

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Chris Hale, general manager
Scott Newton, editor

Basketball coach is teaching values

John Smith, the girls basketball coach at Sandy High, provides a good lesson in tenacity.

Some people may remember the early years of the Sandy girls basketball program, when they sported 6-13, 1-19 and 4-16 records. Smith took over this program five years ago, saw gradual improvements, and last week enjoyed a big victory. The girls ended Reynolds' season-and-a-half long winning streak, and are currently sporting an 8-0 league record.

In some situations, a special victory would belong solely on the sports pages. In this case, other important parallels can be made.

For example, Smith has always been as proud of his girls' academic accomplishments as what they have done on the court. He works hard at being a good counselor.

Smith has been a student as well as a teacher. He doesn't hesitate to ask other coaches for opinions.

As readers of other newspapers have picked up the sports sections, they have read about Smith complimenting Lynn Harris, who scouted the Reynolds team and coaches the freshmen.

Harris, who heads the Sandy High social studies department, often sends his students to school board or City Council meetings to learn about government first hand.

Harris and Smith are coaches who believe that young people learn things through athletics that they don't learn in the classroom.

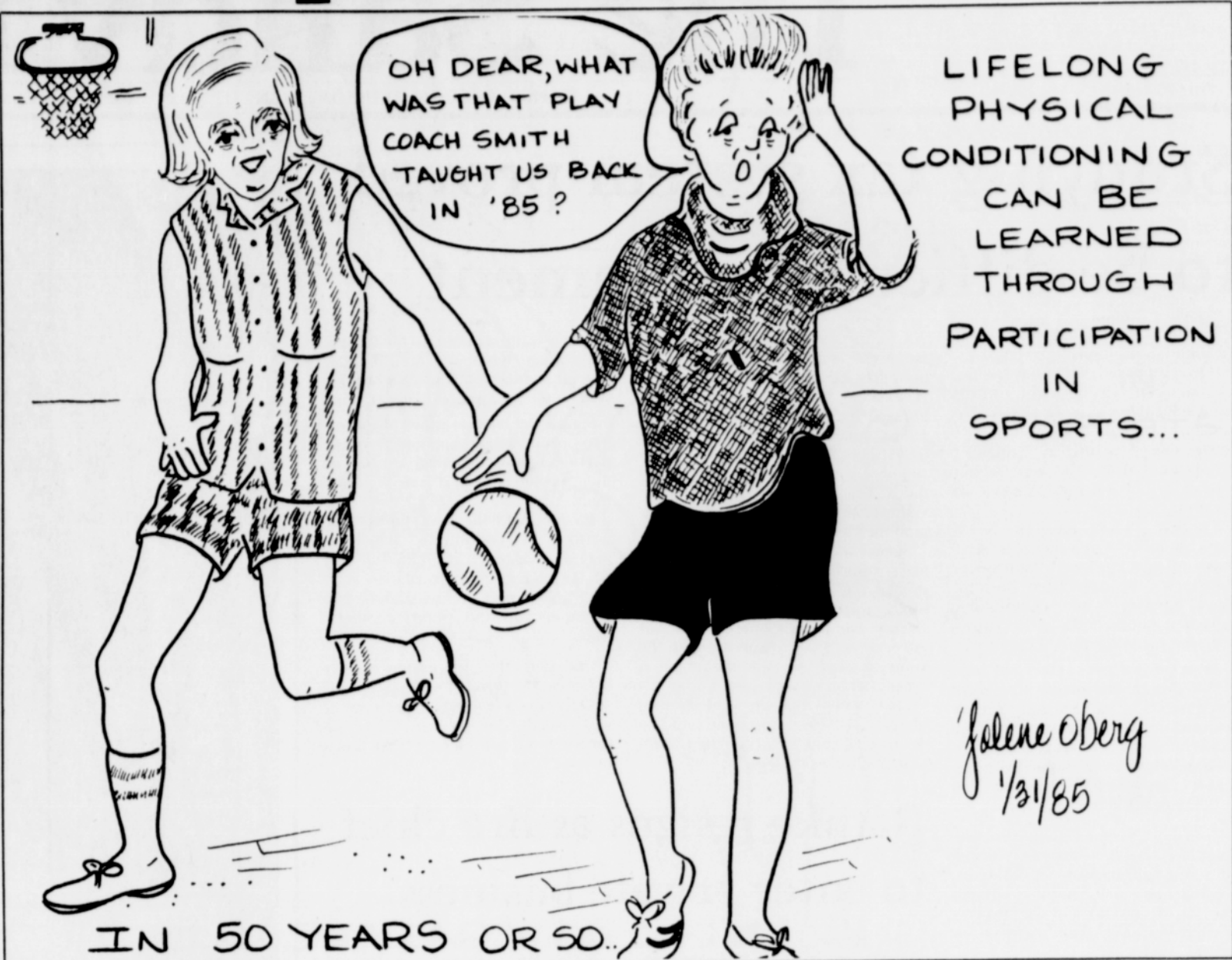
Smith claims the reason they have been successful this year is because of the initiative the girls have taken in the off-season. By attending camps and playing in summer leagues, they made an investment. Now they are cashing in.

"I'm glad this season has gone well, to show there are rewards for hard work," Smith said. "I hope it might possibly be contagious. With dedication and hard work, programs can be turned around."

Smith also points out that athletics fit in with the current trend toward wellness. Lifelong physical conditioning habits can be learned through participation in sports.

Dedication and team work aren't cliches to Smith. He has a group that has worked hard, and they complement each other in such a way that playing as a team is important.

Now they are winning and having fun, which is as it should be. They have earned it.



Jolene Oberg
1/31/85

Letter to the editor

In the case of Sandy, backward not all bad

This letter is about the city of Sandy and about its past and present. Also, about my concern for its future. Approximately 30 years ago, I as a youngster, remember Sandy as a vibrant, busy, active small community. The sounds of log trucks and sawmills permeated the air. As I recall Sandy had five large sawmills, some working two shifts, all within what is now the city limits.

Sandy had many loggers with their metal "tin hats," wearing wide suspenders and high cuff pants. In the summer there were traffic jams. Farmers, waiting in line to deliver the day's harvest of berries to one of three receiving stations, mixed with loggers and migrant workers. I remember riding my bicycle in the annual Strawberry Festival Parade.

The reason for mentioning memories of Sandy's past is because it seems that, at one time, the city had a reason or purpose for existing. Now that purpose doesn't appear to be as clearly defined as then. I know Sandy will never be, or should be, what it once was. Maybe Sandy's on-

ly purpose is to be a convenience or inconvenience for people passing through. Certainly Sandy will not turn into one of those historical gold rush ghost towns. But, it could head that direction if we don't do something.

Perhaps Sandy needs a major manufacturing industry. We should try to lure large industries to Sandy. This would provide jobs and property tax relief and give the town a clear purpose for existing. Beaverton has its Tektronix and Troutdale has its aluminum plant. Gresham will soon have its Fujitsu!

The Sandy Post editorial "Diversify base for a stable economy" (January 24, 1985) states that "Sandy can go one of two ways — forward or backward." It is my opinion that "backward," in this case, would not be all that bad. I prefer to think Sandy can go one of two ways — with a clear purpose or aimlessly.

The city of Sandy needs a reason to be here — an identity.

Curtis P. Isakson
Sandy

Personally speaking

Money isn't key to marriage contracts

In the papers recently there have been some articles on marriage contracts. Mostly they are about rich and famous people. One article I read said they were valuable for other people as well. For the not so rich. I believe that.

The real reason I got so interested in this subject is because one of my granddaughters was assigned the job of writing a paper on the subject for her class at school. So, I got to thinking about it, and asking around.

I asked, "What sort of things do you think should be in marriage contracts before people get married?" It was mostly my children that I queried.

It is my opinion that money, in itself, plays a small part in the breakups of marriages. The habits people have when they join in wedlock, those are the things that need to be put in the contracts. It's the small things that trap us, that grow into giant-sized problems.

A marriage contract, in my view, should contain the things that are important to people in their everyday lives. It shouldn't just divide up the spoils after the breakup because they couldn't resolve their living together.

I asked my younger son and his wife, before Christmas, when this subject came up with their daughter, my granddaughter. I asked them, "What should have been in your contract before you married, if you had made one?"

My son said, "It should definitely



by Joy Wood

have been decided before marriage — and children — whether we open our presents Christmas Eve, or wait till Christmas morning after Santa Claus has come, which is the proper time!"

His wife said, "And we should have settled whether to have a nice artificial tree that would save us money year after year, or waste money on a Christmas tree that we just have to throw away after Christmas!"

They said if those things had been talked about and decided, they wouldn't have their annual Christmas time bang-up fight.

I asked my daughter from San Francisco what she thought. She said money is definitely their problem. But it isn't how much, it is whose money. My money, your money or our money? That's what they go round and round about. She said it is hard to keep three budgets.

My son and his wife from Enterprise said they would rather not be in the survey at all. They said that in 20 years of marriage they are still arguing over whether the bathroom paper should go over or under the roller. Sometimes it goes over and sometimes under, depending on the installer.

When my oldest daughter was here from India this summer, I detected a little bit of annoyance in her voice when she was looking for something in her purse to show me and, not finding it, she asked her husband, "Sweetheart, did you go through my purse again and take things out?"

And he answered, "Yes, I did." He said, "I don't like to go shopping with you with things sticking out of the top of your purse!"

I imagine that would have been a nice thing to have put in a contract, that either she kept her purse in shape to suit him, or else.

Everyone I asked had suggestions. Things that really have little to do with money, but seem to be very important to them nonetheless.

I remember in my own marriage how upset my husband was when he came home late one night, after being gone on a construction job for a

month, and found that I had sawed the back door in half.

I had asked him before, many times, to please make me a Dutch door, because I liked to keep the door open in the summertime, but all the dogs came in when I did. We had a female dog with nine puppies.

He had said he would sometime, but the day never seemed to arrive. So, one hot day, I just simply sawed the door in half. It worked fine, too.

But he was terrible upset, and after he fell over the bottom half with the box of groceries he was carrying — he didn't notice what I'd done when he unlatched the top — he picked himself up and then, quietly, seized each half of the door and ripped them off their hinges and threw them out into the back yard. My, but he was upset.

And I had to pick up the groceries. So, you see, marriage contracts are probably very good things, but they don't, and can't, really do the job that needs doing. They should be written to keep a marriage together, not for splitting up the accumulation after the parting.

I gave all these suggestions to my granddaughter to help her with her paper. She just sort of raised her eyebrows at me and said, "Thanks a lot, Gram. But I think I can handle it OK by myself!"

I really believe in helping children with their homework, don't you?

PS: After my husband recovered, he made me the nicest Dutch door you ever saw.

Commentary

Sales tax the only 'realistic answer'

by GOV. VIC ATIYEH

In a 1789 letter Benjamin Franklin wrote, "... in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes."

That has become a stock phrase to express our growing frustration with the taxes we pay.

But in reducing that frustration to a single phrase, we may overlook the fact that — even if most of us agree that taxes are necessary — we can make them fairer.

As the Oregon Legislature convenes in Salem, I am asking every Oregonian to join me in taking a fresh look at a statewide sales tax. You may not be ready to support a sales tax, but please promise that you will spend the next few months considering all the arguments before finally making up your mind.

Although I was a longtime opponent of a sales tax, I fully studied the issue and concluded it is the only realistic answer. As a result, I have recommended to the Oregon Legislature a plan that is fairer than any that have come before it.

Virtually every Oregonian agrees that property taxes are too high. But there are only three ways to substantially reduce the growing weight of

the property tax:

- A 1.5 percent property tax limitation, such as that found in Ballot Measure 2. But such a limitation would cripple the public schools we need to educate our children, the fire and police protection we depend on and the public services industry needs to create jobs.

- An increase in Oregon income taxes: But to raise enough money to reduce property taxes substantially would boost income taxes by more than half. That would give Oregon a black eye by making our state the income tax capital of the nation. To do that has all of the economic appeal of ending a six-month drought with a hundred-year flood.

- A 5 percent sales tax: Such a tax, locked into our state constitution where only the people can control it, would raise an estimated \$800 million solely for the purpose of reducing the burden of local property taxes.

Opponents of past sales tax plans raised legitimate questions about those plans.

In drafting this plan, I have carefully considered and seriously addressed these questions. Among them:

Q: Isn't a sales tax unfair to people

on low and fixed incomes?

A: No, it need not be. This plan exempts from a sales tax such frequent purchases as food for home consumption, utility bills, rent, purchase of real property, medical and other services and prescription drugs.

Q: But why not also help low income people as the state does for homeowners and renters who pay property taxes?

A: We will. Households with an annual income of up to \$17,500 will also receive a tax credit against a part of the sales taxes they pay.

Q: Ballot Measure 2 would have cut local property taxes by about 35 percent. How would a 5 percent sales tax measure up?

A: Very well. We estimate this plan will reduce local property taxes statewide by 45 percent. This plan is fairer than measure 2, which would not have cut property taxes at all in some regions of our state.

Q: What about slowing the growth of remaining property taxes?

A: The limit on school districts actually will be tougher than the one in measure 2. This proposal will forbid school boards from asking for excess tax levies, permitting them instead to ask for new tax bases in only May

and November of even-numbered years.

Q: How will this plan control spending for public schools?

A: The best way to limit spending is to control revenues, which this plan does.

Q: Some people say sales tax revenues should also be used to cut income taxes, too. How about that?

A: I agree — state income taxes must be reduced. That is why I have recommended a reduction of \$243 million in the two-year budget period that begins July 1. I fully expect a number of factors — an improving economy, new revenues from the state lottery, a sales tax for financing basic education — will enable the state to reduce income taxes even more in the future.

You will be hearing much more about a sales tax for Oregon — a fair tax locked into the state constitution by Oregon voters where only Oregon voters can change it.

History has shown us that Benjamin Franklin had good reason for confidence about the eternal nature of death and taxes. Now we have an opportunity to be equally confident that the taxes we pay will be the fairest possible.

