

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Chris Hale, general manager Scott Newton, editor

Optimists deserve special mention

People in the area can be proud of the many projects successfully completed by civic organizations in 1984.

The Mt. Hood Lions Club has plowed a lot of money back into the community since beginning its well-attended Friday night bingo games. The Sandy Mountain Festival committee once again did a great job. The Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce, under outgoing president Don Wilson, closed the year in the black with a modest increase in membership and some successful fund raisers, including the Wine Fair and Feast. The Kiwanis Club of Sandy truly provides a community service with its Christmas Basket Drive.

One organization that has been a force in the community in the past couple of years, however, deserves special mention. The Sandy Optimist Club had a banner year.

The club's motto is "Friend of Youth," and they sponsor such youth-oriented activities as oratorical competitions and Soap Box Derby races, as well as helping finance special projects.

Under the direction of Dr. Mark Mullins, the service club raised enough money for a \$1,000 performing arts scholarship, which will awarded in the spring.

The club also pays the franchise fee for the Sandy Soap Box Derby Association. The Derby Association has worked hard to gain the confidence of the community. A recent donation of land at the corner of Orient Drive and Kelso Road may result in a park for youngsters in the neighborhood, and a permanent track would almost certainly lead to a growing interest in Derby racing.

Derby racing involves entire families, and it is a sport that does not require athletic ability, but rather building and designing skills — along with a lot of work. The concept of a permanent track should be supported not only for its potential contribution to livability in Sandy, but also because the community would probably reap economic benefits as well.

The fund raisers the Optimist Club supports also show class. The haunted house is good fun in a time when parents worry that "trick or treating" may unfortunately be a thing of the past.

The Christmas tree lot promotes a local product while at the same time assuring customers the money will stay in the community.

Unfortunately we cannot list all the people who have contributed to the ongoing successes of the many civic organizations in the area.

To the Optimist Club members and others we can only say this: Keep up the good work.

Letters

Campaign chairman expresses gratitude

On behalf of United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, I would like to express gratitude to Sandy Post readers for your outstanding support of the recently concluded United Way Campaign. This is the first time since 1979 that our local United Way has topped its fund-raising goal.

In spite of a still sluggish economy, our community-wide effort enabled United Way to surpass its \$16.3 million goal by over \$3,000.

Your one donation will go to sup-

port nearly 100 different volunteer agencies right here in our local four-county area. And, you can be uplifted in knowing that your money will help thousands of people during 1985.

The numbers are significant, but the spirit that moves so many to do so much is even more important.

Thank you for helping those in need realize their hopes and dreams of the future.

Robert H. Short
Volunteer Campaign Chairman

Local pastor says thanks for the support

As pastor of the Sandy Seventh-day Adventist Church I want to thank the citizens of the community for their wholehearted support of our Community Service Appeal.

This is the 76th year Adventists have come to their friends and neighbors and we haven't been disappointed. They gave \$1,020.85 for this year's appeal. Our church members gave an additional \$1,576.35 making a

total of \$2,597.20.

I want to remind our area friends that our Community Services Center at 17151 SE University Avenue is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are always reading to provide emergency aid to those in need.

Ray L. Erwin
pastor
Seventh-day Adventist Church

Thanks, fire department

We would like to thank Chief Bob Rathke, and the Sandy fire department, for their quick response time and professionalism. They were second to none when we had a small fire in our daughter's bedroom, caused by an electrical blanket.

Most of the Sandy fire department is volunteer, and you just don't see that kind of teamwork and dedication anymore. We would also like to add that our smoke alarms gave us the chance to call the fire department

before there was a great deal of damage.

It is a good feeling to be on the outside looking in, knowing that your family is safe. So if you don't have smoke alarms, get them. And if you do have smoke alarms, make sure that they work. Make your home fire safe, so your family can be as lucky as ours.

Jay D. Yeager
and family

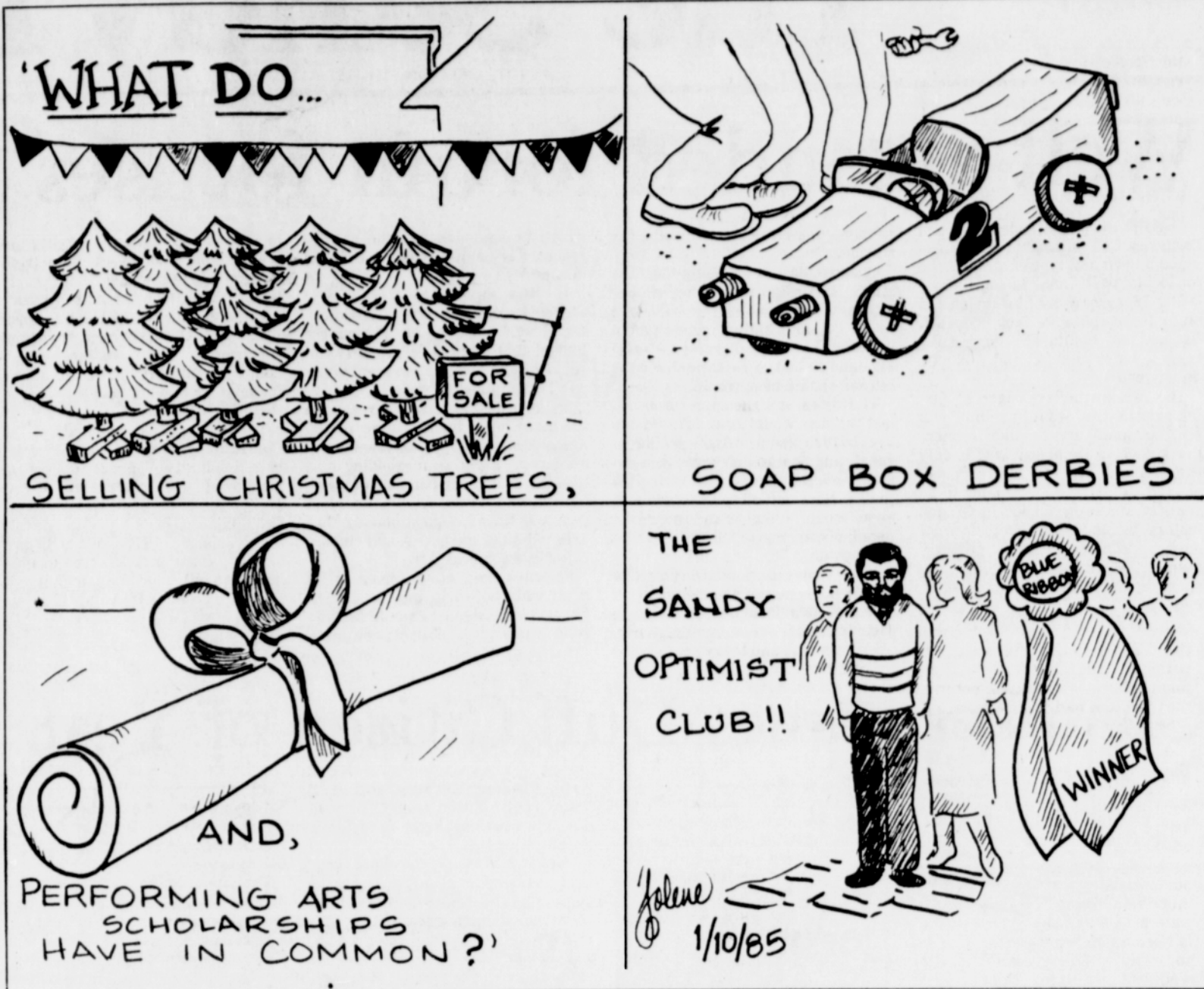
Policy on letters

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced and signed. An address and telephone number should also be provided, although only the name of the letter writer and the city or area he is from will be published.

Letter writers may also wish to include a title or office held if it is appropriate considering the subject matter of the letter.

The news deadline of noon, Tuesday is also the deadline for letters to the editor.

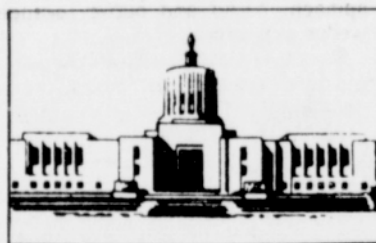
Letters should be accurate, free of libelous remarks and in good taste. This newspaper attempts to publish all letters it receives locally. We reserve the right to edit letters to conform to style guidelines or for length. A preferred maximum length is 300 words.



Salem Scene

Legislature's tax reform options listed

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries



Restructuring the state's revenue system appears to be the prime agenda item facing the 63rd Oregon Legislative Assembly as it prepares to convene Jan. 14 in Salem.

In the process, lawmakers will attempt to stabilize funding for public schools, provide meaningful property tax relief, channel more money to higher education and improve Oregon's lackluster economy.

And the key to most of the foregoing involves passage and referral to voters of some kind of sales tax proposal.

If that sounds familiar, it should. Those tasks are almost identical to those that faced the 62nd Assembly when it convened Jan. 10, 1983.

But two years have made a big difference.

And this is not the same Assembly that sat in the Capital City for the second longest session in history, collapsed without getting the job done and then reconvened in special session only to have its revenue referral junked by the Supreme Court.

There was precious little support in either House or Senate for a sales tax when that Legislature convened. And support was tentative at best when that body finally enacted its proposal.

The 63rd Assembly includes members who even dared to campaign for re-election by advocating adoption of a sales tax. And they

were re-elected.

Two years ago Gov. Vic Atiyeh was an avowed sales tax opponent. Legislative leadership didn't want a sales tax. The influential Oregon Education Association was a reluctant player.

As this legislature prepares to convene, its majority leaders already are committed to referral of a sales tax. The Governor has announced his own plan for a sales tax. And OEA has launched a sales tax initiative campaign.

The biggest question among Salem-watchers now seems to involve what kind of a package eventually will be offered to voters.

At least four alternatives are on the proverbial table.

First, of course, is the 62nd Assembly's package — minus perhaps the unconstitutional provision requiring sanction by local governments in order to achieve ballot status.

That plan in essence called for a 4 percent tax on sales on tangible personal property and most services. It exempted food, drugs, sale, lease or

rents of real property, agricultural and manufacturing ingredients, medical services and utilities.

It would have raised \$800 million annually and net proceeds were dedicated to property tax relief for all property owners. It also proposed repeal of an 8 percent income tax surtax by eliminating the current 30 percent property tax relief program.

It provided no in-lieu property tax reduction. It compensated retailers for collecting the tax. And it limited spending by both state and local governments.

Although it failed to be tested by voters, opinion surveys indicated inadequate public support for passage primarily because of the proposal to tax services.

Subsequently, a business coalition — Taxpayers for a Better Economy — initiated another plan that failed to achieve ballot status. It was a 5 percent proposal taxing only sales of tangible personal property. It contained the same basic exemptions, and would have raised \$715 million annually and dedicated 80 percent of revenue to property tax relief and 20 percent to reducing income taxes.

It also required in-lieu property tax reduction, compensated retailers and contained a stringent spending limitation on state and local governments.

The OEA proposal is almost identical to the TBE plan as far as rate, exemptions and dedication of revenue is concerned. It does not pro-

vide in-lieu property tax reduction, however, and contains a property tax limitation applying only to elementary and secondary schools.

Gov. Atiyeh's plan calls for a 5 percent maximum rate levied against sales of tangible personal property and some services. It exempts food, drugs, home utilities and sale or lease of real property. It would raise \$750 million annually and be channeled entirely to public education — kindergarten through higher education. It does not deal with in-lieu property taxes, does compensate retailers, does not limit spending but calls for a limitation on property taxes for schools.

At the outset, it appears there is considerable consensus among all plans — namely that a sales tax is desired to restructure the revenue system. The rate of tax also appears to zero in at the 5 percent level.

Even most exemptions are on common ground. And the property tax relief aim is the same for all plans. But numerous snags remain.

The last Legislature's plan taxing most services appears unlikely to gain favor this session. TBE's stringent spending limitations are not favored by OEA or the Governor. And TBE supporters likely will seek some sort of spending limit before endorsing any plan.

So while this Legislature's agenda is clearly defined, crafting details will not be a simple matter. And whatever the outcome, voters will conduct the ultimate litmus test.

Personally Speaking

Don't worry; polyester will be back

The older I get, the more I realize how smart my Grandma was.

Once when I was a little snotty-nosed kid with sagging socks and skinned knees I remember pining for the good old days when ladies wore long dresses. (Though I doubt that they wore long dresses to cover the scabs on their knees.) Anyway, I remember Grandma saying that long dresses would probably come back in style sometime.

I remember snickering at that and thinking how foolish Grandma was. We were young and modern and dedicated to progress. How could we turn back the clock to long dresses? And then, back in the 1960s when Grandma was still alive to see it, long dresses came back. And I wore one, by gum. And grandma had the grace not to snicker.

Grandma obviously knew more about the comings and goings of fashion than I did. If she were with us



sharon nesbit

today, she'd know how to answer a question Rodger asked recently.

Rodger retired 10 years ago and, what with spending most of his time fishing and playing golf, has had little need for any nice duds. His old sport coats from his working days served him very well — right up until the time that all that good living and

eating got to him and he grew out of them.

So last month Rodger went shopping. In the middle of an elegant mens' wear store in a voice designed to carry from the tee to a par-three hole, he threw up his arms and said, "Where is all the polyester?"

It shames me to admit that someone I know could exist in such a fashion vacuum. Rodger was possibly the last man on the planet to learn that polyester had gone the way of the passenger pigeon. And then, to compound his felony, Rodger went on to complain that he hates Harris tweed, is distressed by distressed denim and thinks silk is snooty. Finally, in a voice loud enough to make it to a par-five hole, he told the world, "I LIKED POLYESTER."

I was thinking about Rodger the other night when I was ironing. What I was thinking that I didn't used to

have to iron when polyester was in fashion.

I remember my first polyester dress. It was olive green (of course) and cost \$7 a yard. Big bucks in those days, friends.

What I remember best about my dress, was that I retired my ironing board, hung up my iron and sailed blissfully through two wrinkle-free decades. I figured I'd never iron again. Progress, you know.

But wrinkles, and irons and ironing boards, are back. The search for natural fibers is on. They will tell you in the stores that it is all right to wear wrinkled clothes, but you notice one thing — they don't sell them that way. They sell them ironed.

That's why, when I'm ironing, you might hear me say very quietly and under my breath, "I liked polyester, too."

Rodger and I can take heart. If Grandma's right, it will be back.