

Editorial & Opinion

Von Braschler, Publisher
Caroline Duff, Office Manager

Dan Dillon, Editor
Scott Newton, Sports Editor

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Form parent drug groups

Local school drug questions raised last week by Cedar Ridge School administrators call for involvement by parents in support groups.

While Cedar Ridge strives to educate students to perils of drug abuse with in-school instruction, schools can't do it all. As Cedar Ridge principal Randi Leuthold rightly pointed out, drugs are a community problem—not solely a school problem.

That nationwide problem visits communities large and small and now even sits on the steps of our grade schools.

Commendably, Sandy Elementary Schools is facing this community problem by exposing all students to drug drawbacks before graduation, to match the exposure to drug abuse they already receive.

Bull Run School also plans a drug awareness program in the classroom. Sandy High School pioneered local school drug awareness a couple years back

with a parent-backed program and evening speakers, but popular interest seems to have waned.

Drug education isn't a one-time thing, though. Like any business that appears to have a fun answer for escape, drugs stream steadily through out community and other communities. An ongoing counter-intelligence is needed to combat youth drug abuse, and recruits must be enlisted from the ranks of parents.

We propose that support groups to combat drug abuse could be formed as outgrowths of the existing Sandy High Boosters Club and the parent-teachers organizations of local grade schools. Also, the program should include a study of alcohol, which far exceeds other drug use among teens.

Unless parents show they, too, are concerned, how will students believe someone important in their lives really cares? (VB)

Paint up, fix up now for Festival

New Sign of the Times gallery artist Richard Luczkow gallantly has volunteered to "paint" the Sandy Chamber of Commerce building he shares. He deserves a little support.

The former Honolulu policeman and trucker, who now paints detailed fantasy and carousel oils, believes the city-owned building at Meinig Avenue and Pioneer Boulevard should be painted in earthtones with complementary shaded shingles by Mountain Festival time.

He already has designed new Mountain Days placemats to plug the July 2-10 affair and emblem for keepsake wine glasses at a new Chamber-sponsored Wine Fest and Feast tent annex July 7-10 on the grassy lot behind Decker and Scales store.

Artist Luczkow's point for sprucing up the Chamber building is well taken. The week-long celebration shows off Sandy to thousands of annual visitors. Also, the crowning Mountain Festival arts and crafts show July 9-10 in Meinig Park is a special time for artists.

Luczkow, however, will need two or three volunteers to help paint the building to put Sandy's best foot forward. Since the Chamber through a Festival committee sponsors the gala summer events, it's only appropriate the host organization should do a little sprucing up.

Call secretary Dixie DeLorme at the Chamber office, 668-4006, or stop by Luczkow's shop next door to offer your help. (VB)

Salem scene:

Public utility bill clouded

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Hate to pay bills?
Don't join the CUB.
Some time late this week the House of Representatives is scheduled to act on one of the strangest bills yet to confront the current 62nd Oregon Legislative Assembly.

The measure, House Bill 2934, ostensibly aims at reducing the rates utility users pay for electricity, natural gas and telephone service.

In practice, it could do just the opposite, increase the cost of electricity, natural gas and telephone service.

Furthermore, the bill suggests a poll tax—clearly prohibited by the state constitution.

It also requires elections by mailed ballot, an issue unresolved by this Legislature.

And it subjects utility users to unsolicited mailed information.
With all of this going against it, HB 2934, introduced by House Speaker Grattan Kerans (D-Eugene) at the request of Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG), attracted co-sponsorship of 23 additional members of the House of Representatives and 15 Senators. With only single exceptions in each chamber, all co-sponsors are Democrats.

And the amended version of the bill last week emerged from House Energy, Environment Committee with a do-pass recommendation with the five-to-four blessing of the Democratic majority on that panel.

Partisan politics aside, progress of the measure so far clearly pits liberal philosophies against those of their conservative counterparts.

The bill... previously assailed as unnecessary by newspaper editorials in Portland, Bend, Albany and Salem—would create an independent, nonprofit public corporation called the Citizens' Utility Board. The CUB is supposed to represent the interests of utility consumers. But only those served by investor-owned utilities. Exempted are municipal and cooperative utilities and small telephone companies grossing less than \$1 million in annual revenue.

Consequently, the CUB won't bother with water, sewer and some phone rates. Its influence would extend to legislative,

administrative and judicial bodies.

The anachronisms persist. While purporting to represent all utility consumers, only those contributing a minimum of \$3 and not more than \$100 annually can become voting members of CUB. But the CUB is supposed to adopt a procedure by which anyone "economically disadvantaged" can be a member without paying.

The CUB would appear to be one of those murky quasistate bodies—another SAIF bet for controversy—with initial directors appointed by the Governor and Legislature and later elected by dues-paying and non-dues-paying members.

Biggest target of the CUB would be hearings before the Public Utility Commission when that official performs the legal duty of that office to set utility rates at levels protecting consumers and providing fair returns for investors.

In other words, it would create a semi-official body to intervene in the rate-setting procedure, further complicating a process already statutorily controlled.

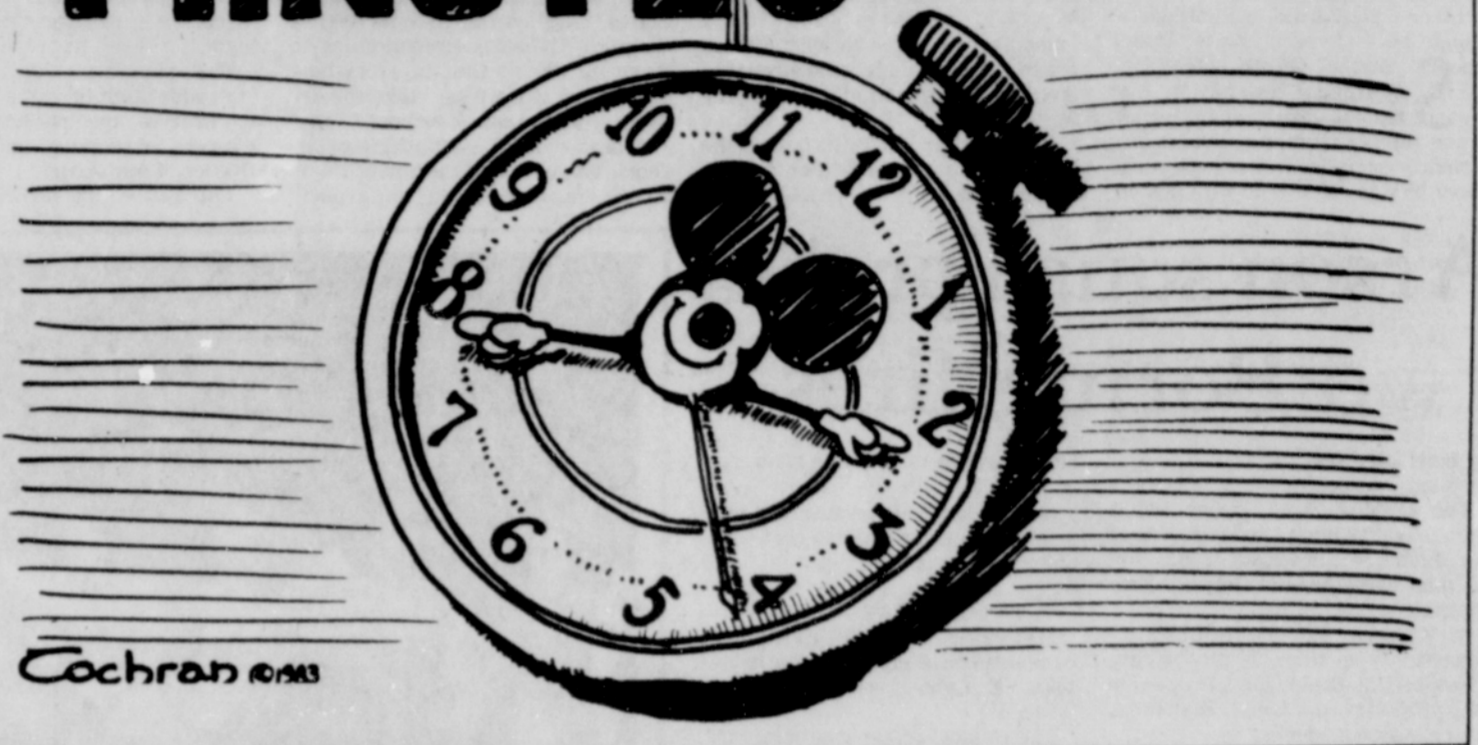
Once the CUB achieves a paid-non-membership of 5,000 (and there's no provision indicating the percentages of those paying and not paying), directors would be elected by mailed ballots—three from each of the state's five congressional districts.

The provision permitting the CUB to include its messages in monthly mailed billings to utility consumers, however, is attracting the most opposition so far.

This precedent-setting provision requires the CUB to reimburse utilities for additional costs of such mailings—but only an amount equal to 20 percent of CUB funds. Simple arithmetic—involving 900,000 bills by Pacific Northwest Bell and more than 500,000 by Portland General Electric—leaves much doubt 20 percent of an Oregon CUB's treasury would cover such expense.

Who would make up the difference? Ratepayers. That's because such costs mostly likely would be passed through during the rate-making process as a valid expense.

SIXTY MINUTES



Letters to the editor:

Community help prompts gratitude

Firemen care

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to publicly thank the Sandy Fire Department for the extremely efficient and considerate help they gave us when they responded to our call for aid a couple of weeks ago.

After quickly putting out the chimney fire I had caused they even went so far as to kicking off their boots before walking on our carpeting! Such consideration is very, very rare.

Thank you, Sandy Firemen, not only for saving our home but also for your caring attitude.

The Johnsons
Sandy

Edition liked

On behalf of the school and the Class of 1983 we want to thank you again for your special graduation edition. Most of them were distributed and were appreciated and enjoyed.

Peggy Hart
Commencement chairperson
Sandy High School

'Thank you'

I want to thank all the people who supported and voted for me in the recent election for the Welches School Board.

I shall not take lightly the trust you have put in me with the future of your

children and the management of your tax dollars. Again, I sincerely thank you.

Sharron Njust
Welches

Support helps

I want to thank all those who supported me in my successful re-election to the Boring School Board. We have always prided ourselves with our excellent school and the

quality of students that have been through.

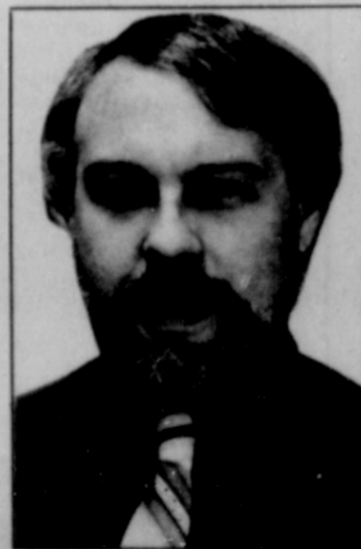
I also know that if everyone works together that we can always do better, to this end I will strive this next four years.

Gale Meier
Boring

The Post gratefully acknowledges essays and written opinions from readers to appear on this page—separate from the unbiased news reports on other pages of this newspaper. Your opinions generally will be printed as letters to the editor, while ours generally will appear as editorials. Occasionally, we are able to print guest editorials. We attempt to print all signed letters of good taste, legible form and reasonable length. Our deadline is noon on Tuesdays.

Personally speaking:

Many help Action Center



by VON BRASCHLER

You have to admit, that new post office south of the light at the east end of Sandy is a pretty facility with lots more parking, too. Only, it's still creating confusion, as the community takes a while to change its patterned traffic routines, like swinging by the old Pioneer Boulevard site to drop a letter where the old boxes once stood or to pick up a newspaper out front there.

Then old, long cars like my "Joe Buck" midnight cowboy Buick have trouble swinging a handy U-turn in the new postal parking lot, after dropping a letter in the drive-through mail drop.

Nonetheless, the new postal site's bound to wow folks 1-3 p.m. June 7 during grand opening and dedication ceremonies.

The postal move leaves a nice, new facility for Sandy Community Action Center, the active volunteer aid group. Center officials signed most papers needed to close sale on purchase of the old postal site. That building, owned by Alicia Ferguson of Milton Freewater, is being purchased by Action Center for approximately \$140,000.

One possible delay in the transaction was lease agreement through December by the Postal Service. Apparently, though, the sale's going through this week, and Center workers plan to spend most of the first week in June moving and shelving at the new site.

Moving definitely will be easier now for old volunteers like Center director Pete Sulzbach who won't have to climb old wooden stairs

at the old house they've long rented. The postal site, though no larger, offers a handy loading platform.

The Action Center matched a whopping federal community block grant through the county with \$30,000 the volunteers socked away a few years back from the estate of Sulzbach's former neighbor, Lydia Koch. She named her sister as primary beneficiary, with remainder to benefit the Salvation Army, CARE and the local Action Center. Only her sister preceded her in death by two weeks, so the Action Center was willed \$30,000. They promptly socked that gift away in time certificates of deposit, waiting for a new home.

It's official! Portland television

personality Cheryl Hanson will be 1983 Sandy Mountain Festival Parade grand marshal. Like the arts Festival and week-long Mountain Days activities, the Thursday night parade keeps getting bigger and better every summer.

The affair kicks off 7 p.m., July 7, eastbound on Pioneer Boulevard with headliners Lindsay Wagner, Royal Rosarians and a flashy choreographed black jazz band.

Mountain Days July 2-10 crowned by the Mountain Festival July 9-10 in Meinig Park is growing. The Festival booths are spilling beyond the park this year with a special Chamber of Commerce Wine Fest and Feast tent affair July 7-10 in Gordon Stone's donated grassy lot behind Decker and Scales Store. The Chamber will offer wine samples in souvenir glasses, while some ten other business concessionaires will offer snacks to go with the wine. Chamber vice president and city planner Don Wilson, in particular, has worked hard and long to make this big tent gala a reality. It's also nice to see the Festival Committee give a little ground to booths outside the park, since the Fest had bulged for so long and been a sore spot for merchants who thought traffic could be routed a bit through town for spinoff benefit to business. The Chamber simply pointed out to its Festival committee that the parent body needed the tent for a fund-raiser.

Festival chairman Darrell

Dempster, by the way, has new plans to build an open-air theater in back of Meinig Park for summer stock presentations. This dream would take a lot of volunteer elbow-grease and some out-of-pocket donations perhaps, but certainly would further Sandy's growing image as a rustic arts town of cultural beauty.

New Sandy ski and gift shop operator Otto Rode has taken his fight with city hall over offstreet parking requirements to the people.

And City Council surely will have to take seriously his more than 100 signatures on a petition calling for a moratorium on offstreet parking. Most signatures came from business persons who doubtless identify with Rode's hassle to carve an exit-entrance on Pioneer Boulevard and thereby sacrifice existing onstreet parking to make way for offstreet parking.

Rode, still stinging from his recent Municipal court fine in which all but \$50 of a \$200 was suspended, said even 50 cents would be too much to pay the city.

The petitioners seek a "one-year (to June 20, 1984) use variance for all existing parking lots, used in prior years by business houses and the patrons of Sandy business establishments and where no new construction nor major remodeling of the premises is involved."

The Swede's fighting mad, and his popular petition to halt offstreet parking requirements looks weighty enough to warrant Council attention.