

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Air SUHS flap before harm

Some combatants in the crusade to save Sandy High superintendent Jack Peters' job are in a position to stave off a bigger community fight that could endanger the district's delicate budget levy May 17.

Peters was fired by the district board for undisclosed reasons, but retained through the school year. Many baffled, upset district patrons have responded with petitions to recall four of the five board members who gave him the ax without public explanation. (The fifth member hasn't been on board long enough to recall.)

Peters himself should air the issues held secret between him and the board. If he goes public to air the dirty laundry, the board will be allowed legally to open up. They can't disclose the executive session reasons for Peter's dismissal, but Peters himself can.

After the budget election and Peters' final days when his contract is paid off this June, it would be too late for such public disclosure and discussion to do

anyone any good.

But the 30 persons who currently circulate recall petitions in homes and clubs could stave off a costly split of the town, too. They're about halfway their first week to the minimum amount of signatures needed for a recall election.

They hope to get three times the number of signatures needed, according to Alan Berck, so that board members voluntarily resign under a public outcry. That sounds cold, but if they're right and get the numbers to back them, they could stop the arguments now by show of support for Peters and against the board.

That might even save the budget, which ironically is the board's piece of work.

Division of the community will only hurt Sandy High School. The best thing might be for Peters to discuss reasons stated for his firing after a recent poor evaluation. Then the whole thing can get a good airing, and the district can breathe easier. (VB)

Representative's report:

Jobs project eyes Sandy

by BOB SHIPRACK
State Representative, Dist. 23

H.B. 2373, which has passed the House, has been the subject of a great deal of controversy. Having sat on the committee that sent it to the floor and also having a personal interest, I feel it is necessary to explain exactly what it does.

CETA or the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act expired Sept. 30. Last year, the Reagan Administration developed and passed into law JTPA or the Job Training Partnership Act. It is a radical departure from CETA in that the State has broad powers of interpretation and enforcement of federal training funds. Other changes specify that these funds cannot be used for compensation for individuals involved in training, only tuition, books and a limited amount for administration. The relationship with the private sector is greatly enhanced. Private Industry Councils (PIC's) gave equal authority with local elected officials to establish procedures and policies for training in the private sector. Public sector jobs are specifically prohibited. JTPA gives the authority for administration of this act to the governors of the states, and members of the PIC fully represent the local business community.

JTPA mandated that each state identify those workers defined as "dislocated." JTPA gives a loose definition to include people who have been laid-off and unlikely to return to their former industry or job, terminated because of plant closure and



the long term unemployed particularly those older individuals who may have barriers to employment by reason of age.

HB 2373 does two things. First it will allow unemployment benefits to be paid to individuals identified as dislocated workers. Secondly, it would allow Chemeketa Community College to immediately begin a pilot program that cannot proceed with, without the bill.

This bill will bring Oregon in line with federal requirements, and acknowledge the authority the Governor and Private Industry Councils will have in implementing the requirements of JTPA.

If you have any questions contact Dell Smith at 635-4591 for Clackamas County as our county's PIC is being formed, or reach me personally by letter or phone. My address is Representative Bob Shiprack, Rm H292, State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310 or phone 378-8784.

Salem scene:

Woodstove damper sought

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

The relative slow pace of the 62nd Oregon Legislative Assembly continues to haunt the body that this week enters its seventh week of deliberations in Salem.

Almost since its inception, majority leadership has been forecasting a relatively short regular session and a firm determination to avoid the pitfalls that trapped the 61st Assembly into a 203-day regular session in 1981 and four subsequent special sessions in the interim. As this session's sixth week came to a close, there are many in the capital city who fear early forecasts may go awry.

Chief among the reasons for this speculation is the lack of a clear consensus about how to solve the all-important revenue and spending problem. Ways & Means Committee is chipping away at general fund budget items in an apparent effort to reduce spending requests in Gov. Vic Atiyeh's budget proposal.

House Revenue Committee, where the fate of revenue-raising activity rests, has shelved the governor's net receipts tax proposal.

Alternative revenue producers have so far only been offered in conceptual form and the attitude has been expressed that nothing concrete will emerge, until revenue projects from current sources are estimated in mid-May.

If there is a consensus at this point, it likely involves only reducing the Atiyeh proposal's \$600 million shortfall by \$200 million. How to make up the remaining \$400 million is the fly that will remain stuck in the proverbial ointment and determine how long lawmakers remain in Salem.

Meanwhile, as usually happens while the handful of legislators serving on Ways & Means and Revenue panels wrestle with the nitty-gritty, other issues grab the

headlines and represent the bulk of the information the public receives.

Among those issues so far have been reaction to a Department of Environmental Quality proposal to regulate popular woodstoves and a rallying multitude of proponents bent on achieving legislation requiring some kind of safety restraint for children who are passengers in automobiles.

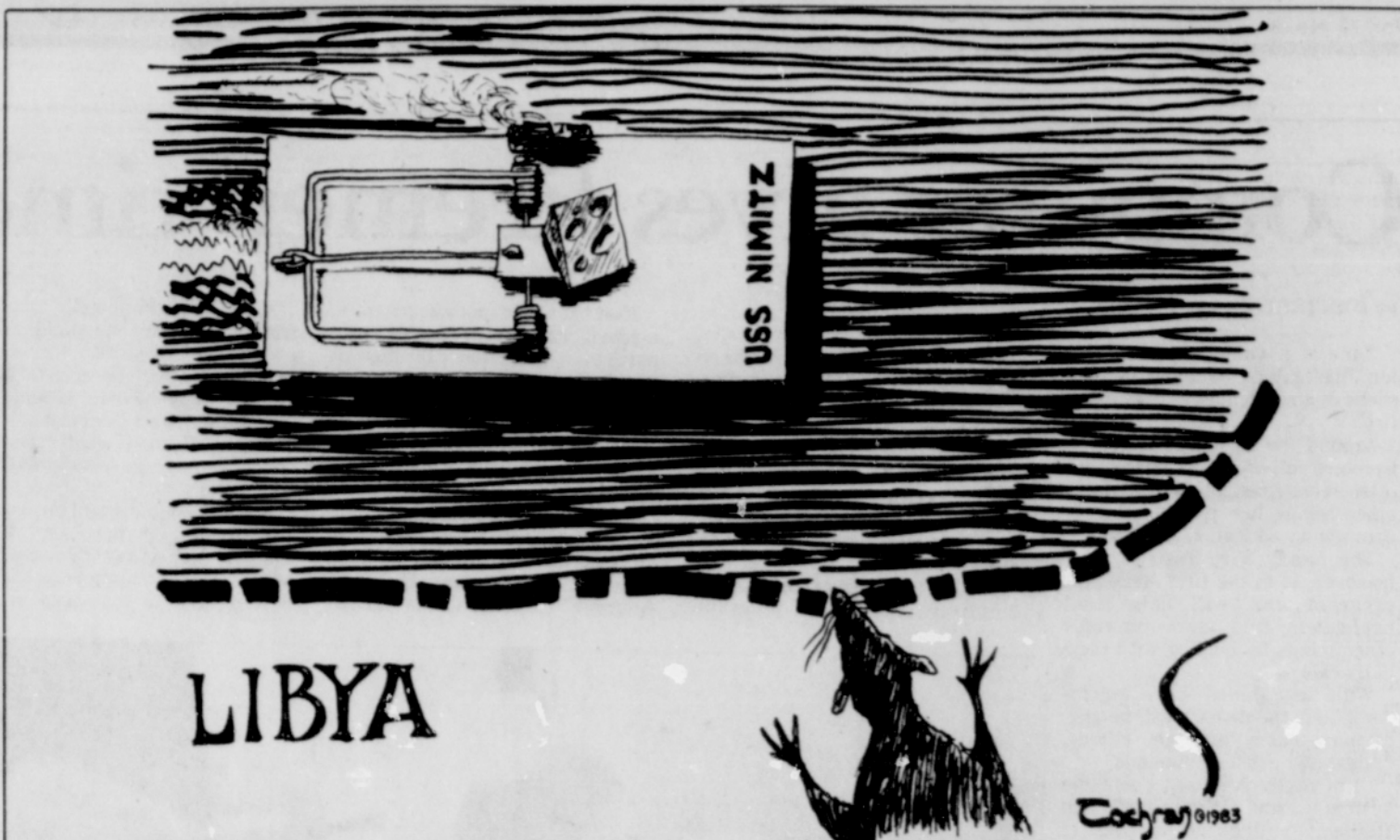
Still others involve a bill that would tax soft drinks to fund a civilian conservation corps to provide work for unemployed teenagers and another that would enable the unemployed to receive jobless pay while attending fulltime vocational education classes.

All four have already evoked a great deal of emotional response that is bound to persist as long as the session does. One or more may even remain controversial after this session if they happen to attract gubernatorial veto.

The conclusion of this session's sixth week produced what some observers consider a bomb of significant proportions—the mere bulk of which may threaten to keep the 62nd Assembly in session longer than expected.

It is House Bill 2031, introduced by the House Interim Committee on Transportation. Its sheer bulk attracts attention. HB 2031 is designed to revise laws relating to motor vehicles and consumes 475 pages in the process. Seldom in the memory of most has such a bulky proposal been dropped on an Assembly—save for possibly constitution revision, the rewrite of the state's Criminal Code or the massive revision of all Oregon Revised Statutes back in 1949.

Among remarks its appearance has provoked is one that wonders how anything so huge can be described in official summary by only 15 words, when sometimes a two or three-page bill requires hundreds of words of explanation.



Letters to the editor:

Peters asked to air charge

Talk, Jack

It is time one of the School Board Members addresses the subject of "why the silence of Board actions" in the case of the termination of Dr. Jack Peters as high school superintendent.

Under Oregon Law governing the "executive session" of the public meeting law, it is clearly stated that any confidential information regarding personnel or other classified matter can not be brought to the public except by the wishes of the offended party. This law is designed to protect the rights of interested parties as defined by law. Dr. Peters upon his consent and desires could demand a public hearing that would be open to the public and the school board could at this time explain their reasons for the dismissal.

I feel that this matter is of most importance to the community and the welfare of the children within our district.

I also hope that this matter does not influence the upcoming school budget election. I, as a board member, as well as a Sandy High patron have an obligation to educate our children with the best programs and curriculum we can afford with the money approved in the budget.

I again would encourage your support and patronage at all school board meetings and that you speak freely and openly as to your desires.

Terry Lenchitsky
Board member

Recall board

I greatly appreciate your publishing the letter I wrote recently regarding the unfairness of the dismissal of Dr. Jack Peters, the superintendent of Sandy Union High School. I'd like very much to bring to the attention of your readers some very valid facts:

Fact number one: Sandy Union High School is a five-million-dollar business.

Fact number two: Dr. Jack Peters has a valid contract through June 30, 1984. The board stated they intend to negotiate the remaining year of said contract.

Fact number three: This is a most irresponsible decision, one that will mean additional cost to the property taxpayer at a time when school funding is already difficult.

Fact number four: If we go along with this, we are gambling with the education of the area's youth, and they will be the ones to suffer.

Fact number five: A five-million-dollar business can't be left in the hands of the present board members who acted in such an irresponsible way. Recall of the board members is the only solution.

Nelle Fowler Ball
Sandy

Trust board

With a great deal of interest, I have followed the

comments of the Sandy Post and many concerned residents over the firing of Jack Peters. It appears that the Post and other people need to consider more of what is not being said rather than the views of what the Sandy Post has projected to us in the school district.

If we consider the qualifications of being a school board member, it appears that we voters had confidence in the abilities of each and every one of our current board members. They are men of integrity, honesty, compassion, and lastly, successful in the business world. They certainly don't appear to be flighty, whimsical or uncaring about their responsibilities.

Therefore, I feel that Mr. Peters was the subject to earlier discussions concerning his occupational duties and responsibilities to the board. The board is his employer, and he is obligated to answer for his actions and attitudes. If his actions are contrary to the issues of the board, he is violating the very principles and responsibilities that he was hired to adhere to.

Perhaps it is time for Mr. Peters to defend his position. It is certain that if Mr. Peters takes legal action against the board, we won't hear the defense until after June 1, 1983, and that will make the whole thing irrelevant.

The recall movement calls for 1,113 signatures on each of the petitions. It is

my understanding that at least one board member has received life threatening phone calls, and his home has been broken into. Are those individuals responsible for these actions also going to sign the petitions? How can they do those things and still leave room in their heart to recognize "integrity, honesty and compassion?"

It's time to hear from Jack...The board seems confident enough that they have hired Pat Fitzwater and are willing to cede Jack's salary. All of our attention is focused on the board, but I say, "Let's hear from Jack!!"

If a superintendent is replaced in a school district, the timing is correct. A new superintendent will need the extra time to prepare budgetary information for this fall.

Skip Walker
Sandy

Freeze nukes

Rep. Denny Smith held a recent public hearing at the Community Center. He spent the first half hour leading us through 14 charts, showing federal spending, federal income and lack of balanced budgets.

Rep. Smith leaned heavily on the amount of money spent on such entitlement programs as social security, food stamps, military retirement pay, medicaid, unemployment compensation and others. He defended military expenditures by showing that from 1968 to about 1975 the military

took 40 to 50 percent of federal income, while now taking only about 28 percent. He neglected to show that in most all of the 68-75 years we were deeply into the Vietnam War.

It seemed to me that his intent was to concentrate our interest and deepen our concern about people benefit types of expenditures, while playing down the \$200 billion plus per year we are spending on nuclear-bomb delivery systems and our around-the-world military installations.

Believing that the nuclear war issue offers the most threat to our lives and fortunes, I asked Rep. Smith how he planned to vote when the "freeze" resolution came up again. He said he would vote against it, as he did the first time around when it lost on a 202 to 200 vote, and despite the fact that the people of Oregon voted overwhelmingly in favor of a "freeze" last November.

W. Pete Sulzbach
Sandy

Delivery fast

We would like to express our thanks to the Boring firemen and the paramedics from Alpine Ambulance's Damascus station for their assistance in the delivery of our son, Brian at the Boring Fire Station Feb. 11.

Their help was appreciated beyond words. Randy and Donna Heater
Boring

Personally speaking

Tourist almost hits Bhagwan's Rolls

Like many "threatened" Oregonians, I just had to check out the Bhagwan's religious commune near Antelope.

When I got my chance last Saturday, I never dreamed I'd wind up nearly running the Bhagwan off the road.

The visit started innocently enough. The old Big Muddy Ranch (since renamed Rancho Rajneesh) demonstrated how it got its earlier name. Huge trucks that hauled pre-fab houses down the 18-mile narrow, muddy driveway fought us for middle of the road. As the shoulders were soft and the rivine steep, red-shirted "peace-keeping forces" in four-wheel drives negotiated our ascent to the master and his 27 Rolls Royces.

Actually, we did see Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh exiting Rajneeshpuram, as we passed on the narrow, muddy road. The silent one neither nodded nor looked our way, as our muddy old Buick past his Rolls.

Visitors are confused at first by conflicting signs at the end of the road to the new city. The first says "No trespassing," while another says, "Visitors welcome—please check in."

A two-hour bus tour throughout the sprawling ranch costs \$2, but



by VON BRASCHLER

visitors like us were allowed to wander and investigate things close up without direction.

Everyone there works, and the community of 800 seems largely self-sufficient at this point. There are individual shops for clothes-making (all "Christ consciousness" red), auto maintenance, carpentry, welding and foods (all vegetarian). Children attend school shorter hours seven days a week, studying everything from astronomy outdoors with telescopes to geology with field trips throughout the ranch.

Rancho Rajneesh has constructed its own air field with a travel agency, its own lake (though government officials still doubt it has sufficient water for a city) and its own city hall that doubles as an information center.

Like their charismatic leader whom they love as a cult-figure by definition, the Rajneeshes practice silence whenever possible. The young girl who picked up garbage cans in a flatbed truck in the mud spoke only enough words to communicate her task, as did a bearded man who carried a sandwhich board speed-limit sign. But they all smile and nod greetings. A man in a van offered us a lift up the muddy road.

They seem industrious and committed souls. Abandoned trucks have been rebuilt for less than \$200. Pre-fab houses in a "quick-frame" shop there are shuttled up the road on a truck labeled "space shuttle" to a new clearing for \$75 weekend seminars. Humor abounds everywhere in signs.

A gift shop offers many shelves of books and tapes by the master who seldom speaks publicly.

We peeked into the work shops and clicked off frames of snapshots, as tourists do. The busy Rajneeshes smiled, but con-

tinued working uninterrupted.

So on the way back on that narrow, muddy road to Antelope where local signs chided the red-clad "Christ died for your sins" and "Jesus country," we looked to pass the Bhagwan on his return trip. Every few feet we'd stop to take a picture of some of the \$35 million Oregon investment.

I passed my camera to my companion to snap off a picture of a new cluster of A-frame huts on the right. Knowing some cameras shouldn't be pre-cocked, she considerably snapped my picture without advancing the film again. Then it happened: the picture of pictures.

The Bhagwan himself rounded the corner in front of us, and this jubilant photog stopped his Buick in the middle of the narrow road to snap his picture. The Bhagwan leaned my way to smile and wave as he slowed to pass, nearly going over the edge with what little room I'd left him. And when I held up the camera to frame the shot, it looked like a rare perfect candid photo of the controversial eastern mystic.

Only the film wasn't advanced, so I missed the shot. Like that old photo instructor always warned: "f-8 and be there."