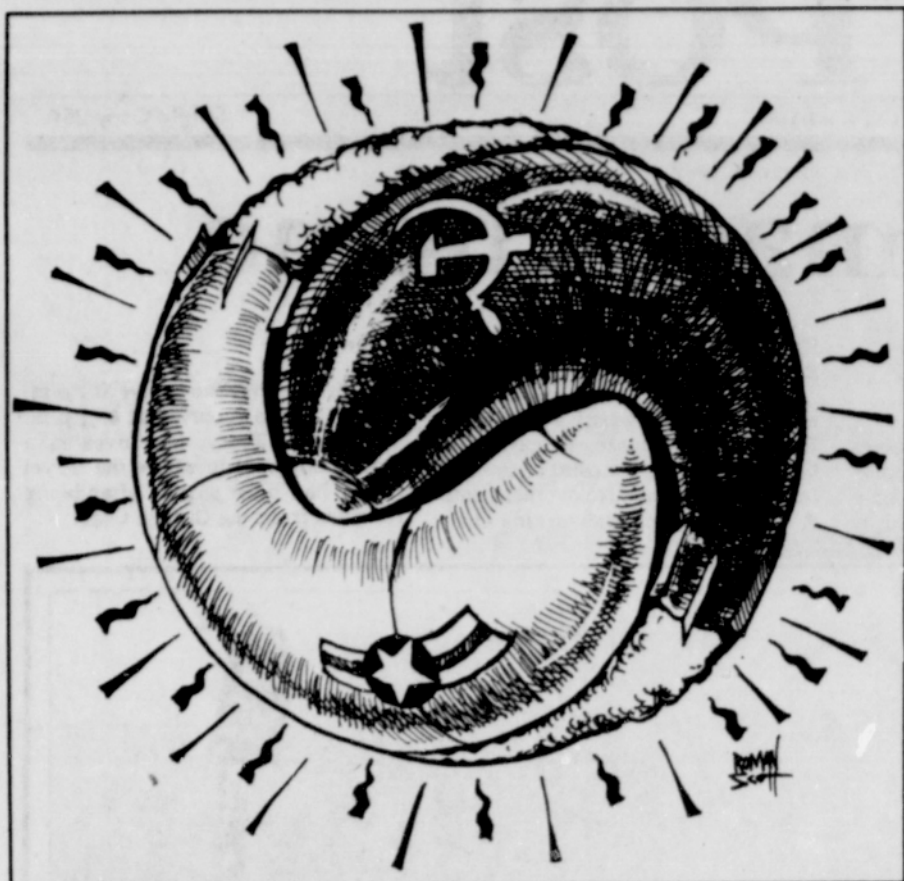


Editorial & Opinion



SUHS firing angers readers

A vendetta?

In his comments on the board action to fire Dr. Jack Peters as the superintendent of Sandy Union High School, Wayne John, current chairman of the board states (Jan. 27, Sandy Post), "Sometimes the climate of a district changes, and we need to make a change to fit that climate."

As a former board of SUHS, I question the wisdom behind such prolific prose given out by Mr. Johnson to the press for we, the taxpayers, to accept without question or recourse. It is my opinion that many areas of concerns were not considered in the termination of Dr. Peters.

Change is very costly these days in any shape or form, and in this particular situation Dr. Peters, the taxpayers, and the students of our district are going to carry the brunt of the consequences of "climate control."

When I was on the board in November, it was my understanding that in the informal evaluation of the superintendent's position held at the high school in an executive session that the full board rated Dr. Peters satisfactory or better in the majority of the areas considered. He also had achieved the goals for his position set forth by the board.

Granted, the nucleus of that board has changed since I resigned in December. One member had been appointed for a total of 17 days when he cast his ballot to fire a man who has not missed a board, executive or budget session since being hired by our district in 1977.

Did the "climate" change so drastically in the district that the board used its infinite leadership to fire a man at approximately 10:28 p.m., after having three known executive sessions on the subject during the course of one evening? Are we as taxpayers ready to foot the bill for the board's action which could run into a bill of more than \$50,000. Are you students going to be concerned as to which educational courses that are going to be eliminated in all eventuality, so a budget can be submitted to the voters that will pass? Did the board give enough thought to allocation of fixed funds before opting for a change? The district has an attorney on retainer, but was he consulted by the full board before their decision was made to dismiss a superintendent who has a valid contract for another year and one half?

To my knowledge after serving over six years on the board, Dr. Peters has carried out his responsibilities and duties as one of Oregon's finest school administrators. Dedication to making Sandy Union High School grow in both academic and vocational fields is evident by our student records.

Being a board member is time-consuming and a very demanding job, but passing a school budget is even more difficult when elected citizens use poor judgment with the limited funds that currently are available to educate our youth. Maybe a refresher class in math is needed by some of those in elected positions of authority and leadership. It is also time for a policy concerning the employment of close relatives of board members at the school.

Finally, I ask the general public if there is any question of personal vendettas behind the decisions to fire Dr. Jack Peters.

Ralph E. Griffin, Jr.
Rhododendron

Recall board

I feel the Sandy High School Board of Directors should be recalled because of the firing of Dr. Jack

Peters.

In my opinion, he is a man of integrity, honesty and compassion. His character is above reproach. This thing they

A board member with tenure of less than three weeks could not have had sufficient background to make this type of major judgment in one and a half

Perhaps Mr. Johnson is right. Perhaps it is time for a change. However, it is also time for the current board members to realize that the economic climate mandates that costs of education be frozen. The board will have to do a lot of talking to get Sandy residents, hard-pressed by the recession, to vote "yes" on any future school budgets or levies if this is an example of their idea of balancing the budget.

Sandi Cleveland
Sandy

Letters to the editor

have done is a great mistake.

My deceased husband, Paul E. Tucker, was active on the Sandy High School Board from 1977 to his death in June, 1982.

Ruth G. Tucker
Sandy

Credit due

In my opinion, Sandy High School has improved more than 200 percent during the last five years.

meetings. If change had been wanted, a non-extension of contract would have given Dr. Peters the opportunity to search for other professional opportunities. The act of firing and breaking a contract creates grave doubt in the minds of the public that there may be a major problem they do not know about.

The board has had many opportunities in workshops and from the State School

Fire unwise

Yesterday we heard of the firing of Dr. Peters by the school board. Although we don't know him personally, we feel that this was an unwise action by

SUHS meets key

The budget board of Sandy Union High School District 2 currently is reviewing the proposed budget for 1983-84, which will be presented as a tax levy for approval or disapproval on May 17. Notice of these public meetings has been published, but these notices are easy to overlook and attendance has been sparse.

The Sandy Education Association believes it is in the best interest of students to have the board prepare a budget that will result in a levy taxpayers can approve on the first vote. The expense, uncertainty and stress of multiple elections causes disruption of the educational process.

We urge local residents to come listen to the budget presentation in order to make recommendations concerning the financing of specific programs at the hearing. Such input decreases the chances that a budget will be prepared, then rejected at the polls. Please don't wait to express disapproval until the only means of doing so is a "no" vote.

Public meetings of the budget board are now scheduled for tonight (Feb. 3), Feb. 9 and Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m., Room 56 at the high school. More meetings will be scheduled by the board as necessary, and a public hearing will be held to take testimony before the budget is finally approved.

Although the budget board meetings are open to the public, the board is not obligated to receive comments from the audience until the actual hearing. We sincerely hope for a large turnout, so the board will have adequate expressions of local feelings, as they complete the budget.

Gary Adams, president
Sandy Education Association

Save vet homes

Veterans are losing their homes! Increased property taxes in the amount of \$50 to \$500 a month is the cause. Where were these veterans last November when the property tax limit (Measure 3) was on the ballot?

In 1982 there were 351 veterans properties foreclosed. There were 298 homes relinquished. How many more will there be in 1983?

Most property taxes are earmarked for schools. We all want good schools, but are we getting our money's worth?

I doubt that the legislature or the governor will do anything to relieve this situation. Citizens, you had better get up another initiative petition. This time it will pass.

Jean Roberts
Mehama

Free fire wood

Well, folks, we've had it again. Now a branch of our federal government is taking away more of our rights—rights given to us by Teddy Roosevelt under the Homestead Act for 13 cords of free firewood per family from federal land.

Our local Forest Service claims they haven't enough wood, so they are going to charge us for the remaining wood, wood that already is ours. The Bear Springs Ranger District burns more slash and cull piles than the people cut for wood. I personally have seen them do so. Go for a drive the past the ranger station on Highway 216, and you will see a part of what I mean.

Our government tells us to conserve energy, so we find an alternate for heating oil, gas and electricity to heat our homes. Now the government is taking that away from us. I urge you to write your congressman and tell him our problems. Do it before it is too late.

Brian and Mona Phillips
Corbett

Superintendent firing hasty

Recent decision by Sandy High School's board to fire five-year superintendent Jack Peters in mid-contract without prior bad evaluations seems hasty.

Admittedly, the new school board generally is young in experience, with only one member having served longer than 18 months and one only days. Then there's the charge of power play by some board members, possibly to aid relatives or friends who work for the district.

Such conflict-of-interest charge may not be true of board members, but the question wouldn't even arise if the school district had a conflict-of-interest prohibition similar to the one the Hoodland Fire District wrestled over.

Indeed, two Sandy High board members do have relatives on staff.

The firing without warning comes as a slap in the face to an administrator who reshaped a budget and administrative facilities including records in two weeks from ashes of an untimely fire at Christmas.

It's further insult to an administrator who hasn't ever mis-

ed a board meeting, budget hearing or executive session.

It's also confusing how the board without warning can fire an administrator and then turn around and give him special assignments that indicate board confidence in the man.

To fire a trusted administrator without tangible cause and incur contract buy-out costs of at least \$42,958 just to "change course" seems untimely, costly and hasty.

"It appears my dismissal was obviously planned with utmost secrecy in an apparent attempt to avoid public scrutiny of the board's reasons for my dismissal or to allow me time for a response," Dr. Peters said in a prepared statement.

Peters has met with a Salem attorney to pursue legal rights under his contract that expires next June 30, a year after his effective termination date set this summer.

It seems hasty to railroad this board decision to fire Peters at this critical time of budget passage and administration building rebuilding. Perhaps the board should swallow their pride and reconsider. (VB)

Salem scene:

New Senate leader ready

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Although considered something of an enigma by many of his peers in the Oregon Assembly's upper chamber, Ed Fadeley explains himself simply and succinctly.

He's the product of: "...how I was raised up."

That vernacularism hints broadly the smalltown Missouri upbringing he recollects with relish.

The newest president of Oregon's Senate is a native of the "show me" state, born Dec. 13, 1929 and reared in tiny Grant City (Pop. 1,215 then and 3,008 now) near St. Joseph on the Kansas border.

His mother had a unique method of stimulating her youngest son to achieve. Nothing he ever did was the result of his particular efforts, she told him. His brightness was hereditary—he was born smart, she said.

While her admonition continues to stimulate his academic curiosity, the Democrat Senator from Eugene—who ultimately graduated tops in his law school class—recalls he didn't excel in every grade school subject. Penmanship and deportment were problem areas.

Elected to the House in 1960, he was part of the Legislature that produced a flawed reapportionment and subsequently petitioned the Supreme Court against it. When the state's highest legal authority declared the act unconstitutional and granted Lane county a third seat in the Senate, it was Fadeley who ran and won the position.

Poetic justice, claims the smalltown lawyer with a big city practice that includes more trial work than most.

Intervening years have seen the Lane county Senator's passion for constitutional law earn the sobriquet as the upper chamber's "Great Scrutinizer," one who from a seat on the Judiciary Committee, has constantly nit-picked legislation to death or satisfactory passage.

Indeed, he counts among his greatest accomplishments bad bills defeated as well



Legislative Report from the State Capital
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as good laws enacted. Others include welfare's WORTH program, encouraging the needy to find jobs, early lobby registration law and ultimate achievement of financing for small-scale renewable resource electric energy generation.

Now from his newly acquired catbird seat, he intends to do whatever is necessary to keep state government and our education system strong—leading the Assembly in achieving those goals at a financial level the people will support.

After more than two decades of service in the Legislature, no small number of fellow lawmakers believe his tactics often reveal a continuing deficiency in the department department.

Several early events and conditions influenced the ultimate political career of the State Senator who was the youngest ever elected to that body in 1962 after a term in the House. He isn't certain but suspects his father was a Republican because the family abhorred the machine politics of Kansas City's Boss Pendergast.

Although many were surprised Fadeley emerged as president after the months-long stalemate between rival rural and urban Democrat Senate factions, his quest for the position dates back at least to 1977. Among his personality traits is a self-confidence at least equal to his dogged determination.

Lest anyone question his credentials as quarterback in the 62nd Oregon Assembly, be aware Ed Fadeley was an all-conference tackle at Grant City high before he was forced to forego extra-curricular athletic activities.