

# Editorial & Opinion

## Settle Heritage Square mess

The Sandy Chamber of Commerce has made an offer to play peace-maker in the dispute over city LID 4 assessments. This shouldn't be dismissed lightly.

New chamber president Arnold Poutala made the offer recently before the city council, citing a need to bury the hatchet over the Heritage Square city parking lot.

He suggested the chamber could provide a special forum where assessed property owners and city officials could discuss their differences.

"The level of public controversy surrounding the municipal parking lot project has reached the proportion where all responsible segments of the Sandy community must pause and deeply consider the damaging effect this issue has caused and where further controversy is likely to lead," Poutala said in a formal state-

ment. As Poutala pointed out, neither side in the long court battle appears capable of complete victory over assessment levels. There is, however, ample room for negotiation—provided both sides are willing to sit down together in meaningful discussion.

This stalemate over payment of the parking lot is costing the city plenty, hanging like a lead balloon over property owners and now threatening innocents on the street who might as taxpayers be forced to pay.

Already one concerned property owner at Heritage Square has voiced interest in Poutala's offer for the chamber to act as arbitrator. City hall, however, has been mute.

Let's give the chamber's offer to open meaningful discussion toward resolution a chance. (VB)

## Child abuse program timely

Child abuse has increased dramatically statewide and nationally, and Clackamas County is no exception.

The good news in Welches, however, is that school officials want to do something to fight back.

Welches School Board recently voted to start a personal safety program for students in February.

County officials won't have breakdown by communities on the growing problem of abuse. However, they already know countywide sexual abuse by babysitters is up 81 percent and some 1,000 county cases of physical abuse last year left bruises.

The total sexual, physical and emotion abuse reports coun-

tywide last year exceeded 3,300. That, indeed, is excessive.

Many abused children, however, go unreported and won't report themselves for fear or embarrassment.

School officials hope to educate those kids about their rights and how to report abuse.

The belief now is that unemployment in Oregon has contributed indirectly toward child abuse.

Welches School and their advisors from Children's Services Division and county juvenile office deserve praise for tackling this closet problem that exists in every community.

Perhaps Welches can provide a regional model for other personal safety programs. (VB)



## Letters to the editor:

### 'Nix sales tax — just added tax'

#### No answer

Oregonians, mostly, are honest, hard-working people. They probably will soon read in the news, "State Budget deficit 600 million dollars." When they read news like this, they begin casting about to contrive some way for the State to get money.

What most people don't seem to realize is that a budget is made of what the bureaucrats want to spend, not what is necessary. I even hear people figuring more ways to tax themselves. A sales tax is the answer, they say.

Let me caution you, it would be just an added tax. Oregon only voted an income tax to relieve or eliminate property taxes. Did it do so? Income taxes are up, so are property taxes.

A lottery, then is the answer, some say. Washington has a lottery—successful they say—but is it meeting their budget? No way.

Washington is talking of raising their sales tax. The lottery, too, is just an added tax.

Keep track of what your legislators do. It is your money they talk of spending. Some of them may be honest and hard working, but some of them are not honest. Some of them are not even truthful.

By the way, did you know that a division administrator (agriculture dept.) went to Brazil for a month—on your money? He attended a Rotary Club convention. He made no report when he returned, nor was he asked to.

Is this honest and hard working? (Supposedly, he went to encourage trade.)  
Jean Roberts  
Mehama

Oregon. Did you see the news I saw?

I called the office of immigration to ask them to deport the leader of this group, so his followers would also leave our state and nation. I was told by a very nice lady to put my protest in writing and send it to their office, and she asked to be sent copies to all our people in Washington, D.C.

I am sharing the letter I sent to Immigration, Senators Packwood, Hatfield, Congressmen AuCoin, Denny Smith, Bob Smith, Jim Weaver and Ron Wyden.

Address for the Senate is U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510.

For the U.S. House the zip is 20515.

I give you this information in hopes you will want to join me in my efforts to rid our state and nation of a threat of take over. The following letter was sent to the above mentioned persons.

The letter of immigration

goes to district director, U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service, 511 N.W. Broadway, Portland, Or 97209.

District Director U.S. Immigration & Naturalization  
Dear Sir,

Please deport the person know as the "Guru" of Antelope, OR. I fear that group poses a grave threat to the State of Oregon and the United States. When one of that groups stands before a T.V. camera and says "We are going to paint Portland and the State of Oregon red—this is NOT to be suffered—if the "Guru" is deported his followers will also depart.

Ann Lucas  
Estacada

Festival July 9-10.

Deadline for applications is March 31.

All applications are juried and all work must be original. No "kits" or mass produced items will be allowed.

All interested people should write to P.O. Box 674, Sandy 97055 for further information.

Darrell Dempster  
Chairman

#### Thank you

We wish to express our most sincere appreciation to our family, friends and neighbors who pitched in and helped us in the cleanup and repairs after our recent house fire.

Also, thanks to the Red Cross and Sandy Fire Department. We couldn't have done it all without your help. Thank you.  
Diane and Larry Zimmerman  
man  
Sandy

#### Festival ready

The Sandy Mountain Festival Committee now is soliciting applications from artists and crafts people of the area to participate in the 1983 Sandy Mountain

## Salem scene:

### Tough session lies ahead

by JACK ZIMMERMAN  
Associated Oregon Industries

Happy definitely is not the word to describe the mood of the 62nd Legislative Assembly, as it convened regular session in Salem last week.

Somber is more like it. Seldom has an Oregon Assembly begun deliberations under more trying and demanding conditions—at least in times of peace.

Other Assemblies have had to cope with recessions, even depressions. Others have been ousted from capitol confines by fire. Many have been saddened by the passing of former leaders of government. But it is a combination of events and circumstances that created the greyness inside the marble building hunched warily under winter's sun.

Indeed, by mid-week even the sky assumed the mood as fog shrouded the structure in which former Gov. Tom McCall lay waiting well-merited state funeral.

Normal session-opening confusion for freshman lawmakers was compounded for everyone, as the House attempted business as usual with a new and inexperienced clerical staff and the Senate languished as majority Democrats struggled tardily to elect a leader and achieve all-important organization of committees.

Lacking organization in the upper chamber, the body appeared even more perplexed than anticipated by Gov. Vic Atiyeh's inaugural charge to limit property taxes and balance his proposed budget with \$550 million in new income taxes.

Plagued by a years-long recession that doggedly persists, most members postured defensively in the face of inevitable onslaught by interest groups bent on achieving their goals at the expense of others.

Although warmly welcomed by members of both parties and packed House Chamber galleries during Monday's joint-session inaugural ceremonies, GOP Gov. Atiyeh's opening speech was interrupted by applause only once when he pledged determined support of efforts to preserve the Columbia River Gorge in the manner his predecessors had achieved protection of the state's beaching and Willamette River Greenway.

Beginning his 25th year in public life the governor who was returned to office by an overwhelming mandate, exhorted Legislators with what he described as their collective last chance to reform property taxes and ameliorate difficulties in



the state's singular land use planning system.

To emphasize his points, he reminded them of the margins by which the same voters who re-elected him came so close to repealing the land use law and passing what he called a property tax rollback that would have "unfairly devastated local government and schools in Oregon."

Barring legislative action to limit what he termed the appalling growth of property taxes, Atiyeh predicted yet another initiative to do the job.

"And the next time it will pass," he declared.

He reiterated his land use proposals to make the system better, faster and less abrasive. Without legislative approval, he predicted yet another initiative attempt that would threaten to "cast into oblivion" years of public effort to achieve a satisfactory blueprint for the state's future growth and development.

His other legislative priorities include an enhanced economic development effort, public safety in the form of added jail space and additional crime-fighting funds for State Police and the Attorney General. He advocates a series of steps to provide assistance for the state's keystone forest products industry and restoration of momentum in a higher education system in partnership with efforts for economic development.

Referring to the recession which has "stretched the fabric of society very thin," Gov. Atiyeh in the conclusion asked the Assembly to act in behalf of people, to seek long-term solutions and maintain the uniqueness that is Oregon.

Considering the magnitude and complexities of his challenge—coupled with the events and circumstances of the time—little wonder the 70 men and 30 women elected to this Legislature begin their task in an atmosphere of pensive sobriety.

## Personally speaking

### Magazine boosts stock of objects

Inanimate objects always seem a touch sarcastic when they give directions.

Now that Time magazine has named a computer its Man of the Year, I suspect the tone of their voice is just going to get haughtier.

It must give a cardboard box smug satisfaction to tell somebody which way is up. I imagine it really makes the day for an exit sign to leave unbundled pedestrians out in the cold. I swear doors smirk condescendingly when I jerk on a "PUSH" and snap myself out of a day dream with a smarting elbow.

It could be paranoia, but I think letting inanimate objects tell us what to do subverts the natural order of things.

For instance, a person makes a box. So, what does it do but turn around and tell him what to do, even if he doesn't want to do it. Either people are masochistic or invention is the mother of bewilderment.

I subscribe to the latter theory which would make bewilderment a grandchild of necessity and help explain why people make boxes that tell them what to do. Take your basic frozen pizza box for instance.

Right there on back of the box, under cooking instructions, it says, "Place directly on center rack." Why would anybody put



by DAN DILLON

that on a box, unless they don't eat frozen pizza or have a concession on oven cleaners?

Everyone knows those greasy, cheesy by-products slip right off the crust through the grill to the oven floor where they stick like crustaceans. As the dough of the crust wakes up from its frozen hibernation it does what comes naturally to anybody waking up in an unfamiliar spot. It grabs the first thing it sees which, in an oven's case, is the grill.

Those pizza boxes are a crafty lot. They know that the greasy, cheesy by-products that didn't

slide off when the thing cooked will slide off when you pry the crust off the grill.

Sure, you can cheat and put a cookie sheet under the thing to save oven-cleaning duties, but scraping all the by-product goop back on the shredded crust for dinner isn't haute cuisine.

Not all inanimate objects have such a nefarious intent. Some are distrustful simply by their innocuous nature.

They aren't around as much anymore, but remember those yellow smiley-face decals that said, "Have a nice day?"

What if you already had other plans?

Some mornings, no matter how pleasant their intent, the reaction those little grins garnered was eye-opening and, at times, shocking. Is it just me or does it jade your view of humanity to see a grown-up trudging down the street to work, come across one of those smiley devils and start screaming, "Don't tell me what to do."

Some inanimate objects' labels and instructions go beyond "This End Up," "Refrigerate After Opening" or "Shake Well Before Using." Some are instruments of temptation. For the weak-willed, those are the worst kind: "Open Me First."

One in particular is the champ. For every closet criminal in the

wild, what could be the safest act of lawlessness imaginable? What could be more tempting than putting your fingers behind the tag on the mattress that says, "Do Not Remove Under Penalty of Law." A criminal act without leaving home and, unless someone looks under the sheet, seemingly undetectable.

But like all those self-serving signs, it knows good and well that no one is going to mess with it or else some honker like that Magnum P.I. guy will crash down the door and catch the culprit with the goods in hand.

What do you say then? "Gee whiz, Magnum P.I. guy, don't hurt me. I'm a really restless sleeper and this got ripped off in my sleep and I was just trying to sew it back on my bed?"

In a world where a magazine names a computer Man of the Year, anything is possible. Our mattresses and pizza boxes hold the power of Big Brother.

We should grab hold of ourselves before it's too late and stop letting our products tell us what to do. Or is it really so terrible that Time magazine made an inanimate object Man of the Year?

The television football season has been making men inanimate objects for years. Maybe Time just got around to honoring one of our own.