

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1983

Signs make a difference

Little things mean a lot in a community such as Sandy. In this case the little things are the changes the city has seen over the past several years to make it a more livable area.

Although it has doubled in size in the last 10 years, Sandy has managed to avoid many pitfalls other communities have encountered because of the foresight of city officials, such as Planning Commission and Design Review Board members.

A common sight in most communities are garage sale signs covering utility poles, signposts and anything else to which a staple can be attached. A person will not see this in Sandy.

Signs advertising household sales are specifically covered in an amendment to the municipal code. Signs must be of professional quality as well as follow certain size and placement

guidelines. All signs must be approved by the city's building official before being displayed. Recognizing that not everyone is capable of producing a professional-looking sign, the city has made available signs requiring only a \$5 deposit for the use of three.

The signs are available to each household twice a year. More than two sales constitute commercial use and require a separate permit.

The Sandy police, city officials and public works personnel can and will remove unauthorized signs.

If you wonder why no one is coming to your garage sale, stop by city hall. Your homemade signs may be gone, but you can pick up a nice looking one and help with one more thing to make Sandy more attractive.

Artist sets good example

Local residents would do well to follow the example of community service set by 18-year-old Roman Scott.

The Sandy High graduate — now a freshman at the University of Denver — has completed several civic-minded projects that have added to the community in a unique way.

His mural in the Sandy High library of a final scene from the novel "Moby Dick" is unbelievable. Students and employees alike watched the artist at work and the mural's progress over a four-month period.

Scott also did the calligraphy for a memorial to Sandy High graduate John Nelson, who was killed in an automobile accident. The memorial hangs on the wall of the Oral Hull Foundation library.

Scott's efforts also grace the new addition of Cedar Ridge School. He was paid as a

maintenance worker to paint a mural which depicts subjects taught at the school.

Visitors are welcome to view the murals at both schools, according to officials, but should check in at the offices first.

Scott's other accomplishments include his membership in the National Honor Society, and a first-place finish in a state vocational arts competition.

As a Sandy Post cartoonist, he was not afraid of a little criticism. In July a cartoon on the Mountain Festival drew the ire of the Festival chairman when a drawing depicted a keg of beer and a car marked "Traffic" as part of an upcoming Festival scene.

He was honored in 1981 by the National Newspaper Association with a third-place finish for best original cartoon in a weekly newspaper.

Roman Scott has contributed to the community in innovative ways. He will be missed.

Salem scene

Spending, taxes are tied

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

When lawmakers resumed their tax relief struggle in Salem last week, there appeared growing awareness the real problem may be spending instead of taxes.

And although this theme has been around for a long time and was one reason the 62nd Assembly failed to achieve revenue reform in its regular session, the special session provided new clues that the alternative refrain is catching on.

In essence, spending control is at the root of Gov. Vic Atiyeh's continuing desire to freeze real property's tax rates. It is at the heart of the Legislature's Republican minority spending limitation. It is the basic tenet of property tax limitation initiative backers.

And it's embraced by most of those proposing imposition of a sales tax to relieve other taxes.

Each in its own way is expressing concern over mounting costs of government, primarily at the local level.

Many Oregonians still don't recognize the fact this state abandoned property taxes as a revenue-raiser more than four decades ago and handed that funding source over to local government.

As populations swelled and demand for education and local government services surged apace, property taxes grew but were hard-pressed to keep up with needs. The current property tax revolt began.

The Legislature in 1947, bowing to the fledgling revolt, established basic school support and allocated some \$33 million from income tax receipts that became property tax relief in that biennium.

That initial basic school support allocation assumed about 36 percent of public primary and secondary school costs that biennium. Basic school support allocations by subsequent Assemblies have topped that percentage significantly only once during intervening bienniums and have generally stayed in the 25 to 35 percent range.

But from that initial \$33 million appropriation in 1947-49, the state's basic school fund commitment has grown to \$882 million this biennium, an increase of some 2,573 percent and represents only 31 percent of current school expenditures.

This becomes startling when you recognize an average of 66 percent of all property taxes goes to support spending for schools.



The most recent major legislative attempt to ease local government's property tax burden occurred in 1979 when — armed with a whopping surplus of income tax revenue — the 60th Legislative Assembly enacted property tax relief so immense that nearly a third of all homeowners had no property tax liability at all.

The inevitable occurred. Local property tax levies soared. Eased by the state's income tax largess, local voters approved levies that boosted statewide property taxes by 17.4 percent. A year later the same voters boosted property taxes 20.5 percent and last year they approved levies upping their local taxes 7.5 percent. The cumulative increase over three years is 51 percent.

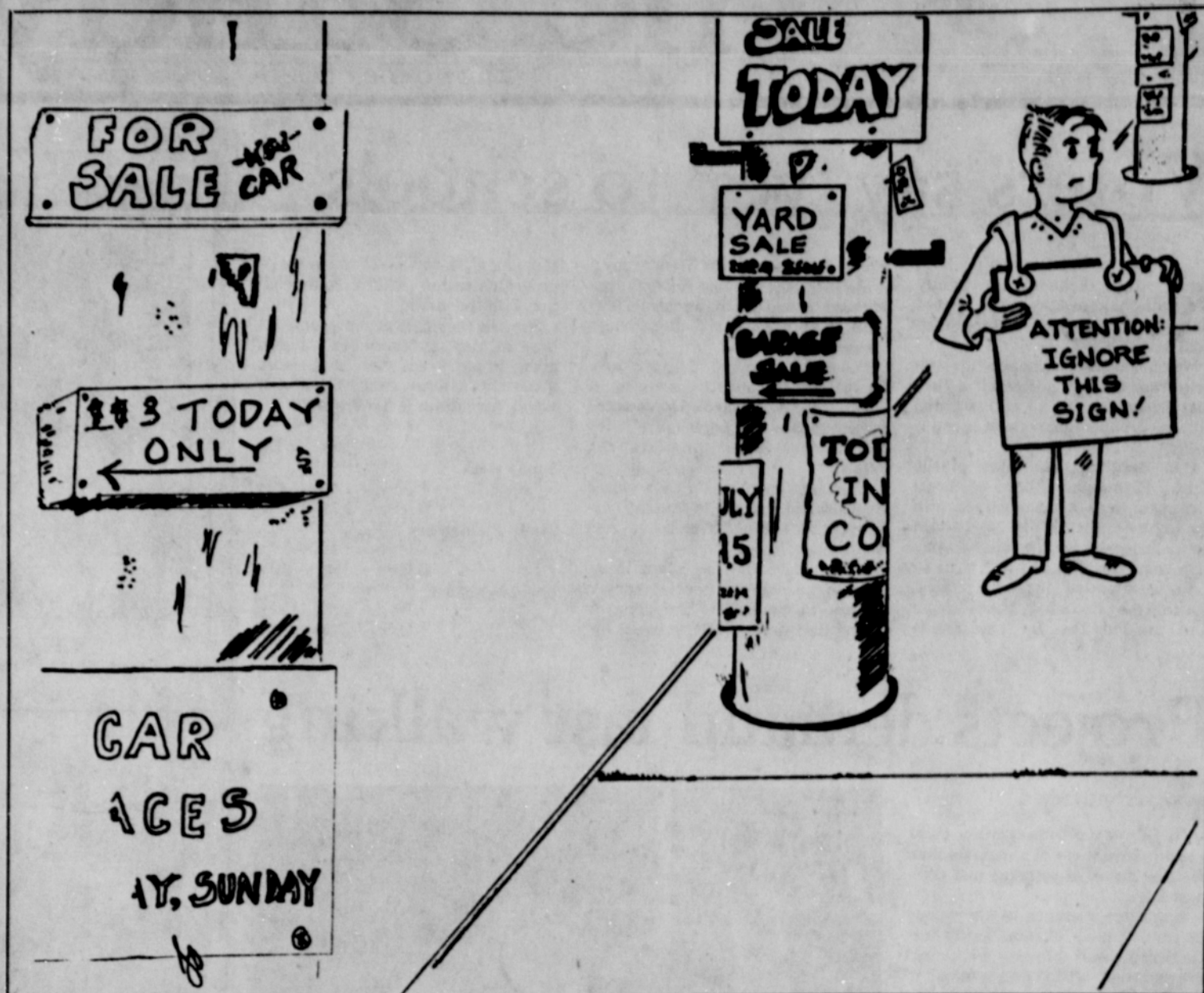
During the same period, Oregon experienced its worst economic decline in modern time and income tax receipts plummeted. So too did the 1979 Legislature's property tax relief plan. From a maximum of \$800 for individual homeowner relief, the figure has dwindled to \$170.

Nonetheless, the 62nd Assembly did act to provide significant property tax relief. In addition to the \$882 million for basic school support, it added \$409 million for homeowner and renter relief, \$122.3 million to defray costs of Circuit and District Courts, \$34 million for local law enforcement and \$104.3 million for Community Colleges.

Meanwhile, the cost of Oregon's public school system has risen from a paltry \$43.5 million back in 1947 to an estimated nearly \$1.4 billion for the current school year.

Voters last month turned down local school levies in record numbers and are at the polls again this week.

Whatever the outcome of the 62nd Legislative Assembly's attempts to ease property taxes and achieve some sort of revenue reform, it becomes more likely with every passing day, the next big issue will not be taxes as much as it will focus on spending.



Letters to the editor

Schools losing at the taxing game

I do not think schools should be paid for out of property taxes that are voted on. It can't help but be a losing game for schools.

Ask our paid leaders and representatives if they would like to have their salaries voted on once a year.

Not only is the voting liable to cause a shrinkage of financing for schools, but it is liable to do so unevenly throughout the state; that is, relatively poor districts are more likely to vote down money for schools than are rich districts. This will lead to more money spent on educating children of the rich, than on those of the poor.

I don't think that was the intent of our State Constitution.

All students in our state should have an equal and exceptionally good opportunity for an education. You can't get good teachers without paying them.

Personally, I think schools should be paid for out of a graduated income

tax. That would give President Reagan's trickle down theory a chance to work (i.e., the rich help pay for the education of the poor).

I agree there should be control by the people over how their money is spent; but I don't think a negative, property tax vote type of control should be applied to education. People could exert a more positive control by visiting their schools, learning first hand what goes on there and attending board meetings and trying to help positively.

Joseph L. Miller, Jr.
Sandy

Thanks expressed

The Jadwin and Burke families wish to thank the many friends who showed thoughtfulness in remembering their mother, Mrs. Mary Elsa Jadwin by gifts of flowers, food, cards and memorials.

Fern Burke
Paul Burke
Jeannie Hayes

Personally speaking

Cats no friend to man or mouse

Everybody knows cats do awful things in closets, so why would anybody want to keep one?

For lack of a better reason, I just assume that anyone with a cat is subconsciously punishing himself for a past sin against the animal kingdom, such as eating a hamburger or running over a possum.

Many people talk about how cute cats are. They point out the many different shapes, sizes and colors they come in as evidence of their beauty. Any time I see that much variety, I figure someone is experimenting, still trying to come up with a good one.

It isn't that I hate cats. I just think they all suffer from serious psychological problems. It comes from watching television.

To a housecat, everything on TV is just about its size. They sit in front of the tube all day and see all the tigers and leopards running around doing anything they please and figure they are just as tough.

Whenever a jungle movie comes on, they see humans running and screaming every time



by HANK EMRICH

what appears to them to be cousin Morris opens his mouth to yawn. As far as cats are concerned, the only human that is worthy of respect wears furry swimsuits and swings through the jungle on a vine, screaming only Jane knows what.

I realize a cat would have to be pretty stupid to fall for an illusion

like that, but I have yet to come across a cat with even a high school diploma. On the whole, they just aren't real bright.

Cats are bullies. What other animal picks a mouse as a mortal enemy? It's like they all got together and picked the most defenseless thing on the earth. I will never understand why mice didn't end up as the most common household pet anyway. They are usually right there handy, they don't eat as much, and you can even get a wristwatch with a picture of one right on it.

Luckily for mice they were able to enlist dogs over to their cause early in history, enabling them to have a certain degree of protection, thereby assuring their continued existence. If it were not for dogs, Walt Disney would have been bankrupt 50 years ago. Who would have laughed at Mickey Mouse if he was on the endangered species list?

Cats on the other hand, are far from an endangered species. More money has been left to cats by wealthy widows than congress has allotted to the national

defense. The variety of goods available to pamper these monsters (the cats, not congress) is unbelievable.

There are thousands of different cat foods available and cats don't like any of them. An accurate translation of "Me-oww" is probably "How would you like to try this stuff?"

Again television is the culprit. Cats could care less about coupon specials. They want the kind the highbrows on TV eat. In that respect, they are a lot like humans. I'm sure they think eating that brand will make them look soft and fluffy like they have never even seen an alley. What they don't realize is the cats on TV have enough money to hire a dozen humans just to watch and let them know if a flea gets within 100 yards.

Less prosperous felines have only the immediate household to go to for attention, and have been known to get vicious when feeling slighted. Anyone who doesn't know what a cat's claws are made for has never looked at the back of their sofa.