

# Editorial & Opinion

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1982

## Johnny really can't read too well

Johnny can't read, or so parents fear. Locally there's new evidence their fears are real.

Sandy High recently tested ninth-graders on a Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test with results shocking for some feeder grade schools.

While the average freshman who attended little Bull Run School was rated at a middle eleventh-grade reading level, comprehensive and vocabulary reading skills scored far lower for others.

Former Boring Grade School students now in the ninth grade at Sandy High scored only at a 6.7 grade level in reading comprehension and 9.0 grade level in vocabulary on the average.

Former Welches School students at Sandy High scored

almost as poorly, with 7.9 grade level rating average in reading comprehension and 9.3 grade level rating in reading vocabulary.

Former Sandy Elementary Schools students now at SUHS scored a similar 7.9 grade level average in reading comprehension and similar 9.3 grade level average in vocabulary.

Cottrell students scored a better 9.2 grade level rating in reading comprehension and 9.9 grade level average in vocabulary.

Superintendents at area feeder schools have been notified of the reading test scores. In the case of schools with poorer results, perhaps the sub-standard scores should be read very closely for possible program deficiencies. (VB)

## Ask the superintendent:

## Town meeting worthwhile

by DR. JOHN PETERS  
Sandy High Superintendent

**QUESTION:** How may I influence the preparation of next year's budget?  
**ANSWER:** All citizens are invited to attend budget committee meetings. These meetings are always announced, in advance, by the Sandy Post. Patrons are encouraged to comment at these work sessions and also participate in the formal public hearing held at the conclusion of the budget process.

This school year we are holding a "town hall" Monday, Oct. 25, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in rooms 50-51. The purpose of this special public meeting is to hear from our district voters regarding their priorities for our total high school program. The "town hall" is an ideal opportunity for community residents to express their concerns and air their questions about Sandy Union High School.

**QUESTION:** Do you have advisory committees? If so, how may I participate?  
**ANSWER:** We have established several advisory committees including those in ac-



counting, agriculture, athletics, electronics-computer, forestry, industrial mechanics, library, marketing, metals, work experience and curriculum.

These committees meet several times a year and make recommendations for improvement of the programs. If you are interested in becoming involved, contact us at 668-9011, extension 201.

## Salem scene:

## Workmen's Comp improves

by JACK ZIMMERMAN  
Associated Oregon Industries

Part of the cost of doing business in Oregon is declining.

This should be welcome news to those attempting to attract new industry to bolster and diversify our present economy.

The cost reduction involved the amount employers pay for workers' compensation insurance—government-mandated coverage for work-related injury and illness suffered by employees.

Steadily rising in this state since 1966, the cost of workers' compensation insurance has been on a downward path since 1977. Oregon once had the nation's highest costs in this regard, but has declined to a point where approximately 10 other states rank above us from a cost standpoint.

"And there's every reason to believe our costs will continue downward," according to Roy Green, director of the Oregon Workers' Compensation Department.

"Significant changes in our laws have paved the way for reform, reorganization, safety consciousness and competition. They are among the key factors leading to cost reductions," he said.

The most graphic example of the workers' comp cost reduction lies perhaps in total premiums paid by Oregon employers. In 1981 that figure was \$551.6 million. It dropped 23 percent to \$422 million last year and is expected to decrease even further to about \$330 million this year.

Persistent unemployment—particularly in the forest products industry—has contributed to the decline in total premiums. But the biggest contributors lately have been discounting and utilization of what insurance companies refer to as a "file and use" system of determining premiums.

"File and use—permitted by the Legislature in 1981—has been in effect only since July of this year," Green said. "And since then we have witnessed dramatic decreases in premium rates as carriers compete for business."

A former executive and founder of a major private insurance company, Green explained that file and use systems have long been common in casualty and liability insurance fields. Its application to workers' compensation simply means that employers with the least claims are permitted to purchase their insurance at the lowest rates.



"Not only is file and use reducing employers' costs," he said, it is effectively promoting safety in the workplace. Seldom before has any single development produced such tangible results for both workers and their employers."

How big a factor is workers' compensation insurance to employers when figuring their cost of doing business?

It depends on the labor-intensiveness of any given business. In other words, how many workers on the payroll. A rule of thumb has been that payroll is 70 percent of business overhead. Using that formula, workers' comp costs can be significant, indeed.

Logging, for instance, has been a high premium occupation—requiring premiums of more than \$30 per \$100. Clerical classifications on the other hand command rates of less by 50-cents per \$100.

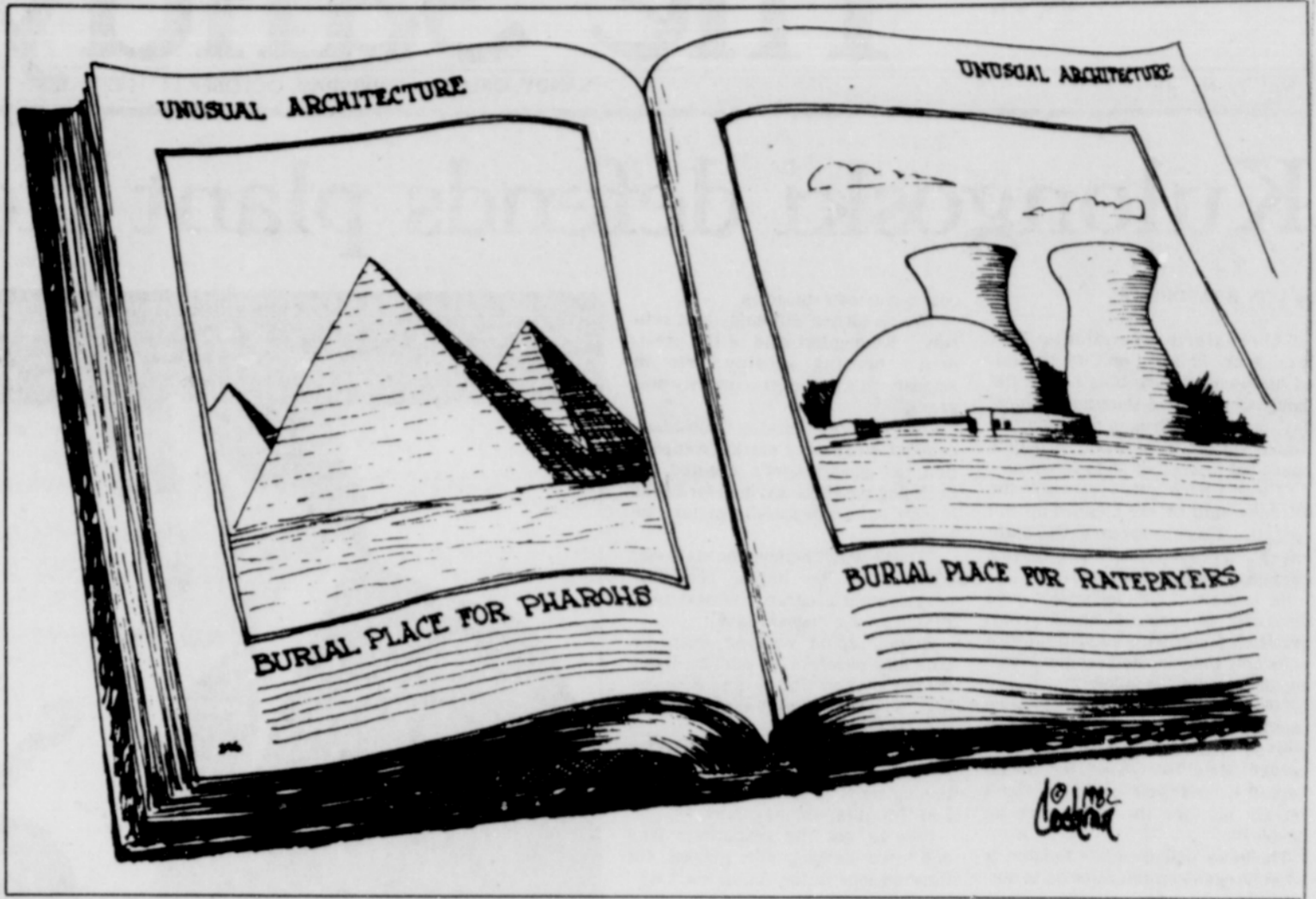
Companies who employ loggers found their cost of doing business inflated by 30 percent of payroll under these conditions. Wood product manufacturers costs were boosted almost 15 percent of payroll, trucking firms about the same amount, canneries more than 12 percent, supermarkets 6 percent, machine shops 8 percent and so on.

Since the advent of file and use procedures, competition among insurance carriers has driven rates for loggers from \$31.69 per \$100 to \$17.42, wood products manufacturers to \$6.48, Trucking firms to \$9.13, canneries to \$8.02, supermarkets to \$2.58 and machine shops to \$3.38 per \$100.

Across-the-board estimates show premium costs down about 50 percent this year, compared with rates charged in 1979.

Green cites other factors that are reducing workers' comp costs, as well. Permanent total disability cases are down significantly from the 299 counted in 1974-75. The figure was 139 in 1979, 110 in 1980 and 141 last year.

"Permanent totals and fatalities are among the most expensive claims," Green explained.



## House race, tax reform spur letters

### Dump Denny

Your Sept. 30 issue had a full page ad in which Rep. Denny Smith advocated his election to Congress from our new 5th Congressional District. Rep. Smith listed only two objectives for representing us in Congress. These were the familiar Reaganomic cries of "Cut government" and "Cut spending."

He has voted for cuts in government spending having to do with people needs. He has voted for huge increases in military spending and more subsidies to nuclear power.

Ruth McFarland, Smith's Democratic opponent, spoke at a chamber of commerce luncheon last Tuesday. The contrast in thinking and vision is marked. McFarland sees government as the right arm and primary instrument for people to use in solving their problems.

I would submit that our 206-year history under government at national to township levels has helped us prosper, show a steady progress in respect and concern for each other and become the envy of the world. Despite our huge and diverse population, we go about our several affairs in peace and considerable harmony, because we have government.

Our government has taxed us and spent much money in building roads, bridges, water systems and sewers. We have invested heavily in education of our

best capital asset, our children and youth. We have protected the health and safety of people. We have shown concern for the weak, the aged, the disabled and especially the children.

### Reagan's robot?

I couldn't agree more with "Oregon Magazine" (Oct. 1982), if I tried. "Denny Smith went to Washington and was never

## Letters to the editor

Rep. Smith has voted for cuts in these programs. McFarland sees many of these as investments that have paid off big returns and others as moral responsibilities.

Ruth McFarland sees the billions we are pouring into mega-death machines as irrational, immoral and a desertion of human needs and hopes for a future. She would use those billions to re-tool our factories, educate every child, protect our environment to seek peace with sincere vigor.

Her first move toward peace would be to challenge our favorite enemy to a verifiable nuclear arms freeze, bringing to a halt the production, deployment and testing of further nuclear weapons systems. Smith has voted no on the freeze, despite overwhelming majorities of people favoring it.

I suggest that a vote for Ruth McFarland is the best choice, the rational one and the one most morally defensible.

W. Pete Sulzbach  
Sandy

heard from again," at least as far as representing Oregonians is concerned.

Smith has been the "Reagan robot" that the "Wall Street Journal" accuses him of being. The big problem is Reagan's economics is devastating to Oregon.

As voters, we can't afford to make the same mistake twice. Don't send Denny back to Congress!! We need the leadership, experience and programs that Ruth McFarland can offer.

Vote Nov. 2, and vote McFarland.  
Nita Brueggeman  
Gresham

### Dump LCDC

The wolf pack is out and in full cry, and their victim as always is the Oregon property owner. The people of Oregon put two measures on the ballot that are designed to protect the rights of property owners (rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.)

The wolves are using all the dirty tricks they can dream up to defeat these two measures. I am referring

to Measure 3 and 6. You hear no discussion of Measures 1 and 2. These two measures were put in by our Salem people and should be studied very carefully by property owners and people who hope to someday own property. You renters should ask yourselves whether it is in your best interest to vote against the rights of property owners, which is taking away rights our Constitution guarantees, rights you will never enjoy, if these rights are not protected now.

Now to the measures our Salem people put on the ballot. As I understand it, both measures are designed again to defeat the will of the people. I have not yet seen these bills, but I understand Measure 1 has to do with raising tax bases without a vote of the people. Do you want a tax base forced on you, without you being allowed to vote on it?

Measure 2 (as I understand it) will affect our initiative and referendum process. Many states are fighting for the right of initiative and referendum, so please do not allow the powers that be to take away this right.

The wolves who put these two measures on the ballot are out to get the property owners' hide.

Ann Lucas  
Estacada

### LCDC scary

Only in the state of Oregon does an LCDC have

the power to condemn your house, condemn your property and put a lien on what you own, without due process of law.

I'll give you a few examples.

A senior citizen sold her home to her son, with permission to live there the rest of her life. The son asked permission to move a mobile home onto the property (167 acres) for him to live there. He was refused. He did not fit into the LCDC comprehensive plan.

A citizen added a fireplace to his home. He immediately was slapped with a \$50 fine per day until LCDC was convinced it didn't violate their comprehensive plan.

A store owner build a roof over a walkway to the entrance of his store to accommodate his customers. He was fined \$100 per day (added to his taxes) until he tore it down.

Vote LCDC out.  
Jean Roberts  
Mehama

### Tax myopia?

Who was the wise guy, anyway, who decided to put a tax-limitation measure on the ballot without alternatives?

If we are ultimately to wind up with both tax limitation and a state sales tax, doesn't it make more sense to initiate the sales tax first—or at least both at the same time?

Shirley Roth  
Boring

## Personally speaking:

## Raceway way out for tax-poor town?

Okay, snookums. So you think we're sorta down and out with the way you think bucks should flow more upstream hereabouts? You say you're scared to death what'll happen to Sleepy Hollow towns like Sandy and sandy places like Sleepy Hollow, when that property tax limitation slices up the small town pie?

Not to worry. Prosperity will roll, when we get our racetrack built.

I got this quiltwork strange plan from those good' boys across the bridge Vancouver way. Seems they were worried, too, about the state going broke and cutting back. Then the idea came to them: gambling. What a notion! Would have worked there, too, but everyone knows your Washingtonian never knows where he's going when in the driver's seat.

We're smarter here. We know what the state deems necessary is what we all salute with our hearts and our paychecks. State-sponsored gambling, then, outta



by VON BRASCHLER

work—especially if we don't. We got a built-in market, too, judging from the number of gambling devices the police have jerked out of local bars lately. I men, somebody must have the bug. Equip racetrack gambling windows with slot machines that look like video games, and even kids will save up quarters.

Sandy City Council wrestled with the demon dice and exorcised him from town a while back, it's true. But city fathers only voted not to sanction card games. That leaves open the gate for horses.

This is the ultimate non-polluting light industry city planners have lusted after. It's the best kind of tourism, with people who drop in for only a couple hours to drop seeds of loose bucks and leave, scarcely needing a toilet, phone or traffic light while visiting.

They'll get the traffic lights, though. Oh, we'll make a great case with the Oregon Highway Division for traffic lights and welcome signs. You think the state's been kinda scotch on lights with Sandy's 13,000 daily cars through town so far? You think it's cheap that Vic can blow up state visitor signs in front of Californians, but the state won't let Sandy put up a decent greeting at its border? This will change when the hoards of happy

betters beat a path to Sandy's track.

The track, you see, will be the highway. We'll run the steeds up one side of town east and back around the Y, headed down the homestretch west to the light.

Gotta have flashy lights. Those lights will start the nags like dragsters at the Eliminations. The big red light at the finish line also will shut them down.

Imagine the fun we could have raising bucks for the city. Since we got a gal for mayor, she could be our trophy girl and put the big horseshoe of roses around the winner.

So if you think that free chance the Sandy Chamber gives you to guess when snow hits town and win a free vacation's fun, wait'll the horses hit town. "Catch the Pioneer Spirit" booster buttons now showing up in town might be rewarded for the big time: "Catch Spirit."

Wasn't that the name of Icabod Crane's nag, when he lost his head in Sleepy Hollow?