

Leaner budgets the norm

The vote by the Sandy Elementary board of directors Monday night not to hire a part-time teacher is an illustration of taxpayers getting their way regardless of the special interests of one group.

Members of the Firwood Parent-Teacher Club lobbied effectively, and indeed no one argued the point that 30 students in a class is a bit much.

However, it seemed to be the idea of voters saying "no" that loomed in the minds of those who voted against the motion to hire a part-time teacher.

Gary Cleland, a member of the Sandy High School board of directors, feels it has become more difficult to be a board member in the last couple of years.

Voters in Oregon have a direct impact on local education. But that control — which is a good thing — needs to be balanced by an informed public.

Every year an open budgeting process goes on, and only a handful of citizens participate. Then, when it comes time to vote on that budget the most ridiculous rumors abound, rumors that could be clarified with a simple telephone call.

Just as the Firwood Parent-Teacher Club made a good case for the hiring of another teacher, one could also make a case for the Sandy High School B ballot.

Information compiled by Clackamas County and

distributed by the Educational Service District (ESD) show Sandy High to have one of the lowest rates per \$1,000 valuation in the area at \$4.07. Molalla High School's is \$6.44 and Canby High's is \$5.33.

At \$7.35 per \$1,000 assessed valuation the Sandy Elementary district does considerably better than Sandy High.

Boring and Bull Run do better yet, with \$9.15 and \$8.46 respectively.

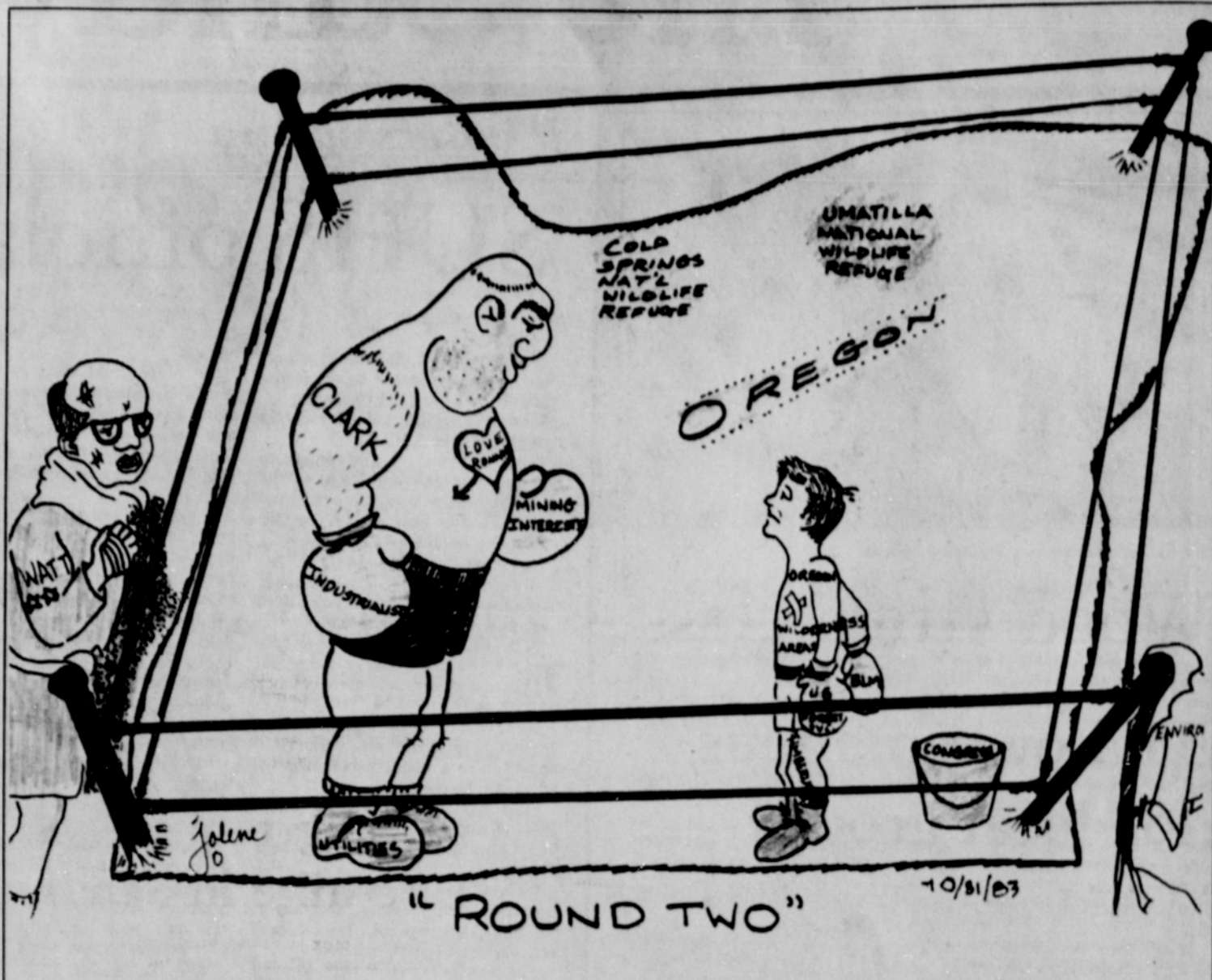
It is, of course, harder for Sandy High School to muster support, being that it is a sprawling district encompassing communities that don't completely consider themselves a part of Sandy.

Though a good case can be made for SUHS's B ballot, there is little sense in endorsing a proposal with almost no chance of passing.

Although a good Christmas is predicted, economic indicators still aren't what they could be. Unemployment is still high, and even people with jobs are spending their money carefully.

School officials will have to make due with lean budgets, and parents are going to have to be understanding of the difficulties.

Most students will learn regardless, but extra care needs to be taken to keep students needing extra attention from falling behind. That is the kind of problem that will always require personal attention.



Letters to the editor

Poster in library misunderstood

Your Oct. 27 issue of The Post included a letter from Teresa Shaw accusing our library of promoting communism because it had a poster entitled, "Understanding the Soviets-Path to Peace."

This seems to me to be a low blow to our fine library and grossly misjudging the intent of the poster.

To say understanding the Soviets is promoting communism is like saying to study cancer is promoting ill health and death. There are very practical reasons for knowing the history, fears and aspirations of the Soviet people. One fact that is imperative to know is that in the field of armaments and mega death machines, the Soviets have caught up to what the armament experts say is a rough equality with us. We and they have so many hydrogen bomb warheads that can be delivered on each other that we either live or die together. There is no other choice. At any moment

some error of radar or communications or human judgment can condemn both the Soviets and ourselves to death by blast, fire and radiation.

It makes good sense to know more about our enemies and how they think about us. We just might be able to allow their kids and our kids to have a future. Prospects are dim at the moment for all of us in both countries.

W. Pete Sulzbach
Sandy

Columnist

After reading numerous articles and special features by Hank Emrich, I find his writing quite good and refreshing, somewhat witty, but sometimes boring. Which reminds me, I've really missed those special features on the Hoodland Water District saga. I mean, it's like having to wait till the next season to find out who shot J.R.

What I really want to say is Hank is a great writer and a great asset to the Post. But, could you stop putting his picture in every issue under "Personally Speaking." He's just gone too far. In the last two weeks I've picked him up on the highway three times. He said he ran out of gas. I think it's his way of finding leads for some of his stories. His car must not have a radio because twice all he did on the way to town was play with the radio, mumble and take notes. Besides, I saw him at three different gas stations in one day once.

Then there's the soccer games, who's the referee, Hank.

I go to church and who comes in late, Hank. I even went to his house once (to get my gas can he borrowed) Hank was there, but asleep or something on the couch.

But today I have to draw the line when I came home and settled down to read my favorite column, "Personally Speaking," my youngest son, Mike, looking over my shoulder exclaimed in utter astonishment and joy, "Look, it's Hank!"

Then he begs me to cut out his picture, which he immediately runs upstairs and pins it to his ceiling above his bed. I mean, I'm not even on his ceiling or even on the floor or behind the bed, etc.

How much further can Hank go? Please don't tell me, just remove his picture or maybe put in a picture of Bella Abzug and leave Hank's name under it.

Tom Weeks
Sandy

Thanks

A special thank you to the schools, the Sandy Police department and parents who made the "bike rodeo" such a big success.

Winners will be announced and awards given out in the near future.

Leata Russell
V.F.W. Post 4273
and Auxiliary

The coast

This letter concerns one of Oregon's treasured resources, the Pacific Ocean coastline.

All know the havoc wreaked upon southern California last winter. The Oregon coastline suffered also but was not so well

publicized.

Present weather conditions cause some Oregon coastline residents to wonder about another winter of equal ferocity. The writer's 34 years of experience with the central Oregon coastline and its weather patterns gives him a "gut" feeling that all is not well. For example, the alder leaves are falling weeks before normal, the summer weather has been limited to just a few weeks of nice weather, interspersed with more than normal rain and the birds have left unusually early.

The summer of 1983 has been so unusual that the Oregon coastline has not had its normal time to "heal" the last winter's ravages. The sand carried away last winter has not come back in its usual pattern and the dune grass has not recovered so that the coming stormy season will in effect be "taking off" where last year's storms "left off." Continued onslaught of storm tides, heavy wind and rain could easily create as much or more erosion problems than the 1982-83 winter.

All Oregon residents should be concerned. In particular, there should be some concern by the governmental agencies who claim responsibility for the Oregon shores. It would seem that the least these agencies could have done is formulate an "action plan" for the winter weather erosion. At least an instruction campaign about proved methods of design and construction of ocean front protective structures would have shown the agencies' willingness to assist the Oregon people.

All Oregon residents have a stake in the Oregon coastline. These residents could create a positive effect upon the governmental agencies by voicing their concern about the protection of this treasure.

Lestr E. Fultz, P.E.
Neskowin

Insulted

In you Oct. 27 issue, you referred to me, Dixie Cochran, as a freshman. I happen to be a sophomore. If this is not the worst possible insult, I don't know what is. Hopefully, you've treated others from our school in a more

respectable manner.

Acidly yours,
Dixie Cochran

Gun control

On Nov. 22, we mark the 20th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. More than 400,000 Americans have been killed in gunfire since his death. Ironically, on this anniversary, Congress is considering legislation which would weaken, not strengthen, America's feeble gun laws.

In 1968, when Congress passed the Gun Control Act, our legislators specifically prohibited mail-order gun sales because President Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, used a cheap rifle purchased from a Chicago mail-order house. The weapon was fitted with a telescopic gun-sight, also acquired through the mail. Less than an hour after killing the President, Oswald killed police officer J. D. Tippitt with a .38 caliber handgun acquired from yet another mail-order house.

Now, the National Rifle Association wants to gut the 1968 Act through passage of the McClure-Volkmer Gun Decontrol Bill (S. 914 and H.R. 2420). This bill would lift the prohibition on mail-order sales and again allow easy access to firearms by criminals and would-be assassins.

This bill must be stopped. Our Congress should not enact legislation which only invites mail-order murder.

Barbara Lautman
Communications Director
Handgun Control, Inc.
Washington, D.C.

LETTERS POLICY

The Post asks that all letters to the editor be typed, double-spaced and signed. Deadline is noon, Tuesday. Letters should be accurate, free of libelous remarks and in good taste. This newspaper attempts to publish all letters it receives and may edit material lightly to conform to guidelines. Maximum length is 200 words.



Personally speaking

Mistakes in photography are easy

The sun sets in the west. Every soldier has an old war story to tell. The only kind of mistake a photographer can make is a dumb one.

These are some of the facts of life. Things we know absolutely and positively to be true.

There are many photographers out there, and they all seem to have a common language.

A common first experience with a camera is a shot into the sun. Usually a person does this with a relative they haven't seen in about 15 years. Everybody would've liked to have had a picture of "Uncle Ted." They let you know they would've taken one with their \$5 instamatic had they known you weren't going to get your's with your grandfather's old 35mm Graflex.

But after a while a person gets his confidence back. After seeing that you can handle subjects such as barns and kitties, a friend asks you to shoot his wedding pictures.

If you are smart you told him to forget it. The last thing a person needs to be reminded of all his life is how he blew his best friend's wedding pictures.

All photographers seem to go through a phase where they get out the family's old Super-8. After changing the 20-year-old film one has to coax people to do something besides just stand there. After asking so many peo-



by SCOTT NEWTON

few items into the back seat.

If a person is lucky the kids in the neighborhood will flag you down before the camera falls off and is permanently destroyed. Don't count on being lucky.

In every crowd there's always the guy who bought a camera, photographed all his possessions for insurance reasons, and then had his camera and film stolen.

Sometimes the photographs stashed away in a person's home show a particular mental block. Everyone has one.

Some can't take pictures without cutting off people's foreheads, for example.

In every photography class there is always one person who doesn't advance past rolling black and white film. They take pictures time and again, but never see a negative because they just can't get the darn film on the reel in the dark. And then, about mid-semester, they quit showing up.

So after a while a photographer gets pretty smug. After an experienced photographer makes all the basic mistakes, he goes through a spell, much like a batter, where he's really hitting good.

He's caught up with Uncle Ted, and this time the light was just right, very even.

He takes a few shots at a wedding, and his friends tell him his

ple to flash the peace sign, make faces or feign death, a still photographer usually puts the Super-8 back in the dusty closet where it belongs.

Carrying a camera around, one gets many opportunities to goof. Thus, one learns from the school of experience.

An important lesson to learn right from the start is not to drive off with the camera on the roof of your car after having unloaded a