

## Pre-session town hall good idea

Controversial Ballot Measures 3 and 6 were apparently defeated in Tuesday's general election, but voters sent a message to Oregon's Legislators. They'd better keep tabs on the homefolks, if re-election is on their mind.

With the maverick support of Ballot Measure 3 by Clackamas County voters, it's obvious the locals don't go along with all messages to the Legislature statewide.

If the closeness of the statewide races to limit property taxes and abolish statewide planning doesn't get the attention of those who convene in Salem early next year, the idea of the local representative gives a chance for locals to re-emphasize whatever

message they tried to send with their Tuesday ballots.

Bob Shiprack, elected Tuesday to represent Sandy and Mt. Hood in House District 23, has proposed a town hall meeting prior to his trip to Salem to get his pulse on area voters' wishes and ideas.

A similar forum is planned for all new Clackamas County legislators in Oregon City, but Shiprack's idea for local participation is laudable. It would give area voters one last opportunity to tell their representatives their feelings about property taxes, planning and the state in general.

Let's hope he and new Sen. Steve Starkovich follow through with the idea. (DD)

## Ask the superintendent:

### Conferences give parents insight

by DR. JOHN PETERS  
Sandy High Superintendent

QUESTION: Are you going to continue to have conference days?

ANSWER: Yes. The first semester conference days will be held Monday, Nov. 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 3:30 to 8 p.m. Students will be transported home on Nov. 8 at 10:50 a.m. Students will be picked up on a delayed schedule on Nov. 9 (approximately four hours after the usual time) and will be transported home at 2:45 p.m.

Conference days are set aside for parents to visit with staff about their child's progress in classwork and in meeting the school's scholastic, attendance and conduct requirements. Opportunities will be provided for visits with teachers, counselors, support staff and administrators.

We invite you to call the staff members with whom you wish to visit for an appointment, or just simply drop in.

QUESTION: What was the purpose of the Clackamas County Education Day at Clackamas Town Center?

Our ESD invited county schools to display features of their educational pro-



grams at Clackamas Town Center on Saturday, Oct. 27, in order to promote student achievements. We were especially gratified by the number of people who stopped at our display.

We exhibited woodworking, metals, journalism, creative writing and science projects, as well as student art work. We even had two highly detailed world maps which students had drawn.

It was worthwhile for us to participate. We plan to do it again next year.

## Salem scene:

### Legislature eyes numbers game

by JACK ZIMMERMAN  
Associated Oregon Industries

Oregon's voters have done their collective thing.

The general election is over. But some other elections will be occurring in Salem in the days and weeks to come. And they have significance often wasted on a large part of the electorate that casts ballots on election day.

These other elections are conducted among partisan majorities and minorities in the Legislature's two chambers—House and Senate. And the outcome of those elections generally provides a key to the type of legislative session that will follow.

Majority parties in House and Senate will elect a speaker and president, respectively. Also chosen will be lesser legislative officers, speaker and president pro tempore, majority leaders and the like.

Minority party members in each chamber will do likewise. They will elect minority leaders and assistant minority leaders.

All of these offices have a degree of clout in the legislative process. But by tradition and virtue of something called the Salem Numbers Game, the individuals who emerge from this exercise as house speaker and senate president occupy the real seats of greatest power.

There are exceptions to this rule. Depending on the numbers.

Basically, those numbers are two—31 and 16.

The House consists of 60 members, the Senate 30. Majorities are supposed to rule each. Hence the significance of 31 in the lower chamber and 16 in the Senate. The majorities and minorities are created at the polls during the general election and individual voters have little influence on the outcome by themselves.

It's their collective effort that counts. Once in a while there's a 16-14 split in the Senate and the same squeaky margin is a numerical possibility in the House. And when the margins are anywhere near that close, the relative power of speaker and president are somewhat tenuous. They are usually built upon something called a coalition.

Coalition leadership usually evolves when factions within the numerical majority join with members of the minority to prevent clear-cut rule by the real majority. This sort of thing often involves moderate Democrats defecting to the Republican side. Or, it might involve squabbles between rural and urban

elements.

The power that accrues normally to the speaker and president rests on their right to name leaders of the various committees and to assign bills to those committees when they are introduced. This power has been watered down somewhat by more democratic rules in the House than in the Senate. But the result, presumably, is that the two presiding officers have the power to control the fate of bills and thereby orchestrate the conduct of any given session.

Again, there are exceptions. Speakers and presidents often have to bargain away some of their power by promising to appoint specific individuals to committee chairmanships or other positions in order to get elected. If enough of this pre-election bargaining occurs, it's conceivable the presiding officer's wishes could be thwarted on some issues during a session.

Technically then, the Salem Numbers Game should consist of figures even larger than 31 and 16. And the personal philosophies of the Legislators in the respective majorities play a role in the game.

Democrats have held numerical superiority in the Oregon Senate since 1958. But during that period it has experienced coalition leadership on occasion. House Demos also have enjoyed the edge of the numbers games since 1972.

Those who do pay attention to the Salem Numbers Game may be a little more sophisticated when once more it becomes time to select and support candidates for seats in the next Legislature.

By themselves, individuals don't really have a chance to play the game. But awareness of how it works has not been wasted on some groups. Take a look at the spending reports by political action committees in behalf of specific candidates this election. Compare the spending with who was elected.

That will reveal how individuals—by joining together to support, work and vote for legislative candidates—can become actual players in the Numbers Game in Salem.



## Letters:

### Swim committee cites local support

Sept. 25, a group of high school swimmers, parents and friends met and formed a committee to Reinstate Sandy Swim Teams (R.S.S.T.). The high school board approved our petition to privately fund the swim teams so that they could continue to represent SUHS in the Mt. Hood league this season. Coaches Mark Smith and Carl Neuenfeldt offered to waive their coaching salaries and volunteered their time.

A commitment was made to raise \$5,125.20 before Nov. 8.

Appeals were made to parents of the swimmers, patrons at large, service organizations, local businesses and the swimmers and their peer groups themselves. The Sandy Kiwanis club volunteered to act as the non-profit organization for tax write-off contributions.

Parents and friends contacted individuals, businesses and clubs for

donations. The swimmers were involved in pepperoni sales, sold tickets and helped serve at Paola's benefit spaghetti dinner, assisted at a chili feed, sponsored a school dance, worked the concession stand at the last football game and volunteered at the Sandy Optimist club's haunted house.

Last week our goal was realized, and as our fund raising activities are brought to completion, the amount raised beyond our goal will be used to pay coaching salaries, establishing as much normalcy as possible to the program.

The purpose of this letter is to thank those organizations and individuals who generously donated money, time and energy to our drive. The following is a list of outstanding contributors in those areas:

- Fred Proett
- Carlson Chevrolet
- John Hillyard
- Sandy Lockers
- George Morgan
- Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Eldridge
- Sandy Lions Club
- Sandy V.F.W.
- Robert Bignall
- Clackamas County Bank
- Clyde Sutherland
- Sandy Lions Auxiliary
- Williams Thriftway
- Kiwanis Club of Sandy
- John McMahan
- Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Paola
- Franz Lamer
- Sandy Optimist Club
- and the members of the swim team who were willing to "help themselves."

Thank you. Nick Roth, R.S.S.T. chairman



## Personally speaking:

### Apples for Halloween unpopular

Keeping tabs on Sandy Union High School is one of my responsibilities at The Post.

And sometimes, I don't get no respect.

Todd Byron fooled me last week. I watched intently as he filled me in on a new trick play the football team had supposedly installed.

After getting to the part where the holder on extra-point kicks scores his touchdown, Bryron squirted me with his trick ink pen.

I will occasionally eat desserts, but usually I am able to avoid foods that contain sugar. So Halloween always poses a problem for me.

I have to decide whether to go against my own good judgment and give the kids candy, or risk a trick.

This year a bag of Hood River apples thrilled the few youngsters who came to my apartment about as much as a trip to the dentist.

I can take it when the kids leave the apples in my yard, or break them up on my sidewalk.

But let me tell you, I was embarrassed by the hearty laughter a few guests had at my expense. Despite my enthusiastic delivery, nearly all the trick-or-treaters moaned upon learning their treat would be an apple.

The Mt. Hood Conference's Kansas Plan playoff system has



by SCOTT NEWTON

generated quite a bit of interest. I didn't see the games Monday between Parkrose, Centennial and The Dalles, but several people told me they were plenty exciting.

After one round the three teams were tied up, just as they were in regular season play.

(I was rooting for The Dalles, the team that was finally eliminated from the AAA playoffs.)

With the Kansas Plan, each team runs four downs from the oppo-

nent's 10-yard line. Going second is an advantage because it's obvious what it's going to take to win. If a field goal will do, there's no reason to bother throwing a pass.

Some people favor a coin toss to decide ties, others think something like total yards gained, total points, first downs or other criteria ought to be used.

Certainly it was no big advantage to The Dalles to drive all the way to the David Douglas field to play a few downs against Centennial and Parkrose, teams that just fought a little hometown traffic.

I like the idea, though. For media people, it's great. Instead of waiting on a two-hour game, lots of action is crammed into a few minutes.

For leagues with budget problems this may be the answer. Using the Kansas Plan format, entire seasons could be completed on one sunny Saturday afternoon. Only one school would even have to maintain a football field.

the time to vote during the day, just like their adult counterparts in the "real world."

Locally, Jim Duff defeated Ruth Loundree by two votes, 76-74.

Most students voted in some of the more publicized races, with Republican Vic Atiyeh winning over Ted Kulongoski 98-61.

In the 5th District race for U.S. Representative, incumbent Republican Denny Smith won 90-72 over Democrat Ruth McFarland of Boring.

In the state senate race in District 14 Republican Joe Davis edged Steve Starkovich, 75-74.

In the 23rd District, Democrat Robert Shiprack won 80-77 over Mark Pihl in the state representative race.

In county elections Republican Bob Reilly won 75-62 over Democrat Juanita Orr for the clerk's position, Democrat Dale Harlan won 80-55 over Republican Bev Henderson for commissioner, and Republican John Vandenberg won 72-59 over Thelma Hooper for treasurer.

Measure 3 was defeated 99-49, and Measure 6 went down 87-73.

And in a vote that may have hit close to home, being that some of those voting probably work at gas stations, Measure 4 went down 100-64.