

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Examine school budgets

Voters who said "no" to school levies in August owe it to the community to do some research before voting that way again.

On Aug. 9, Sandy High School's A ballot was rejected 3,006-2,048, and Sandy Elementary's was defeated 1,642-1,304. The governing boards of both districts, however, refused to make additional cuts and resubmitted the levies intact, claiming they'd already budgeted with prudence.

People who disagree with that have had every opportunity to get involved, and it's still not too late before the Sept. 20 election.

"No" voters are welcome at Sandy Elementary. Says Superintendent Clark Lund, "I'm interested in talking to those individuals who are curious."

SUHS Superintendent Roberta Hutton will be in her office every Monday night until 7 p.m. throughout the school year to meet with the public.

"I think the most important thing is to get school going in good style," Hutton says.

By showing parents that school will be different with her new

leadership, Hutton hopes to win over some voters.

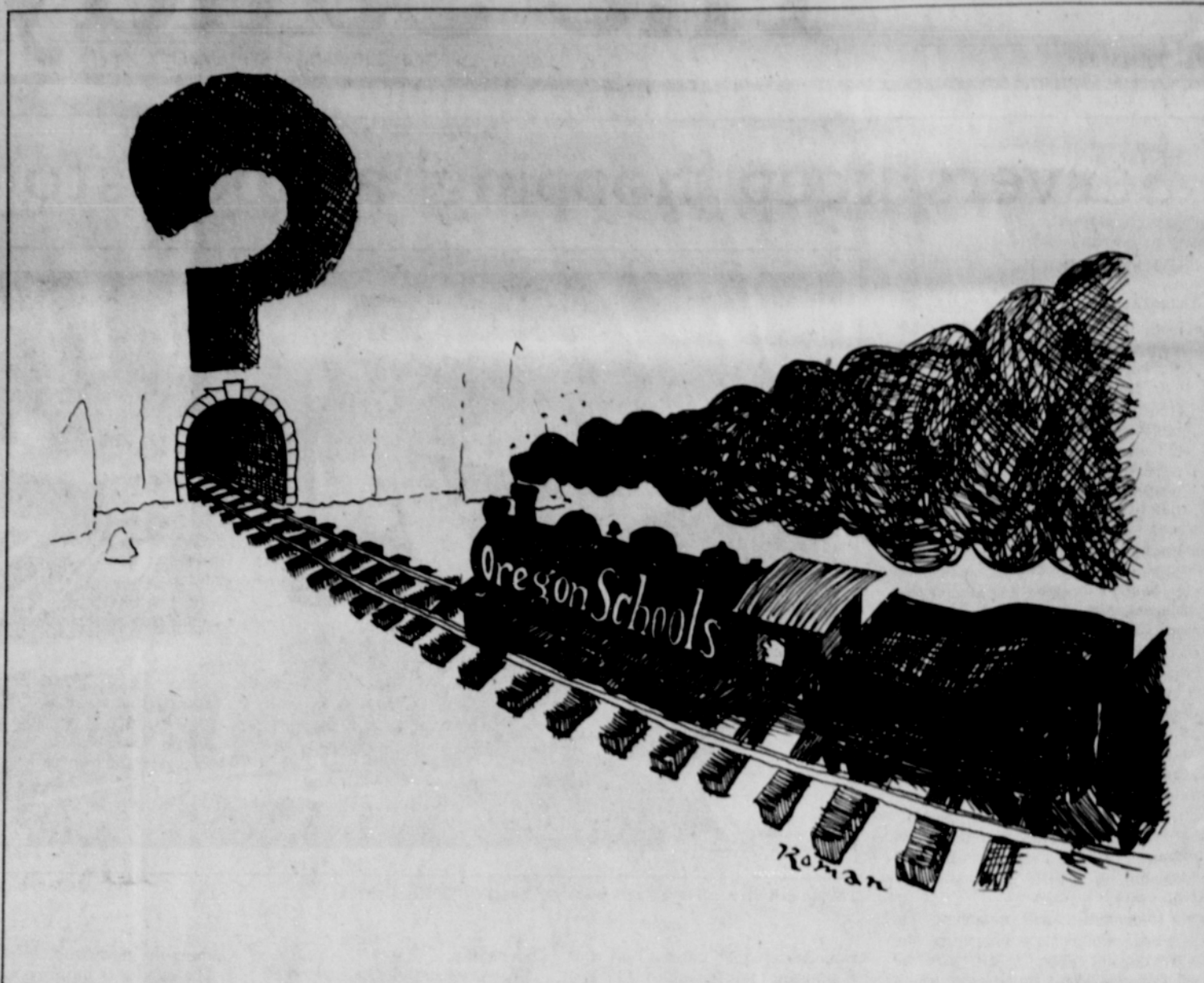
Asked what she would say to a patron who might vote "no," Hutton responds, "I wish you could trust us one more time." Even if voters have been dissatisfied with the "product," she promises to do a better job.

Lund also contends the elementary school district has a lean budget. "I think a lot of people assume that you'll ask for more than you need and then settle for less. We didn't approach it like that."

He said the district's overall program requirements are up 1 percent, which is "very tight."

The theory that some voters are reflecting their disgust with property taxes and not the schools by voting "no," may have some validity. Regardless, the schools have been left dangling long enough.

However, voters should either have a specific reason for saying "no" to the local school levies, or they should vote "yes." A good educational system is of benefit to a community.



IRS wants it perfect

On Page 8 of this edition of The Sandy Post there is a story headlined, "Notice of nondiscriminatory policy as to students."

The headline, compliments of the Internal Revenue Service, probably will not draw many readers into the story. And with good reason. It's a boring item about how the Sandy Community Preschool and Kindergarten Cooperative does not discriminate against students of any race or ethnic origin.

The Preschool Cooperative is applying to the IRS for non-profit status, which will allow people to make tax-deductible donations to the co-op. It also will save the school money when payroll is figured for its two teachers.

Volunteers who have been trying to qualify the school for non-profit status have had to jump one hurdle after another. They received the application for non-profit status, and in June attempted to fulfill the requirement to publish a notice of nondiscrimination by purchasing space for a legal advertisement in The Post.

Later they received a set of criteria which in part read that the notice of nondiscrimination was not to run as a legal. Legal notices run in small six-point type, while the IRS requires the eight-point type such as used for news copy.

In July The Post ran the same

notice of nondiscrimination as a news item. This second item also didn't satisfy the IRS because the headline didn't read, "Notice of nondiscriminatory policy as to students." It's not hard to figure out why an editor wouldn't write or use a headline as long or awkward as this.

Despite wholehearted efforts by volunteers and this newspaper, the Preschool Cooperative was left in a bind. It could either buy a display advertisement, or The Post could run the notice again as a news item, which we did.

Vicki Olsen, revenue agent for the IRS in Seattle, admits it would be difficult for a group to accurately meet the requirements without the set of criteria. She said they regularly send out the application first, and then send the set of criteria when an organization has trouble meeting the requirements.

It is important that the IRS keep tight reins on whom it grants tax-exempt status. But in this case such bureaucratic red tape breeds contempt. And that filters down to people's image of local governments, which are generally more accountable.

Preschool Cooperative volunteers, in this case one with a job and a family, have better things to do than jump through hoops for the IRS because of the federal agency's backward way of doing things.

Letters to the editor:

Merchants and locals raise funds

A special thank you to the merchants and individuals who donated gifts and prizes for cancer aid and research. A total of \$530 was raised for the fund.

(Those making donations included:) Al's Barber Shop, Red's Beauty Shop, Dennis Ellis, Sandy Shake Company, Charles Jordan, Ken Kubitz, Sandy Rexall, Al Russell Tire, Jim's Mobile Service Station, Sandy Lumber, Betty Wolf, Geren's Farm Supply, Bill Miller and Leeks Appliance.

Leata Russell
VFW Post & Auxiliary 4273

Tax relief

Oregonians have heard only about twenty percent of the facts about the last legislative session. Here are important facts they haven't heard.

The sales tax passed by the House in the last session was designed to increase State of Oregon General Fund taxes by \$800 million a year. This

represents a proposed increase of over one-half in state general fund taxes. The sales tax was much broader in coverage than either California or Washington sales taxes. Most services like dry cleaning, hair cuts, a house call by your plumber, etc. were to be taxed at 4 cents on the dollar, as well as retail sales. Some have said failure of that proposal was a failure to provide tax relief.

The State of Oregon has not levied property taxes for over forty years. However, local governments and schools' property tax levies have increased statewide by 51 percent in the last three years. At the same time the income of all Oregonians statewide has remained about level. It is easy to understand why people feel pinched by the local property tax growth rate and by tax increases in general. They don't have any increased ability to pay taxes.

The Legislature provided property tax relief, despite claims to the contrary.

Direct property tax relief totalling \$411 million will be paid to or for homeowners and renters in this two-year budget period through the existing HARRP program and the general all homeowners and renters program.

Other state payments for the next two years which reduce the demand for property taxes are \$917 million in aid to local school districts, \$104 million for community colleges, \$25 million of local court costs, and millions of dollars of other state payments. All of these latter state-paid amounts have increased since the last state budget.

Did the state have money to pay these increases? Only by continuing cigarette and income tax increases made in 1981-82, and by increasing the tax per person. These totalled \$419 million. Direct payments to homeowners and renters were \$411 million which, with administrative costs, almost equals the amount of increase voted.

Did the state government need its money for its own operations? No. General property tax relief was started by state government in 1978. Since then it has applied 5 billion, 145 million dollars of state-collected taxes to fund direct property tax relief and basic school support and other aids to local government. If state government had kept back this money, it would be enough to fund all state government activities at current levels for the next six years — without another nickel of state taxes being collected during that time span.

Edward N. Fadeley
President,
Oregon State Senate

Save coast

This letter is written in regard to one of Oregon's great resources, the Pacific Ocean coastline.

The writer attended a meeting of the Lincoln City planning commission on the evening of Aug. 16. The major topic was a presentation on ocean front protective structures by a licensed engineer who made an excellent presentation with slides of work in which his firm has been involved. The program

resulted in a large amount of audience participation.

One of the most interesting questions asked at the meeting was, who should be responsible for the design and construction activities for an ocean front protective structure. Up to this time it has been left to the owner of an ocean front property to initiate and pay for the cost of such a project.

This may not seem wrong for some people but in the present day when such an activity costs \$150 to \$300 per front foot of property, the outlay causes some people to consider the matter very seriously.

It also leads this question posed at another public meeting on the same subject by an ocean front property owner. The question, "How much does my neighbor to the east of my property owe me for protecting his property?"

The writer is a licensed engineer with 20 years' experience with ocean front protective structures. His experience has led him to the firm opinion that the cost of the protection of this great resource should be spread around such as is done with the dikes on the Columbia River. In that case, the federal government provides the funds, the Corps of Engineers administers the contracts and the local people take care of annual maintenance.

The writer believes that a similar program could operate for all the coastline of the United States.

Lester E. Fultz, P.E.
Neskowin

Bhagwan hit

Who are the bigots of Oregon? The followers of the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh have several times in TV and press interview made vague general charges against "people" whom they term as "bigots." These bigots, they say, are trying to stir up violence against the Rajneeshes. The word "bigot" was used by a Rajneesh in a letter recently released to the press against the Americans for Constitutional Rights.

On July 25 this organization held a meeting in the Gresham High School auditorium where approximately six hundred people attended. The subject of the meeting was regarding the Rajneeshes and their

unneighborly, arrogant and pushy behavior toward their fellow citizens at Antelope.

The purpose of the meeting was to alert our fellow Oregonians to a growing menace. The menace, it was pointed out, is from the ruthless tactics of this fast-growing, rich and powerful cult in their persistent efforts to influence and control the political system of Antelope, Wasco County and eventually Oregon. They have in their public statements boasted that they intend to "paint Oregon red." The word "red" evidently refers to the color of their attire.

In this meeting, sponsored by the Americans for Constitutional Rights, it was also pointed out that the Rajneeshes have repeatedly suggested that the "bigots" who oppose them are inciting violence against them, but it was shown that their recent history in India has demonstrated certain bombing and arson incidents that were of their own making.

If by telling the truth and thereby alerting our fellow Oregonians to this growing political and social menace amounts to bigotry, what term does one apply to the behavior of a people whose philosophy permits them to refer to their non-Rajneesh neighbors in Antelope as "weeds in our garden that must be weeded out"?

If one would take a minute and look up the definition of the term bigot, it would become clear that this word fits perfectly the behavior and attitude of the Rajneeshes. A good question to ask is this: Who is inciting whom to violence?

Frank Buck
Americans for
Constitutional Rights
The Dalles

Personally speaking:

Life is survival of the 'fattest'

The common image of a "survivalist" is backwoods and camouflage fatigues, books on how to load your own ammo and 400 different recipes for tree bark.

Real "survivalists" exist, however, much closer to home.

Survival has been a way of life at our house since the day my oldest son first learned to use silverware. Over the years the use of knife and fork were discarded as unnecessary impediments to progress, but his appetite only grew.

As each sibling joined him and was schooled in the art of devouring, the parents' share grew less and less. I have the only children in America who watch a microwave oven more than they do television.

It probably sounds like a common complaint but I think my problems are a little more serious than most. At least I don't know of anyone else who has been ticketed for an overweight vehicle on the way home from the grocery store.

For the last 12 years we have spent almost every weekend grocery shopping. For six years we considered ourselves to be incurably absent-minded because



by HANK EMRICH

we would consistently arrive home with only half the items on the shopping list. We finally realized it was just the kids munching in the car. By the time we got home, we would have to return to the store and replenish supplies. Several times clerks have suggested pipelines between home and the store as an alternative to our merry-go-round traffic pattern.

We have tried to get interest

our children in other hobbies — a couple of the boys even tried playing summer baseball. However, they gave up when the snack shack that used to sit out by right field blew away in a windstorm two years ago. My daughter took an art class but the only thing she has to show for it is a watch on which she painted out the numbers and replaced them with the words "breakfast," "lunch" and "dinner."

Compared to the boys, my daughter does have somewhat discerning taste. Whereas the boys will eat anything at any time, she will eat vegetables at no time. The last major crisis at our home was not when she had to decide whether to pierce her ears, but when no one knew how to accurately classify tomatoes.

"They look pretty good when you pick them, but as soon as you cook them they look an awful lot like a vegetable," she said.

I thought I once overheard one son tell another that he was going to start lifting weights. But when I went to congratulate him for making efforts toward physical fitness, I realized the weights he was talking about were quarter-pounders with cheese.

Maybe I worry too much, but I

just don't think it's normal for a 10 year old to trade his BMX bike for a refrigerator. His idea of a weekend excursion is to set up a tent on the kitchen floor.

You would think that with this common bond, the kids would get along fantastically. They do except for one area. Sharing food is something my kids do not do well. If they have a tasty snack, even Detective Colombo could not figure out where they would go to eat it to avoid giving some to little brother. My kids have spent more time in closets than the old tweed coat Uncle Harry gave me.

Coping with kids' appetites is hard but not impossible. What is impossible is coping with the appetites of their pets. Any kid who thinks it is cute to chug-a-lug full boxes of breakfast cereal is bound to be fascinated by a pet who does likewise.

If a 200-pound Great Dane is looking in the car window and wondering if you brought home another sack of whatever the most expensive brand of dog food is, the fool better be there or don't leave the car.

I guess, the only way to talk the kids into getting rid of this kind of pet is to tell them they will have to share their food with him.