

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Acid rain a concern

From the Albany Democrat-Herald

From West Germany and other parts of western Europe, the news tells us that forests are dying as the apparent result of acid rain and air pollution. In our own forested corner of the world in Oregon, the trouble reported from far away ought to give us pause.

There's no reason for alarm, but there's reason to keep an eye on developments in other parts of the world, lest we run into similar problems in a few decades.

According to news reports from West Germany, one-third of that country's forests are dying. Significant damage to trees also has been reported from Austria and Switzerland. Similar reports have come from Czechoslovakia and East Germany.

The blame for the damage falls partly on acid rain, caused mainly by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and oil, and partly by air pollution caused by auto exhausts.

At Oregon State University, George W. Bengston, associate dean of the School of Forestry, says the Northwest has no reason to worry that a similar fate will befall the forests in this region. This region, he says, has very little of the "strongly polluting" industry whose emissions are blamed for the acid-rain problems elsewhere.

Bengston does note the accelerated construction of coal-fired electric generators in Montana and North Dakota, which he

says over time may emit enough sulfur dioxide to cause problems downwind. But downwind in that case means generally to the east, not in our direction.

Some years ago in Southern California, the pine forest bordering the Los Angeles basin started dying, damaged by the rising tide of smog. There, Bengston says, the problem was one of chronic air pollution combined with generally high temperatures. And while all conifers generally are susceptible to damage from that kind of pollution, Bengston notes that smog is rare in Oregon and does not present a significant danger to our forests.

Not long ago the federal government issued a report suggesting that acid rain had been recorded in the Cascades. But researchers at the Environmental Protection Agency said the report was misleading. While some lakes in the Cascades are susceptible to acidification, they had found no acid precipitation.

The upshot seems to be that so far, at least, our forests, on which so much of our livelihood depends, are in no danger from being harmed by pollution. To keep it that way, it's important to keep monitoring precipitation and air quality for possible changes for the worse. It's also important to remember that tree-damaging pollution comes from the burning of fossil fuels. This should give some guidance in any future decisions about power plants or transportation systems in this region.



Letters to the editor

Bull Run recall said unwarranted

New sales tax planned

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Waiting quietly in the wings while actors agonize over their lines in the Legislature's unsuccessful revenue reform melodrama is a plan that may well be more palatable to voters than any yet concocted in Salem.

It's another sales tax/spending limitation proposal. But it doesn't tax services. And it provides permanent income tax relief as well as property tax relief.

Furthermore, it doesn't fly in the face of constitutional law by requiring ratification by local governments.

All it needs is signatures of some 83,361 registered voters by July 6 to appear on next November's ballot.

Dubbed the TBE initiative, the proposal was hammered out last year by a coalition of businesses and individuals calling themselves Taxpayers for a Better Economy. Organized in June of 1982, TBE evolved after a number of studies agreed a major ingredient in any plan to restore economic vitality in Oregon required tax reform generally and the need for some sort of sales tax specifically.

With the Legislature back at square one and time rapidly diminishing for a signature-gathering campaign, TBE is verging on launching its plan as a last-ditch effort to bring the issue before voters this year.

In essence, the TBE initiative appears to address virtually every objection earlier raised by opponents of the legislative referral.

A Constitutional Amendment, it calls for a five percent sales tax on retail transactions only — not on services — and a firm spending limitation.

It would channel 80 percent of the revenue directly to schools as an offset to school property taxes and 20 percent to reduce personal income taxes to a maximum rate of 9 percent.

It solves problems inherent in the Legislature's plan as far as the all-important timber industry is concerned and provides a method to mollify objections by home builders, other manufacturers, service and insurance providers.

It also provides for renter relief and persons with low and fixed incomes — the latter by specifying exemptions for necessities, such as food, drugs and health care, utilities and rent.

Although the Legislature conceivably could continue to struggle with a plan of its own through next summer before referring something to the people during the general election next Nov. 6, such a move is fraught with peril for those seeking reelection on the same date.

Meanwhile, enjoying the spectacle and merrily collecting signatures at the same time are proponents of a rejuvenated and considerably modified 1½ percent property tax limitation initiative. Few observers believe they will fail in their campaign to put that questions again before voters next November.

And although the TBE initiative overcomes many objections voiced against the Legislature's previous plan, it must still overcome Oregon's half-century long antipathy toward a sales tax in any form.

Right now it looks suspiciously as if drafters of the TBE initiative anticipated that problem in light of more than a year of legislative shilly-shallying. Because the TBE initiative — if it were to appear on the November ballot and achieve voter approval — commands the next Legislature to enact enabling legislation, without further voter referral.

That element just might appeal to a public fed up with what they've been watching and listening to in Salem for more than a year.

The prospect of being able to tell next session's lawmakers precisely what they must do just might outweigh rigid aversion to previous sales tax proposals.

As a member of the Bull Run community for the past ten years, and as a parent with children attending the Bull Run School, I would like to voice my dismay and concern regarding the recall that is being attempted against two members of our school board.

Two years ago our school board, rendered ineffective by a recall election, was unable or unwilling to make the final selection of a new superintendent from the names provided by our screening committee. When the new board was finally seated, none of the top choices were available, and the work of the committee went for nothing.

This year we are again involved in the very critical process of selecting a new superintendent, and once again a recall initiative has been filed. Once more we are faced with the prospect of a handicapped board during a crucial period.

I believe that the majority of our community feel that this recall attempt is totally unwarranted. We have elected board members and charged them to make decisions for us based on their best judgement. We may not always agree with those decisions, but we owe the board our continued support and respect. The recall process should be reserved for those times when the wrong is so great as to demand immediate redress. This is not the case

with the two board members who are being challenged.

Now is a time when our community needs to draw together, to select the best possible superintendent, and for the good of our children in the school. I would urge my neighbors and members of the Bull Run School District to reject the recall petition and sign the petition being circulated by the community club in support of the board members.

Roger M. Atkins
Sandy

Concern over Derby track

We have serious reservations concerning the impact of the track proposed by the Soap Box Derby Association (27 feet wide and 980 feet long) which they wish to build on the Firwood School property. Not only will it adversely affect the property owners bordering the track, but there is certainly not enough parking space for an event that last year drew 500 people to the Sandy Industrial Park. Bear in mind, they will be competing with other events such as baseball and soccer for parking.

The existence of this track will be an open invitation for motorcycles and bicycles and other forms of mischief all hours of the day and night, not to mention a headache for the school to manage.

The Soap Box Association stated that after contacting the property owners bordering the school there was no opposition to the track. In fact, a majority of the property owners are opposed to this proposal.

Sharon Cox, a voting member of the school board, and secretary of the Soap Box Derby Association, has a vested interest which is in direct conflict with her impartiality as a school board member, and should abstain from voting on this issue.

The issue here is not the value of the Soap Box program (I am sure it is worthwhile), but whether a private organization can legally build on school grounds. Since the school district must use its funds to pay for expensive legal fees to investigate zoning and liability questions, we feel the school board should inform all the taxpayers in this district of this issue before committing themselves to this project.

Arthur N. Lowery
Margaret G. Lowery
Sandy

Opposes new jail

We represent a grass roots committee opposing the proposed 192 bed jail facility in our beautiful Sandy. It is our feeling that such a facility would bring potential danger to our citizens plus lower the property value of our homes, businesses and farms throughout the Sandy area, not simply the immediate neighborhood bordering the proposed site on 362nd and Pioneer Park.

We are especially concerned with the proposed jail site and its close proximity to our schools — Kelso, Sandy Elementary, Cedar Ridge and Sandy High — to our upcoming Sandy Town Center and to our established businesses in Industrial Park. These areas are well within a dangerous range of the proposed jail site — a hazard for children, adults and private property.

Sandy is such a beautiful area with a potential growth, why spoil our community with a negative influence such as this?

We are concerned citizens expressing our

feelings about this subject and sincerely want our Sandy area citizens to become aware of this situation.

Marilyn Martin
Sharon Clarke
Iva Christman
Carrie Morgan

Thank you, Bobbi Swan

At a time when local dollars are in short supply and there is increased concern about education forming partnerships with business, we at Sandy High School feel fortunate to have the encouragement and support of such a business leader as Bobbi Swan at Clackamas County Bank.

As a result of Bobbi's efforts with the Private Industry Council of Clackamas County, Sandy High received a grant to extend educational and work training opportunities to youth in the area. The values of such funding will cause an economic ripple effect in this community, build stronger ties between school and community and directly benefit some 60 youth.

We need ever increasing cooperation of this kind. This is a community to be proud of and the efforts of hard working residents too often go unrecognized or are taken for granted. Sandy is a good place to live and work because of people like Bobbi Swan.

Roberta K. Hutton
SUHS superintendent

Family says thanks

The families of Alice Johnson wish to express our thanks to all of the personnel of the Alpine Ambulance for help when we ask and called. Thank you.

Local group contributes

Because of your community and many others, Goodwill Industries is living proof that every cloud has a silver lining.

In late December, Goodwill's warehouse was flooded. 75 percent of the stored goods which keep our disabled workers on the job in the winter got wet and could have been ruined. Hearing of our problem, citizens throughout Northwest Oregon donated 100,000 more pounds of clothing and household items in January than last year at that time.

Portland Hospital Service Corporation laundry dried 98,000 pounds of clothing free of charge. Thunderbird/Red Lion laundry dried an additional 6,000 pounds of clothes to keep them from mildewing. As a result, only 35 percent of the flooded donations had to be thrown away.

In your community, the Sandy Kiwanis Club is planning a donation drive for later this winter or early spring. The drive will continue to keep disabled workers on the job and give your community a convenient way to donate to Goodwill.

The citizens of your community should feel proud of their tremendous response to what could have been a disaster for Goodwill's 400 disabled employees who sort, clean and repair donations. On behalf of all of us at Goodwill who have jobs, training opportunities and dignity because of your generosity, thank you for that silver lining.

Elmer Beckett
President
Goodwill Industries of Oregon

What's happening at Sandy High?

Week successful for students

by ROBERTA HUTTON

Some weeks back I contributed a column on my views on being a parent. Frankly, I was surprised at the response. For some at least, there's a new sense of empathy and understanding as a result of sharing that role.

Being a teacher, and I include all other school roles such as administrator and counselor in that label, is not unlike being a parent. As teachers we become closely involved with the successful and not so successful exploits of our students. Each day brings some

of each as our "children" are numerous. This last week we shared in considerable success as three students won Elk's Club monetary awards for leadership and Ron Kyker was named a National Merit Finalist. The latter was especially exciting as Ron is our first finalist since 1974. We don't plan to wait ten years for the next one, however.

Another successful activity of the last week has been the visits to our component elementary schools to meet current eighth graders and their parents. As a

result of these visits, I'm convinced we have an outstanding freshman class to look forward to in September.

All students who participated in some capacity in our recent Sports Challenge are to be congratulated. Competition was done with the last event deciding the winner. Even then only 20 points separated the victorious seniors from the junior class.

The local FFA Chapter will undertake a fat log project this spring. A number of students who chose a barn clean-up project as

an alternative to Saturday School assisted the FFA members in preparing for the delivery of four weaner pigs to the lower campus. Freshman agriculture students will have an opportunity to be involved in the project with Chapter members.

I'll look forward to sharing the success of students in the weeks to come as it seems others are only too willing to share the other, less positive aspects of school activities.

Roberta Hutton is superintendent of Sandy Union High School.

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.