

Editorial & Opinion

Offstreet parking needed?

Now that Sandy's wrestled its battle royal over offstreet parking and settled for a no-win tie, perhaps it's time to study the whole silly fight. Is it worth it? Is the cause important?

Surely, after construction, Heritage Square municipal lot had to be paid by adjacent property owners and merchants for whom the lot was built.

But what about the little mom-and-pop shops along Pioneer and Proctor Boulevards? There new owners suddenly find themselves in violation of city code, when they buy businesses without "adequate" offstreet parking.

But what is "adequate?" Most days here, plenty of handy parking spots on the highway through town greet the shopping motorist. Indeed, one can find a spot directly in front of most businesses on

Pioneer or Proctor almost every stop.

Certainly, Sandy anticipates growth that would necessitate offstreet parking. That day, however, remains in the future.

Perhaps restrictive offstreet parking codes belong in the future then, too. It seems silly to fight merchants who want to boost a sagging local economy by putting roadblocks in their way now.

We urge Sandy City Council to review need for strict offstreet parking requirements in Sandy's current times. The city showed a good sense of the times and business savvy recently by easing sign restrictions. Now it's time to reappraise current parking requirements placed on dearly needed city businesses and cut out what's unneeded. (VB)



Take politics out of public school

Right to Work groups across the nation are launching a political awareness campaign to expose political indoctrination through our schools. Oregonians for Right to Work in an orchestrated mailing saw no exception for state superintendent of public instruction Verne Duncan and recently took him to task on possible threats of politics in school organized labor.

They have a point, but maybe that point should be driven deeper into the body politic.

The right to work lobbyists worry about National Education Association material thrust into hands of 1.7 million union educators to advance political thoughts. But grassroots politics often is more personal, revolving around perpetuating one's own job.

Isn't sending "Be sure to vote" and "Remember schools" literature home with students or

arming them with in-school zeal for levy support subtle political exploitation? Certainly, students aren't openly told how to vote or how to remind their parents to vote, but most school districts do a good job of subtly getting the message across.

Let's take political brainwashing out of publicly support schools, just as we've taken forced religion. Everyone should be allowed to form his or her own decision how to vote and even whether to vote. Students of voting age and younger can do the same. Spending district dollars to mail propaganda to pass a levy or to fill hands of tots heading home is a political use of public money.

Most school districts, especially local ones, ride this ledge carefully. A watchful eye on the lone prairie about roundup time is a powerful smart idea to keep things on the up and up, though. (VB)

Letters to the editor:

Housecleaning said needed in Sandy

Clean town

Congratulations to our editor.

Our City Council and Design Review Board aren't so fussy when it comes to eyesores.

Does the city have the intestinal fortitude to tackle the state and Carl Leathers?

Chuck Jones
Sandy

Many helped

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

The welcome you have given me since I settled down in Sandy has been tremendous and made the transition to Sandy a lot easier for me.

I can only mention a few of you: Arnie Poutala, chairman of the chamber that is sited and organized the sidewalk building, Les Geren and his students that did the work, City councilman Dick Harrison, Kimberly Nelson and the people from Buckboard Pizza that brought refreshment, Dennis Henry and John Ferguson that helped with the professional work and advise, the Sandy Lumber yard for lumber and material and still many more citizens in the

Sandy area.

Thank you again.

Otto Rode
Sandy

Elect Albers

I would like to wholeheartedly add my support for the candidacy of Janet Albers for Position 4 on the Sandy Union High School Board.

I have known Mrs. Albers for 11 years, of which part of that time she was employed as a secretary and bookkeeper in my office when I was business manager of the high school.

She has an excellent background in school finances and budget procedures and being a taxpayer herself knows the plight of the property owner in the role of supporting schools. I know her main concern would be to furnish the best education possible for our young people with the resources available.

I know something of the life style of Mrs. Albers and I know that any decision she makes is made after careful consideration of all alternatives.

A vote for Janet Albers for school board member is a vote for good sound deci-

sion making in regards to the educational process in our high school district.

Willard Boring
Boring

Elect Cox

I am writing in support of re-electing Sharron Cox to the Sandy Elementary School Board. She is extremely well qualified to serve on the board, and she has been doing an excellent job. I am her friend and can attest to her fine character, trustworthiness and concern for the best possible education for our children. But more than that, I am the kind of person that wants to know that we have the best people possible serving the community in public office.

Sharron brings to the board a wide spectrum of experiences including her educational background, years of working with youth (as a Girl Scout leader, PTC officer and church youth group advisor), and teaching experience. But more than that, she is uniquely qualified because of the careful way she approaches each question with sensitive deliberation, gathering as much information as she can, and

weighing all possibilities before she makes a decision. She is a good listener and is not afraid to stand up for her decisions once made.

But my primary concern that made me write this letter is that she has been on the board since November 1981. I have known several members of the two school boards in our community, and they have all remarked on the same thing. When a person starts serving on a school board, it takes awhile to get to know what you are doing, no matter what your background and previous experience. We have a well qualified person on the board, and she has been doing an excellent, conscientious job. Therefore, she should be re-elected for a four-year term, so that our board can continue functioning in an efficient manner. She has worked well with the other board members and would continue to make a worthwhile contribution to the operation of our schools.

Cheryl M. Hooley
Sandy

Elect Hoard

I am writing to remind everyone that May 17 is election day. Also I would

like to tell everyone of my choice for school board which is Debra Hoard.

She is an active person in our community. She has been with the Cub Scout and Sandy Soccer, chairperson on the first annual Soap Box Derby, past and present president of Sandy PTC and president of the Sandy Optimistics. With all these qualities I feel she would be a benefit for our school.

She has been in regular attendance at our school board meetings for the past year and a half in order to fully acquaint herself with her responsibility in the position she seeks.

I feel she would be able to devote the time and energy needed to actively fulfill a commitment to the school board and the community.

Being a business owner in the Sandy district and home owner, Debra's ideas in this economic stress she feels there is a real need to conserve expenditures of tax money, while still providing quality education for our children.

It is my urgent hope that voters in the Sandy school district will keep these facts in mind when going to the polls Tuesday May 17.

Connie Rathjen
Sandy

Senator's report:

Spending curbs advocated

by STEVE STARKOVICH
State Senator, Dist. 14



No matter how government structures its tax system, nobody likes to pay taxes. Oregonians have already shown, through their past support of tax measures, that they are tired of paying increased taxes for unneeded state and local government programs. The warning cry has gone out around the state, and hopefully my colleagues in the state Legislature will heed this warning.

For the coming biennium ('83-'85), Governor Atiyeh has recommended that the state spend 3.3 billion general fund dollars on state programs. This represents an increase over the current biennium ('81-'83) of nearly \$500 million. In order to fund this increase, the governor has proposed various increases in existing taxes on cigarettes and liquor, while also creating a new tax known as the "net receipts tax," which is based on an individual's income. I am not in favor of increasing state taxes to the levels proposed by the governor, nor will I support the increases he has pushed for in state spending.

In order to understand where our state tax dollars go, we need to look at the two major components of the state budget—the "general fund" and the "non-general fund." The general fund is the portion of the budget that most directly affects individual taxpayers, as its revenues are derived from such things as individual and corporate income taxes, cigarette and liquor taxes, and proceeds from certain license and filing fees collected by the State. The non-general fund draws its revenue from other, less direct taxes on individuals, such as federal monies that are transferred to the state, motor vehicle fuel and highway taxes, tuition and fees from the state's colleges and universities, interest earnings on the state's holdings, and income from sales of timber lands. Since much of the revenue listed under the non-general fund comes from areas not directly controlled by the state, most of the Legislature's power in controlling spending is exercised over the general fund. These main areas of appropriations go into the general fund. They are:

1. Aid to School Districts and Community Colleges
2. State Agency Operations
3. Property Tax Relief

The first major budget decision the Legislature needs to make this session is

whether to accept the Governor's proposal for increased spending for the '83-'85 biennium, financed by an increased tax burden of Oregonians, or to pare down the general fund budget, and thus reduce the need for new revenues.

Many legislators, including myself, take the latter position. In doing so, we are then required to make a second major budget decision: whether to make the cuts in agency spending, aid to schools, or property tax relief, or some combination of the three. A major debate has recently developed over this question.

I am not in favor of increasing Oregonians' taxes to the extent proposed by the Governor. It is my feeling that state government should learn to live within its means without generating a need for huge tax increases. I believe we need to cut the general fund budget for the current biennium and use new tax revenues only as a last resort to make up difference between essential expenditures and revenue receipts. In my opinion, state agencies should bear the brunt of these general fund cuts.

Since the Legislature convened in January this year, the Senate has voted on over 34 bills dealing with the governor's budget requests for state agencies. These bills requested a total of \$148 million in appropriations. I am happy to say that I have voted to decrease this amount by nearly \$7.5 million under the governor's recommended budget.

A number of agency budgets must still be considered, including some of the biggest ones, and I will continue to vote to reduce appropriations until state spending is under control.

Personally speaking:

Bird-sitting a "news" job?

This may be the last time you see my name in print. For those of you who have never seen my name in print, it should be somewhere near my smiling face at the top of this column. This may sound ridiculous, but the fate of my journalistic future is entwined with that of a bird.

At the last minute, my editor decided against taking his parakeet "Bus" with him on a excursion to the wilds of Montana. As I was the only one in the office at the time, I was given the bird.

For those who fail to realize the magnitude of the problem, I should explain that upon returning from Montana last year, he found that another parakeet which he had entrusted to a staff person whose expertise is obviously not animal care, had met an untimely demise. Ill feelings still remain, and the editor's suspicions of foul play were only reinforced when the corpse could not be found for autopsy.

Caring for a bird for one week may be a simple task for most folks but my lack of knowledge in the area of aviculture is only surpassed by my lack of knowledge in the care of birds. It was only last week that I learned a parakeet is only one bird.



by HANK EMRICH

It looks as though my downfall will be in the area of experience. The only time I can remember owning a parakeet it disappeared for a week before we found the kids had used it for incentive in the neighborhood cat races. We found him pecking at the door of the Humane Society begging for asylum. He was never the same old "Perky" after that.

This whole incident is fast reinforcing my initial belief that owning birds is not a sensible hobby.

My wife's grandfather, a farmer for many years, used to say that any animal on the farm ought to be able to "pay his own way." Let's face it, there aren't too many chores a parakeet can handle. The fact is they don't even care for themselves. Wives who get upset with husbands for leaving newspapers lying around ought to see what parakeets do with them.

It's not that I don't like animals, I just prefer them in their proper place, like the dinner plate. It all stems from my childhood. I come from a large family. We didn't have pets, we had little brothers and sisters. Little brother Bobby still doesn't understand why he had to wait until after the 4-H shows to get a haircut. Maybe a parakeet wouldn't have been such a bad idea for a pet. With nine kids there sure weren't enough table scraps left to sustain a puppy.

I'm sure "Bus" will not only survive but enjoy his sojourn at my little aviary. The only thing I worry about is whether he is going to expect some kind of lasting relationship out of the situation. I don't look forward to an obliga-

tion of visiting a bird once a week for however long parakeets live.

Whether I will enjoy the bird's stay is another question. I saw an Alfred Hitchcock movie in my early youth dealing with what is mistakenly referred to as "our feathered friends." The film dealt with a misguided herd of wild parakeets bent on the destruction of the free world as we know it. To this day, I break into a cold sweat (have you ever heard of anyone breaking into a hot sweat?) everytime I hear a haunting "tweet."

When I learned that I was to be Keeper of the Bird, I immediately set out to deal with the problem. I searched every pet store in the metropolitan area for a parakeet muzzle. When it became apparent that it wasn't to be found, I did the next best thing. I prayed for an epidemic of bird laryngitis.

Maybe I'm looking at this from the wrong viewpoint. This could be a valuable time for both me and "Bus." I could spend my evenings teaching the bird exciting new phrases like "Hank deserves more money... Hank deserves more money... Hank deserves more..."