

Bus decision was correct

When the governing boards of three local school districts met last week to discuss a new student transportation agreement there was a small degree of tension in the air.

Members of the Sandy Elementary, Bull Run and Sandy High school boards met to decide if an interagency transportation agreement was a step in the right direction. Also at question was how the agreement would be perceived by school patrons.

After the joint meeting the elementary and high school boards met separately; both unanimously agreed to begin working toward implementation of the plan. (The Bull Run School Board will meet Saturday to consider the agreement.)

Approval of the plan was the right decision.

Some may consider the transportation agreement a step toward consolidation of the schools. But in actuality the agreement is structured to make it clear that SUHS is not trying to swallow up the other districts. The elementary district is named as the "employing district," with the participating districts' superintendents serving as a "liaison council." This makes sense for two reasons. The elementary district's transportation system was found to be "efficient" in a study by Barbara George of Brightwood, a transportation consultant. The system is

efficient in part because it can take advantage of the staggered times the different schools in the district begin.

Sandy High students could be added to the system without a loss of efficiency, according to George.

Naming Sandy Elementary the employing transportation district also makes sense in that Superintendent Clark Lund has been at the helm for some time, while Superintendent Roberta Hutton is new to SUHS.

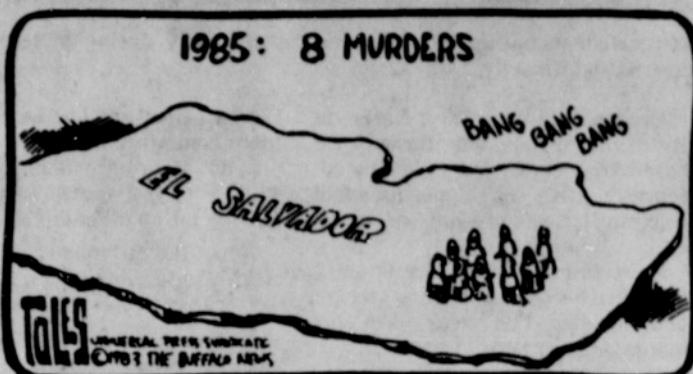
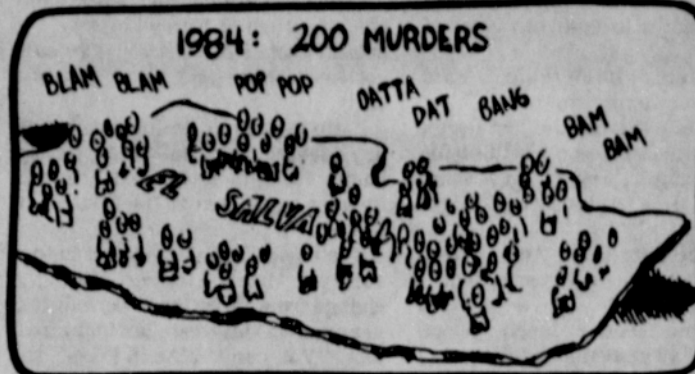
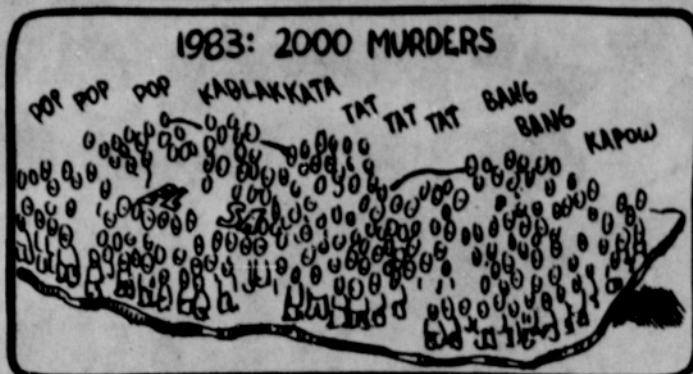
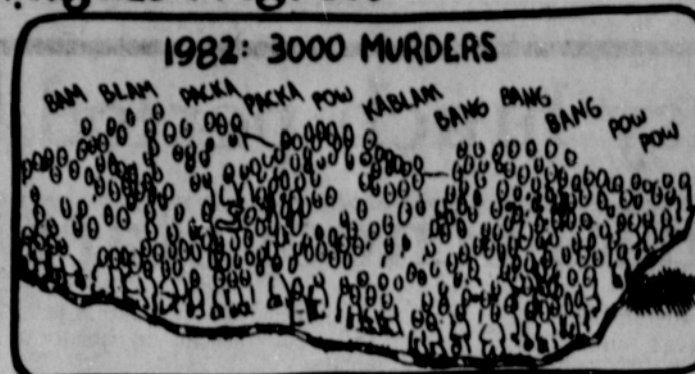
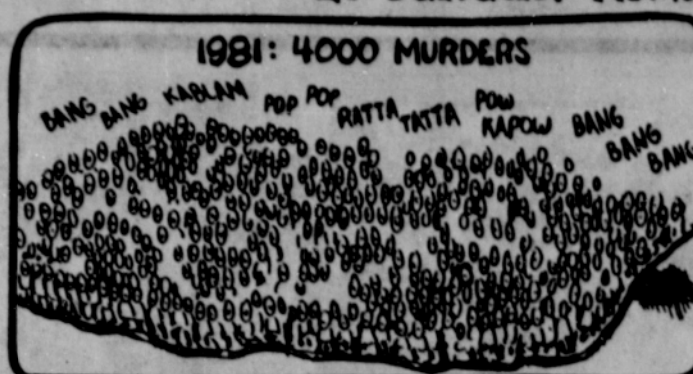
It is too bad the plan couldn't have been implemented before school started. Impact bargaining time lines — the high school's bus drivers would become elementary school district employees — would not have allowed the change in time for the start of school.

Conservative estimates project a savings of \$30,000 to \$40,000 for the elementary district and \$50,000 for SUHS. The benefits for Bull Run would primarily be better service. Presently, one Bull Run bus makes two runs, with one group of children getting to school considerably earlier than the other.

A clause also allows the districts, which will retain their own buses, to revert back to their old systems in the case of a levy failure.

The interagency transportation agreement is worth a one-year trial.

El Salvador Human Rights Progress



Letters to the editor

Rhodie Rendezvous raises spirits

Wake up

Concerning the new administration at the Sandy High: I believe children thrive on having rules set for them and people who care enough about them to carry the rules out. This school will be effective only if the staff and parents work together for the common good of the young people. If there is friction and lack of respect and concern, it will never work.

Wake up people: Our schools and country are going down the tube. Some discipline in children's lives is in order (I might add a few adults could impose a little discipline in their lives too). And try praying for the situations — both school and country. P.S. God is not dead!

Cindy Grenvik-Boggs
Brightwood

Fed at fault

This letter is my method of reporting to Clackamas County voters. As chairman of the Expenditures

and Revenue committee for county government, I want to use this method of thanking the many, many young people and parents who wrote myself and the other county commissioners in support of the continued funding of the county extension office and particularly 4-H. The letters (and telephone calls) from everybody on these issues were uniformly courteous and well thought out.

Likewise, the leaders of the veterans' organizations and of our excellent organization to assist rape victims tried to be understanding of the financial constraints on county government in these difficult times.

As a result of hard work and difficult committee decisions, we were able to continue county general fund support to an extent that will maintain viable programs in each of these areas. That is much more than some counties have been able to do. Commissioners Groener and Schumacher fully sup-

ported the recommendations of the committee.

We do have to look to developing a more reliable way of financing county services in the future. It is not cost effective to have to layoff valuable, longtime and experienced county employees, performing services that are mandated by state law, as the result of the effect of a "who could care about deficits" national administration. The result of the high deficits has a drastic effect in increasing interest rates, thus impacting a significant part of county revenue that comes from timber sales. Thus, if a critic such as Beverly Henderson, really opposes deficits in government budgets, their letters should be directed to the President and members of Congress. The 1983 federal deficit is almost \$1,000 per person.

This county will follow the "old-time religion" of a balanced budget. We had to cut important services to balance the county budget under foreseeable economic conditions. We have cut this county's budget \$16 per

person by the combined cuts this spring and cuts effective Sept. 1. If the federal government would reduce its spending proportionately, we could be paying off the federal debt instead of adding to it by astronomical deficits each year.

One final observation to property tax payers. Only 2.51 percent of your property taxes go to the county general fund. If you pay \$1,000 in property tax, the county collects \$25.10 that the Board of County Commissioners spend in the operation of general county government. The other \$974.90 funds other local government entities for the services they provide.

This letter is the only way I can reach the hundreds of concerned citizens who have contacted the Board of County Commissioners on budget matters. We are very short-handed in our office and cannot personally correspond with each person who has contacted us.

Dale Harlan
County Commissioner

Lobby for rest area

The state of Oregon Highway Division's preliminary six-year plan for Highway 26 is notable not only for what it contains, but for what it does not contain.

Some are likely to endorse the plan for the widening of a two-mile section from the Brightwood turnoff to the stoplight at Welches. However, others living close to the highway will not be happy seeing blacktop creep even closer to their homes. The project is scheduled to begin in 1989, not 1984 as was previously believed.

Plans are for the highway to be expanded to five lanes. The right-of-way on the north side of the road already has been obtained.

Also of interest is the absence of a safety rest area in the six-year plan. This spring the Hoodland Chamber of Commerce heard a Highway Division representative describe plans for a \$1.5 million facility. Most people locally had a more modest proposal in mind.

Highway Division officials have said a down-scaled version is being put together.

Tourism is an essential part of the Mt. Hood economy; it could play an even larger role. To ask

motorists to travel from Portland to Government Camp without providing rest area facilities is unreasonable, unhealthy and makes poor business sense.

Currently restaurant owners and service stations are forced to deal with the problem, and no one in business likes to greet a customer with a sign saying that the rest rooms are only for customers.

Some drivers just pull off to the side of the road, which is also an unacceptable solution.

Of 18 hearings to be held on the Highway Division plan, the two closest to Sandy will be Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Oregon City at the Clackamas County Environmental Services office, and Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Multnomah County sheriff's building, 12240 N.E. Glisan, Portland. Comments also may be mailed to Ed Hardt, metro regional engineer, 9002 S.E. McLoughlin, Milwaukie, 97222.

It is imperative that local residents lobby for the much-needed rest area. The effort will succeed only if numerous people express support.

On behalf of the Rhododendron Neighborhood Group, I would like to personally thank Bill Stark of Mt. Hood Food and General and all of the local musicians who played at the First Annual Rhodie Rendezvous. They donated their time and energy to present this community with a free evening of music. Over the past two years this mountain has been torn apart from various conflicts ranging from the defective new school building to numerous land-use battles. It was a pleasure to be a participant at a joyous community get-together.

I had the opportunity to meet many Portlanders who were vacationing on the mountain for the holiday weekend. They were all impressed with the spirit that the community showed.

Thanks again, and we look forward to next year's Second Annual Rhodie Rendezvous.

Carol Smith
Secretary, RNG CPO
Rhododendron

Salem scene

Tax plan prompts session

Oregon narrowly averted one crisis last week but bought another.

The first was settlement of a contract dispute between the state and the Oregon Public Employees Union only 48 hours before the 17,300-member organization was to go on strike.

The second was announcement of a so-called property tax relief plan devised by Gov. Vic Atiyeh and legislative leadership.

The first was received with relief and a degree of elation by both sides in the labor-management clash.

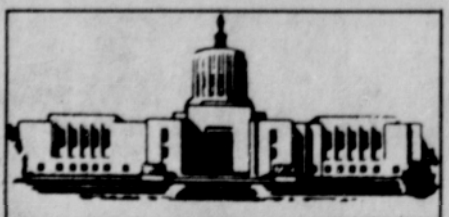
The second appeared to do little more than continue the discord that plagued the next-to-longest legislative session in history earlier this year and finally brought it to its knees early on July 16.

The contract agreement included give and take on both sides and the last-minute settlement mostly involved questions of job security.

The tax plan — if indeed it can be so designated — prompted Gov. Vic Atiyeh to announce his intentions to call lawmakers back into special session on Wednesday, Sept. 14, fulfilling a promise he has repeated many times since earlier this year.

The four-point scheme would freeze property tax rates but permit actual taxes to rise an average of 5 percent annually. It calls for local government spending limitation, subject to voter ratification, next May.

It includes a constitutional amendment



banning the state from taxing social security benefits. And it calls for an election law change enabling local governments to place their own property tax relief proposal on a statewide ballot.

Current existing property tax relief programs would continue at levels previously determined.

No one appeared excited or pleased about all of the plan's provisions. Nonetheless, legislative leadership this week is expected to attempt to generate consensus among individual caucuses prior to special session.

Gov. Atiyeh has long sought a property tax rate freeze. The spending limitation was fostered during the regular session by Senate and House GOP leaders. Sen. Tony Meeker of Amity and Rep. Larry Campbell of Eugene. House Speaker Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, wanted to give voters an option between a sales tax or income tax increase to provide immediate tax relief. But that menu approach is not part of the package.

Personally speaking

TV comedy is no laughing matter

Someone ought to do something about violence on TV. Everytime I think about its effects on young children, I get mad enough to hit somebody.

NBC recently aired a two-hour special dealing with the effects of television crime and violence on our everyday lives. This should come as no surprise; the only thing presented more often than shows depicting crime and violence are shows depicting crime and violence.

Clearly TV violence is one of our society's chief problems. Technicians in the field of television repair go so far as to estimate that one of every 10 service calls is a result of someone punching their television set. Violence begets violence; it is nothing less than obvious.

That's the real problem. Our society tends to focus on obvious problems and ignores the subtle, devious ones.

Situation comedy, as an example, is one of the more insidious menaces of our lives. The negative effects of situation comedy is only now beginning to be looked at by psychologists and research analysts. The seriousness of the problem has



by HANK EMRICH

recently come to light, as more Americans are willing to set the situation comedy lifestyle as a standard upon which to base their lives. Scientists have discovered whole families are sitting silently at dinner tables, afraid that what they were about to say was not going to be funny. Scores of teenagers are running away from home because they are being denied a laugh-track like Gary Coleman's.

"Don't tell me it's not available

for home use," one disgruntled youngster told his parents. "Beaver Cleaver had one 20 years ago."

A family counselor in Santa Monica, Calif. recently found himself puzzled while dealing with a 4-year-old child who consistently made what he felt were humorous ethnic remarks directed toward a neighbor family. The psychologist experienced difficulty convincing the child that the neighbor was the child's uncle who shared an identical heritage.

"No, no. People next door always come from another country," said the child. "I saw it on TV."

The counselor followed a course of action whereby the child's viewing habits were altered to include required viewing of news magazine shows such as "60 Minutes" and "20-20." The ethnic remarks disappeared only to be replaced by pointed questions as the child conducted mini-investigations into a dandelion slaughter and allowance kickback schemes.

It is said that children today comprehend the threat of nuclear war much more clearly than

most adults believe them to. Psychologists believe this is the reason children have such great difficulty planning for the future. However, there are clinical studies that suggest otherwise. A group of prestigious researchers suggests most children believe cancellation to be a more realistic fear. With almost weekly frequency, children see their favorite comedy characters disappear from the screen, only to be seen again on reruns. It could be a point well taken, if Barney Miller can bite the dust, what does that say for our future?

Perhaps to some the problem does not seem that great. However, there are 1.3 television sets for every U.S. household. This means there is a possibility that more than 83 million showings of any given situation comedy could occur simultaneously.

Even when confronted with these statistics, people continue to contribute to growing ratings for this type of show. This could be a tragic mistake as we find ourselves deluged with more and more comedy and less programming which depicts life as it really is, like "Dallas," "Dynasty," and "Knott's Landing."