

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Gas tax worth support

Despite being unpopular, the fuel dealer license tax is a good idea.

The gas tax, proposed by Tom Reber, city manager, would be collected on motor vehicle fuel sold in Sandy. The tax would either be 2 percent of the retail purchase or 2 cents per gallon.

Reber is right in two major contentions. First of all, the tax would not alter driving habits of local residents. In the last 15 years gas has jumped in price from under a quarter to over \$1.25, and that has barely affected driving habits. In fact, there presently appears to be a trend toward larger automobiles.

Secondly, Reber is right in his contention that a gas tax is a user fee. It is true travelers on Highway 26 — which is maintained by the state — don't use the city's streets. However, additional police protection comes out of the general fund and certainly the well-traveled highway doesn't make their job any easier.

What makes it a user fee is the

fact numerous local residents trade here, regardless of the price of gas in Gresham, and with our cars we are damaging the road ways.

The gas tax — which would be dedicated to street improvement, curbing, water drainage and sidewalks as presently proposed — is a step in the direction of actually paying for what we are using.

The gas tax might be more palatable if it was implemented in 1 cent increments.

Reber projects a \$100,000 gain from a gas tax. If \$75,000 of that went toward property tax relief, local residents might eventually be less critical of the tax, something the city council ought to consider at its meeting Monday evening.

There is little chance the gas tax will pass — two councilors have already said they will not support the measure — and that is unfortunate as the gas tax offers a fair way to pay for the use of the streets.

Time wasted on sales tax at expense of alternatives

by Rep. Bob Shiprack

The special session of the Oregon Legislature came to an end with referral of a 4 percent sales tax. In order for the sales tax to come to a vote of the people, it must first be approved by a majority of counties, cities and school districts.

I opposed this measure, as I have consistently opposed a sales tax. Recent, well done and funded polls have shown very little public support for a sales tax in Oregon, and I feel the Legislature should not have spent ten months belaboring the issue at the expense of other alternatives. This sales tax will shift the burden of taxation toward homeowners and renters, particularly those in rural, relatively low tax rate areas.

Accompanying the sales tax was a rate and assessment freeze in S.B. 792. This was the Governor's proposal and was contingent on passage of the sales tax measure. The freeze sounds good, but in actuality only limited elections above the established tax rates and levies to two per year. The bill, however, had one fatal flaw. It would abolish the split roll section of the 5 percent limit on assessed valuation created by the 1979 Legislature. In 1979 it was noticed that over the past 10 years a shift of the property tax burden from 32 percent to 42 percent toward homeowners versus other properties. They established a split-roll system with a 5 percent cap statewide on homesteads in one group and other properties in the other. Because of that action, since 1979 the homeowners property tax burden has remained relatively constant despite the great slowing in homestead market value in recent years.

Indeed, without the split roll, homeowners would have paid another 3 percent of the total property tax bill since 1979.

A minority report would have maintained everything in S.B. 792 expect for the



deletion of the split roll. This was defeated 32-24 with myself voting yes. The original S.B. 792 then passed 33-25, and I voted no. That completed the property tax relief package and assumptions can be made. The combination of a sales tax and loss of the split roll will cause a shift in tax burden from other properties to homeowners — that is certain and admitted by the sales tax proponents. For the past months many of our small businessmen in the district have contacted me regarding this proposed tax. It is my best estimation that the majority of small businessmen in District 23 will not benefit. Large property owners such as the timber companies, the electronics industry and big retailers will benefit, and these groups were very active in pushing this proposal. To call this plan tax reform when homeowners and renters will pay more is not accurate and I hope you will join me in opposing this at the local level and on the ballot should it be referred.

If you have any questions or comments contact me at: Rep. Bob Shiprack, 22610 S. Forest Park Road, Beavercreek, Or., 97004.

Personally speaking

Being 'mature' has its advantages

It is usually about this time of year that I realize I forgot to take my shirt off all summer. I had meant to but the first time I showed up at the beach three Navy ships turned back out to sea, thinking the reflection of the sun off my body was a signal flashing warnings.

Next year I am going to work on a tan starting in January or when I lose 20 pounds, whichever comes first. I realize it isn't to "macho" for a man to be this vain but I'm afraid all my macho left to make room for that extra 20 pounds.

Macho isn't the only thing that left. I will never understand why my barber keeps saying no one will notice that bald spot when she obviously did.

I don't like to think of it as getting older, but as a maturing process.

For instance, the more mature person prefers the "cerebral" nature of athletics. Not without coincidence, the cerebral nature of athletics can best be enjoyed on television or from the grandstands.

This will give a much better overall view of the game and the complexities involved than gain-



by Hank Emrich

ed as a participant. It is much easier to notice the ballet-like preciseness of a running back's moves when you don't have to concentrate on a nose guard who wants to rip you apart. With a remote control device to change channels, the game can even be enjoyed without sweat.

The cerebral approach also is beneficial in the area of time

management. Everyone knows you can only do one thing while wearing a football uniform but there are a myriad of things that can be accomplished while watching football.

Like eating, but that goes back to the 20 pounds. This is still another advantage for the mature person. A young person eats forever and never seems to know where it went. A mature person always knows exactly where it went. I still have two pounds from half a cheesecake I ate three years ago.

Many people say a mature person learns to slow down and enjoy life. Slowing down is always a little easier when you are carrying 20 extra pounds.

Enjoying life is another story. The mature person has to be a little more selective about what he can and cannot enjoy. As far as physical activity is concerned, the body has built in warning signals to tell you when you are overdoing it. These warning signals are called aches, sprains, bruises, and death.

I considered following my wife's example by investing in a Richard Simmons exercise record but I couldn't bring myself to invest \$15 to have someone in-

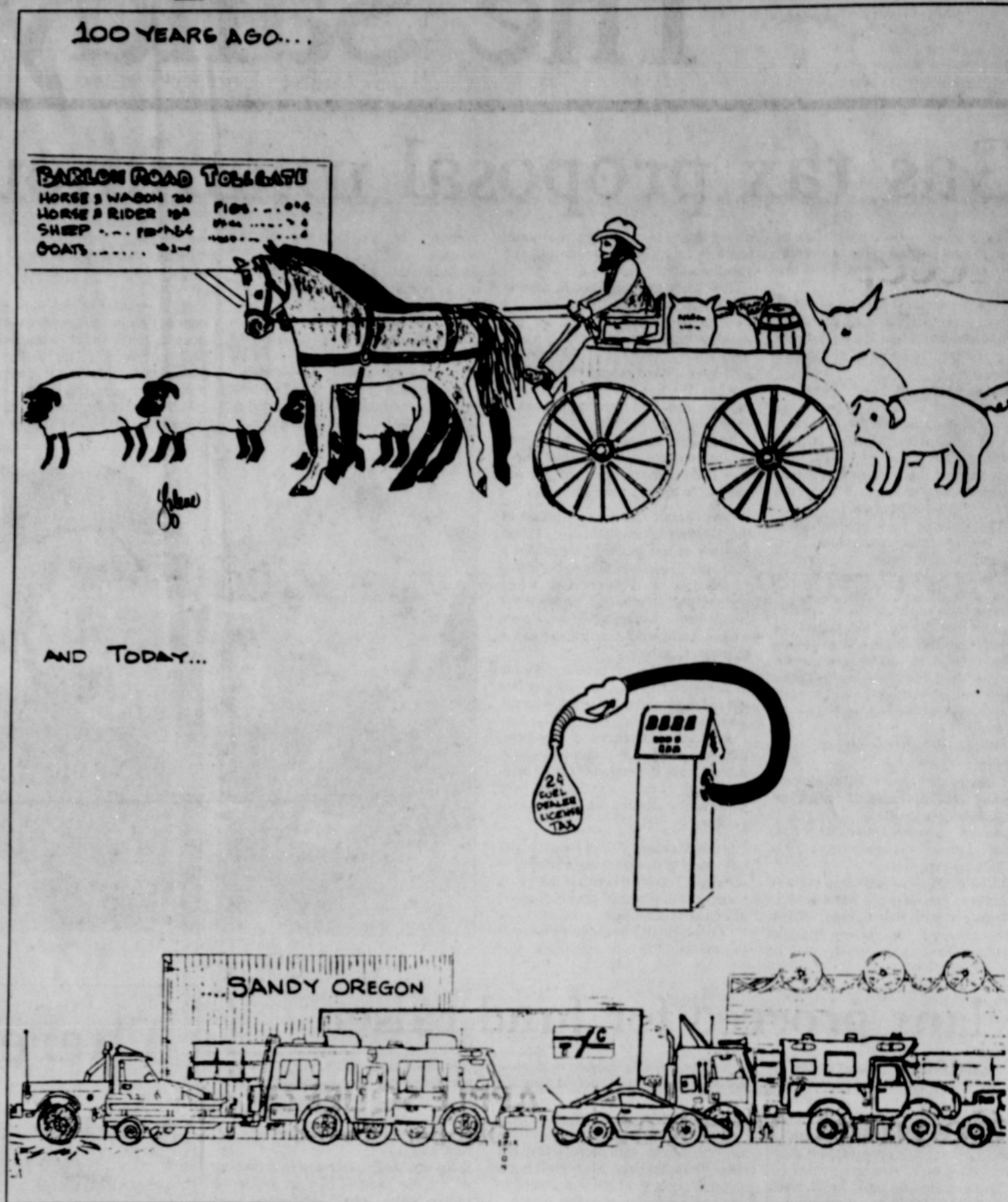
sult me to music. Besides, it bothers me to have men with high voices calling me a fat little sweetheart.

I never have trusted exercise leaders anyway. Before anyone is allowed to teach an exercise class, a thorough investigation should be conducted as to their whereabouts during World War II. Particularly those with German accents.

There are several of these grunt and groan gurus on television who insist they are over 50 and still in the same shape they were in 30 years ago. More than likely they have substituted one of their children and simply do the voice over for the shows. They keep insisting that exercise is fun. If it is so fun, why does someone have to pay them to do it?

Sure these guys look good, but you have to remember there is a commercial every seven minutes and while we are at the fridge sneaking a snack, some guy runs out with a towel, wipes off the sweat, and hits them with a quick shot of hair spray.

I would look good too if I had someone following me around so I could freshen up every seven minutes.



Letters to the editor

Free world guilty of greed, apathy

Aaron Ballou's letter in the Oct. 6 Post strikes a chord that every citizen should respond to. We are guilty of ignorance, apathy and greed while being occupied primarily with building our own earthly paradise and following our base hedonistic instincts. The fall of Rome results from not within which every high school pupil

their parents if we have any honest informed history teachers.

The results of a crisis now approaching what is left of the Free World may never be averted unless American people activate a spirit of Renaissance as demonstrated in 1776 when we broke away from the tyranny of the British. Any pattern of logical

thinking we must first see clearly the problem and then search for a solution.

The first problem is: Two percent of our people call the shots and control the political agenda, which means they are more than half way into their own victory. The problem with politics the way it is practiced today is that we citizens are accustomed to passive participation. Somebody else sets the agenda, what is to be discussed, who is to campaign and who is to win election, and we are constrained to make our choices within the limits established by the controllers.

The second problem is: Have you ever received a political questionnaire in the mail? Well, I have and what makes me boil is how the questions and responses on my mind are never raised or answered. This is our cultural environment today, polluted with public relations, hypies and banal entertainment. We are not taught to think morally or effectively, nor are we expected to actively participate in deliberating policy! Everything is a matter of how it is packaged, of how popular perceptions are to be manipulated and the substance of reality obscured.

As for our past five presidents, they have been no less than national disasters and three of them still have their snouts in the taxpayers' trough. Since 1963 under the State Department leadership of McNamara, Kissinger and Cyrus Vance, America has been engaged in 15 years of suicidal, unilateral disarmament which gives the communist world an advantage to strike us dead if they only fully knew the

true economic, moral and military condition of America.

First, militarily, tell the President and Congress to get on full speed with the announced Beam Weapon program, hoping we can beat the Russians with that weapon, which will stave off a nuclear war and also give our economy a thrust out of the present depression.

Our government must take any and all action against Russia, remembering the Russians want to defeat us, not destroy us. They want our land, productive capabilities and to make us their slaves. What they have in their heads is to create a second world wide Roman Empire.

Secondly, economically, our U.S. government employs approximately 7,000 university trained economists, besides hundreds employed by all major banks, financial institutions and large corporations. The historical facts of the past fifty years of which this author has studied are that these economists are of less value than so many witch doctors.

Other necessary solutions which I will address if the Sandy Post editor will print a second letter are the results of a clear analysis by Lyndon H. LaRouche, a New Hampshire patriot who offered himself a candidate for president in the Democratic party in 1980.

Cifford Koenig
Sandy

Work together

May I take this opportunity to thank the staff of

the Sandy Post and most especially, Scott Newton, for the support and detailed reporting that assisted the Sandy Union High School district in its recent levy passage?

My belief in the total community working together for the welfare of all citizens, even those who are not yet voters, was reinforced by the large turnout of our patrons at the polls. It was difficult for many of our heavily taxed and frustrated patrons to cast a positive vote to keep our schools open, but many of them put aside personal concerns and assisted us as we attempt to provide the best possible education for our young people.

To all of you, I can only say how much we appreciate your support here at Sandy High. Thank you from all of us who work with the youth of this community.

Roberta K. Hutton
Superintendent
Sandy Union High School

Thanks

The Sandy Ridge Riders had a benefit car wash at the Sandy Fire Hall Oct. 8.

The money that the Sandy Ridge Riders made will be given to the Clackamas County 4-H extension office to help give campships for 4-Hers in Clackamas County.

About 60 cars showed up and they made \$110.

The Sandy Ridge Riders would like to thank the Sandy Fire Department for letting us use their facilities and would like to thank all the people who brought their cars to be washed and help make our day a successful one.

Thank you.

Michelle Geesey