

That's when that nerd Bill Fullerton had to butt in. "My real estate broker is E.F. Button," he said. "And E.F. Button says..."

Needless to say, everyone in the room froze. You could have heard a feather drop. Who in his right mind would be caught dead talking to a real estate broker these days?

Wall Street report:

Secret life of G. Fullerton exposed

Anyone who thinks it's impossible to make money in the stock market ought to go back to the fifth grade.

The fifth grade in Sullivan, Ohio, to be specific.

For a group of pint-sized future capitalists there has shown how profits can be made even amid the glummiest market conditions, thereby beating out nearly 1,000 other classes and groups in a contest sponsored by an educational newspaper. What's more important, they did so with the kind of cool logic and fresh thinking that many of their elders might usefully emulate.

As their principal, David L. Ritchie, tells it to me, the 23 students in the fifth-grade math class taught by Linda Krieder took seriously the challenge to "invest" 10,000 theoretical dollars last October 15, with an eye toward showing gains by March 15. During that five-month period, stock prices continued to erode, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average off another five percent. And most of those who entered the contest, like most adult investors playing with real money, went with the tide: only 40 of the mythical portfolios ended on the plus side. But the ten stocks picked by Mrs. Krieder's budding Bernard Baruchs showed an average gain of nearly 15 percent.

What's more, the Sullivan champs didn't rely on one lucky hit to bail out an otherwise mediocre batch of losers. Fully eight of their ten selections ended on the plus side, perhaps most significantly, they bypassed attempts to go with the crowd by picking what was "hot," and their unfamiliarity with some of



by Louis Rukseyer

the more arcane extremes of technical market analysis may have saved them another bundle.

What the kids did do was apply common sense to what they already knew about the world. Their short-term winners included, for example, Eastman Kodak (which they picked in the belief that "people would be buying film and cameras, taking pictures at Christmas"), Quaker Oats ("everybody eats hot cereal in cold weather") and J. C. Penny (well and favorably known to them and their families; after a discussion and a vote, it won over Sears as the department-store choice).

Their biggest gainer—up 79.3 percent in those five generally dismal months—was that children's favorite, Mattie, which they selected as a way to participate in the Christmas-holiday enthusiasm for electronic games. (Other reasoning, some more successful than others: Goodrich because "everybody will need tires," Greyhound because one student with an air-traffic-controller father said more people would be traveling by bus, IBM to participate in computers and for "something expensive," Monsanto because "oil and chemicals are in the news, and it must be good business to have some," Ralston Purina because "everybody has pets" and

Snuckers because "it's an Ohio firm.")

Now, obviously, there's some fairly unsophisticated financial thinking in there, along with the practical insights, and it's worth emphasizing (a) that most of the other competing classes—also presumably seeing the world through unspoiled eyes—had generally disappointing results;

(b) that smart investing does not necessarily reap five-month profits but often must wait years for its rewards, and (c) that a vague feeling that a known company ought to be doing well ought to be followed up with some solid research.

To their principal, all this is proof that "the public schools are still alive and well."

Letter to the editor

Interior Secretary James Watt wants to open virtually all of the U.S. coastline to offshore oil drilling. This would have a disastrous impact on the scenic beauty of the Oregon coast, its important tourist industry and our already hurting commercial and charter fishing industries.

Denny Smith, who is running for Congress in our new Fifth Congressional District, supports Watt and his call for opening the Oregon coastline to oil drilling. Indeed, Smith is on record as supporting energy exploration wherever it might occur and at whatever cost to the environment. As he told a town hall convening in McNary last year, "If the energy is out there we should get it."

Smith's stance is not surprising to those of us who have followed his slipshod performance during his first term in Congress. Labeled as a "Reagan Robot" by the Wall Street JOURNAL, Smith also has been found to be the fourth highest Congressional candidate in the country for campaign gifts from big oil and gas

corporation political action committees. With credentials like those, it is small wonder that drilling Oregon's coastlines takes precedence over their preservation in Smith's mind.

Fortunately for we who believe that reason should play into making energy decisions, we will have a choice to Denny Smith in the November Congressional election. State Sen Ruth McFarland opposes Smith in the Fifth District and also opposes his desire to open up the Oregon coast to offshore oil drilling. Sen. McFarland, herself a scientist, offers a reasoned position on energy development as well as an understanding of the importance of preserving our scenic and economically valuable coastal areas.

If elected, Ruth McFarland will represent the interests of Oregonians and not be beholden to Texas and Oklahoma oil interests. Let's dump Denny Smith and put somebody in Congress who represents the true interests of Oregonians.

Paul L. Franklin
Rhododendron