

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Contribute at meeting

The Sandy High School board of directors will meet Monday night to receive input on how to make up a half-million dollar shortfall.

Residents of the district can be participants or pugilists in the process.

Laying blame for the budget woes should not be the direction of Monday night's meeting. Rather than seeing the board members as adversaries, it is time for residents to take them up on their offer to listen.

Cutting \$499,000, approximately the cost of operating the school for 20 days, is going to hurt — there can be no doubt about that. There are not enough reductions of capital expenses to be made. The cuts will affect jobs and pocket-books.

One alternative being seriously considered is reducing the school

year by eight days for a savings of \$200,000. This will mean reduced paychecks for teachers and other employees.

Other cuts could translate into people losing jobs.

The burden should not rest entirely with the school board. The direction should come as much from the community as from the administration. This is an avenue that both the school board and the administration have indicated they want to pursue.

Community input will be received at the Nov. 21 meeting. On Nov. 28 the board will make final decisions on the cuts to be made.

A discussion of the sales tax referendum will begin at 7 p.m. on Nov. 21. The regular meeting begins at 7:30 in rooms 50-51 of the school.

Activities predict success

Invariably the first topic of conversation in a discussion of school budget cutbacks is athletics.

Sandy High School, where the board of directors face the unenviable task of making up for \$499,000 denied them by voters, is no exception.

Some have proposed cutting athletics and all other extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. At this point it might do well to ask if extracurricular activities are really extra.

A study for the Kansas High School Activities Association seems to say otherwise. The study compared four factors: high grades in college, high grades in high school, high scores on ACT tests, and achievement in extracurricular activities. Each factor's value was assessed as to its ability to predict success in later life.

The only common denominator

among those who considered themselves successful two years after college was achievement in extracurricular activities.

It is not necessary to wait until students complete college to assess results of participation in these activities. At every high school tested, the study also showed a significantly higher grade point average among those who participated in extracurricular activities.

Other studies show athletics to be the primary motivation for the continued studies of students who would otherwise be dropouts.

A sampling of 12 top Sandy students from the last two years shows that every one of them participated in at least one (in most cases, several) athletic programs in addition to other extracurricular activities.

Cutting out these activities may save dollars but it makes little sense.

Salem Scene

Restoration considered

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

It looks likely this week that because of efforts by eight-year-old Jenny Borden, Oregon's Golden Pioneer atop the Capitol Building will receive a new protective coating of gold leaf.

The Hayesville Elementary School third grader and her Salem classmates are among millions of schoolchildren across the country raising money to restore the Statue of Liberty. Aware of the weatherbeaten condition of the statue atop this state's Capitol dome, Jenny wrote Salem Rep. Donna Zajonc asking if a similar campaign might be mounted for the Golden Pioneer.

Rep. Zajonc approached the State Department of Education and the office of Supt. Verne A. Duncan currently is investigating the possibility.

The 24-foot tall statue, sculpted by German-born Ulrich H. Ellerhusen, was created in the sculptor's upstate New York studio and travelled by steamship out of Long Island, N.Y., via the Panama Canal for installation atop the then-new Capitol Building in September 1938 — just in time for the building's dedication the first of the following month.

It received its first coating of gold leaf a month later and the initial project was the work of a 102-year-old painting firm, Williamsen and Bleid. By 1958 that first coating was badly weathered and Security Sign Company of Portland was hired to refurbish the Pioneer.

Initial cost of covering the 16,700-pound bronze figure was listed at \$1,200 and recovering cost 20 years later was \$4,187. Interestingly, the same person supervised both projects. Retired and now confined to a wheelchair, he is 80-year-old Bob Fulton of Portland.

Average life for an exposed gold-leaf coating of this type is about 20 years and the Golden Pioneer's present state of disrepair has been considered during the last three regular sessions of the Legislature.

Soaring cost of gold, coupled with budget problems, have relegated requests for refurbishing to the back burner with monotonous regularity.

Gold itself has risen in price since the initial application by Fulton in 1938 from \$35 an ounce to a high of more than \$800 an ounce in 1980. Spot prices lately have fluctuated in a range just over \$380 an ounce.

And if the cost of gold were not enough to

discourage recession-fighting lawmakers from appropriating adequate funds, consider that gold leaf is created by beating gold to a thickness of about five-millionths of an inch.

Affixing the expensive material to the bronze statue is almost an art itself, requiring strict temperature and humidity control — to say nothing of great skill on the part of the applicator.

Previous applications have required erection of elaborate scaffolding surrounding the statue that towers atop the Capitol dome some 160 feet in the air. A protective covering over the scaffolding shields the project from even the slightest air movement.

The gold leaf comes in three-inch squares and material that fragile could be wafted away by the most gentle of breezes.

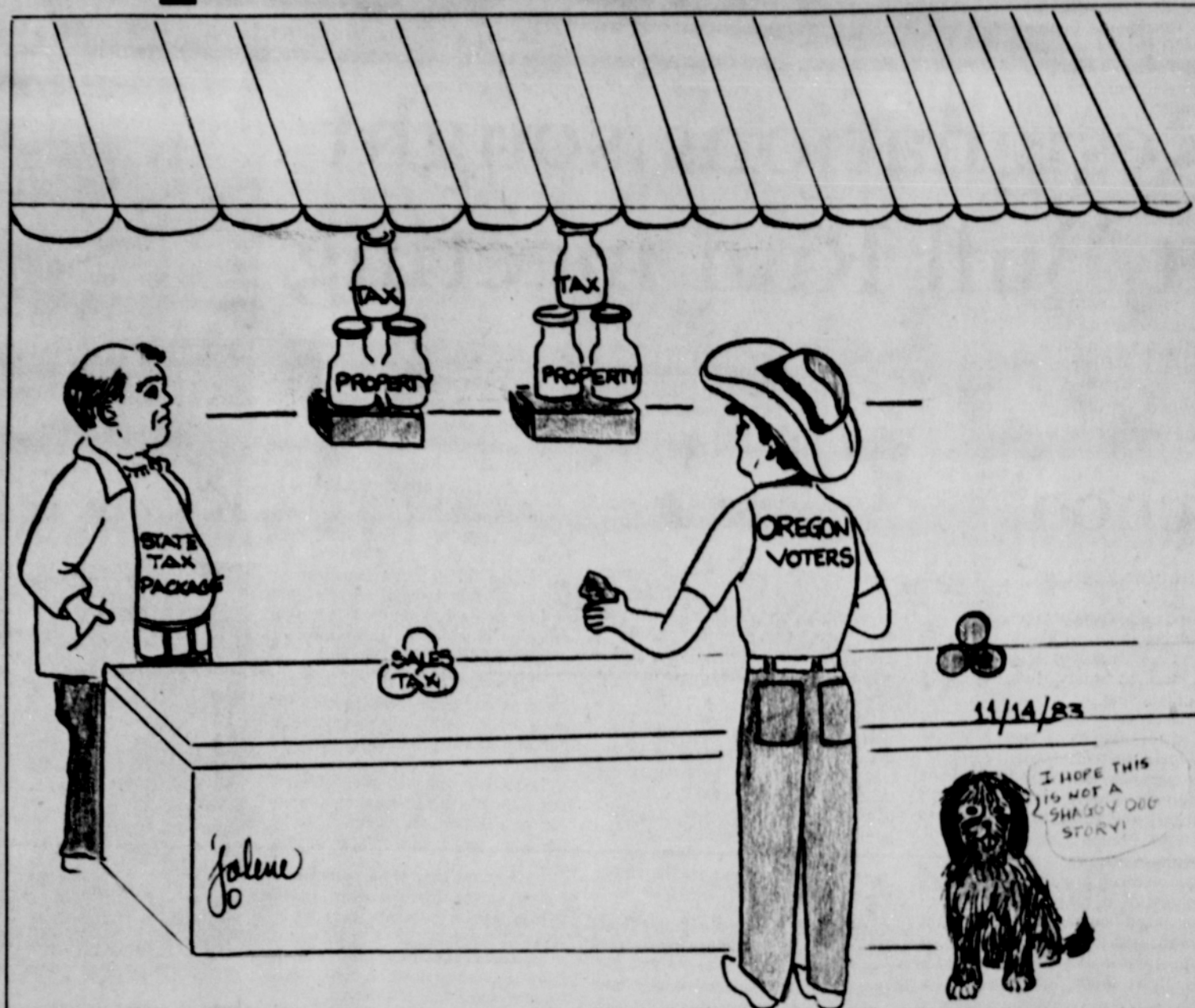
Occasional Salem visitors might not notice current deterioration of the Pioneer's gold covering. But the figure's south-facing backside has been clearly eroded by a quarter-century of winter storms.

Most of the damage has been sustained by what Sculptor Ellerhusen described as a piece of canvas hung over the figure's shoulder — indicative of temporary shelter about to be erected. Pocked and discolored, it sorely detracts from the statue's gleaming golden surface.

The restoration fund campaign inspired by Jenny Borden likely will involve 10-cent contributions from Oregon schoolchildren. Al Davidson, Supt. Duncan's executive assistant, indicates there are some 430,000 youngsters presently attending Oregon schools and a dime apiece would raise \$43,000.

Security Sign Company estimated the cost of a new gold leaf coating at \$30,000 in 1979 and current estimates range between \$35,000 and \$40,000. Davidson said any excess funds might go into a permanent restoration account that could be drawn upon as future needs dictate.

Education Department officials now are targeting a campaign that would culminate on the state's 125th birthday next February 14.



Letters to the editor

Judgment wrong on rape story

The Sandy Post does a fine job in reporting the events of this and surrounding communities but with the edition of Nov. 3, I believe it's priorities were in left field.

Which is more important, a crime against a citizen of this community (rape) and a composite drawing of the rapist (story and drawing on page 3) or "U.S. Invasion adds 'spice' to vacation"?

For that matter, was there a story on the front page more newsworthy than such a violent crime against a woman? I do hope the rapist did not read that week's paper or what a laugh he must have had. His possible comment "the women in Sandy are free game, they think 'spicy' vacations are more important than me destroying the lives of their women."

Judy Chiaroni
Sandy

Union High School district allowed less than 15 percent of the voters — 2,009 people — to decide whether or not the school should receive the \$499,000 requested in the B ballot.

Apathy, rather than the will of the majority, determined the outcome of that election. Those who voted at least made the effort to express their opinions at the polls.

Did you know that the school board is not "the enemy"? The school board is a group of five of your neighbors who were elected by you (if you bothered to vote). Each volunteered his time for a four-year term to perform an often thankless task. School board members receive no pay at all for attending numerous meetings throughout the year. If I were a board member, I would be glad to hear any input from the thousands of people in the district who never express their opinions. Representing a silent constituency is difficult, to say the least.

There have been many opportunities during the past year for you to attend meetings to express your concerns about the budget and school policies. There have also been special meetings to educate the public on the budgeting process and to explain why Sandy Union High School needed the money which was requested in both the A and B ballots. I have attended many of these meetings, and I have learned a lot. I have also observed that very few district patrons have made the effort to attend. A large majority of the small audiences have always been made up of school employees.

The school board is now faced with the task of deciding how to cut nearly half a million dollars from a budget that was already conservative. They have difficult decisions to make. People will be hurt no matter what is deleted from the budget.

What do you want the school board to do? I encourage you to make your

opinions known by writing letters, making telephone calls and attending your school board meetings. If you have something to say, say it. Don't surrender your rights as a citizen by letting someone else make the decisions without your input.

Janet Albers
District Patron

Thanks

The boys of Scout Troop 662, their leader and parents would like to extend their thanks to the people who supported our rummage sale by donating or purchasing items.

Also a very special thank you to Marshall Gloss for the use of his property for the sale.

June Plaster
662 Troop Committee

Football

I am a freshman at Sandy Union High School and am very disappointed with

the sports editor and the publicity the freshman football team received (or should I say did not receive) from our local paper. During the football season, the varsity and junior varsity received coverage each week but the freshman team was never mentioned.

Considering that none of the freshman team had any experience in grade school, our record of 4 wins and 3 losses is pretty darn good. Coach Harris and Saxton did a great job in training the football players and never was it mentioned in the paper.

Coming from grade school to high school is a big step in a student's life and they need all the support and encouragement they can get. Let's be fair and give the freshmen equal space.

I would like to publicly thank Coach Harris and Coach Saxton for their time and patience during the football season.

Mark Morrison
Sandy

Apathy

On Nov. 8 over 85 percent of the voters in the Sandy

Personally speaking

Doughnut diplomacy has few holes

The reason different countries of the world have so much trouble getting along is somebody forgot to bring the doughnuts.

Economic and world problems are solved millions of times every day in coffee shops across America. It is true some of these solutions are farfetched and totally unrealistic, such as requiring politicians to speak coherent English. But on the whole, the principle of coffee shop diplomacy could be a very workable concept.

Just think of the implications it could have in U.S.-Soviet relations. If 20 years ago someone had brought doughnuts to the United Nations, Nikita Khrushchev would not have looked nearly so fearsome pounding his shoe on the table.

Suppose he would have smacked it right into a custard filled maple bar. Instead of outraged indignation, the U.S. could have issued a statement that said something like, "Oh Nikky, you are such a funny guy."

Young people who don't remember the occasion and find it hard to believe a head of state would actually pound his shoe on a table should know that this was a time when it was very impor-



by HANK EMRICH

tant to "act tough." The Russians soon realized that acting had little to do with leading a country and disposed of Khrushchev. As usual, America is about 20 years behind.

America could rush to the forefront, however, by being the first to initiate coffee shop diplomacy. The first step would be to add a baker to the Cabinet. With such an advantage, the U.S. would always be able to insure the availability of doughnuts at

high level meetings and negotiations.

It can not help but work. No one would be able to take a hard line on nuclear arms reduction while chewing on a cream puff.

Summit meetings could be held at Joe's Donut Shop. Of course Joe would have to hire a couple more waitresses and change his apron, but I'm sure the taxpayers wouldn't mind footing the bill for something this important.

If we could only get Andropov to stop in for an apple fritter, Joe could end up as Time magazine's "Man of the Year."

I understand the proposal does have potential hazards. Suppose the French insist on bringing croissants. And it is true the Swedish have some delicious pastries. What we could do is make it like a progressive dinner only the heads of state would go from country to country instead of house to house. I'll bet there will be a lot of them remembering they have to go to when it comes time to show up for Russian black bread.

Perhaps on an experimental basis, the program should begin to deal first with domestic pro-

blems and political campaigns. If there were always doughnuts at televised debates, you could measure the true worth of a candidate.

The way a person eats a doughnut tells a lot about his character. I would say a person who eats a doughnut with a fork is a little out of touch with the common man.

On the other hand, we wouldn't want a president who talks with his mouth full, or at least your mother wouldn't.

People who dunk their doughnuts have been shown to be the type who dive right in to projects. However, people who lose half the doughnut in the coffee do not seem to be able to grasp situations fully.

The amount of doughnuts consumed can also be revealing. A president has to make decisions dealing with the protection of the entire country and all the doughnut shops therein. It takes a lot of courage for those kind of decisions. Personally I wouldn't want anyone afraid of the amount of white sugar present in at least three chocolate glazed doughnuts with extra icing.