The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Chris Hale, general manager Scott Newton, editor

Buss best qualified for SUHS position

Of the three people running for the Sandy High School board of directors, we recommend a vote for Paul Buss because of the route he has taken in preparation for his candidacy.

His years of service on the Cottrell School and SUHS budget committees are evidence of his commitment. He has worked to gain an understanding of the system, and we feel he will be able to step right in and be an effective, contributing member.

Buss is also the businessman people are so fond of saying we need in local government. In addition, he has a goal that goes beyond the well-worn "educate kids, watch the dollars" philosophy. He wants students coming out of high school either better prepared for college, or trained in vocational skills that will immediately qualify them for jobs.

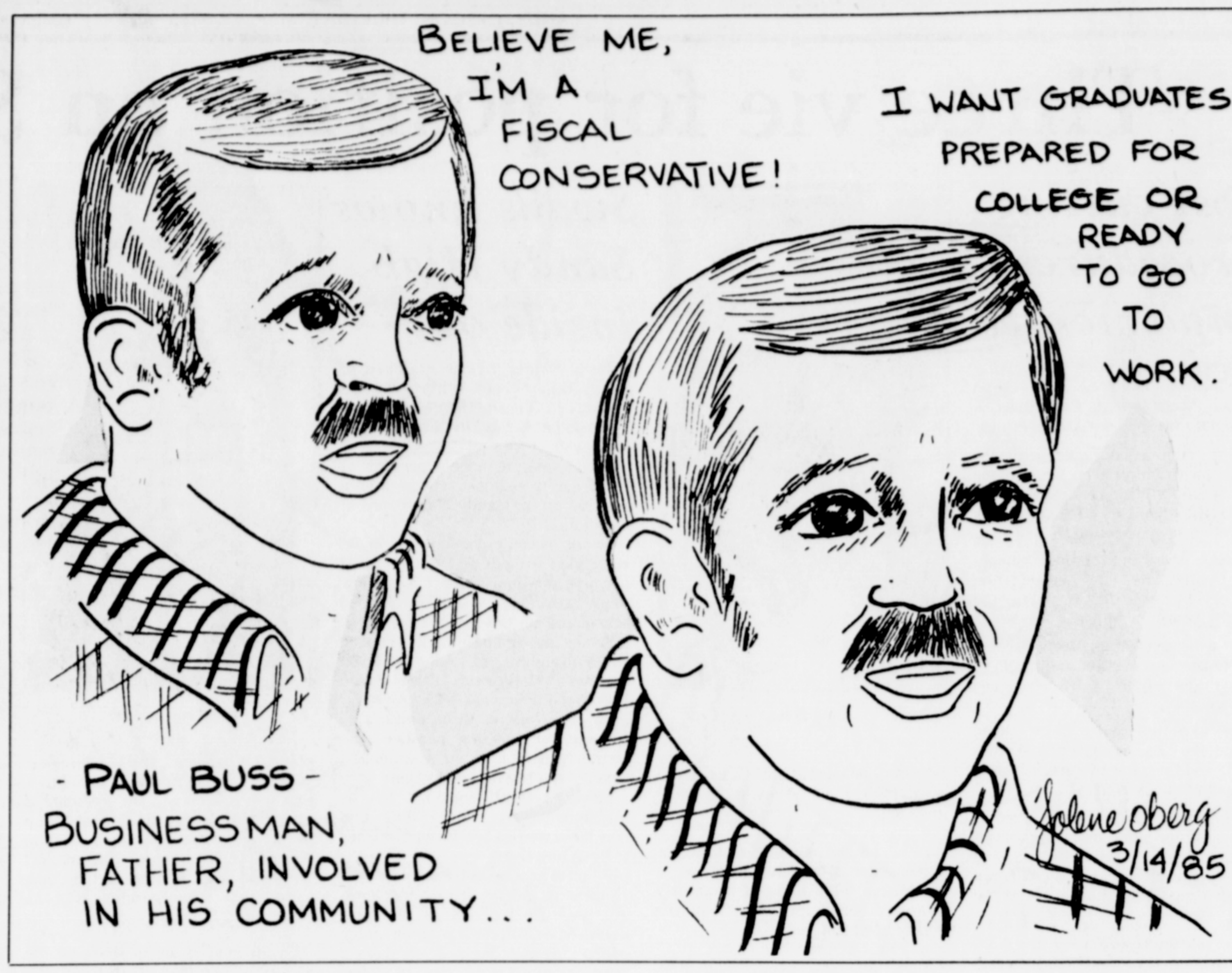
Candidate Bryon Tolle strikes us as an extremely competent businessman, but he simply is not familiar enough with the issues at this time.

Tolle's comment that members of Citizens for a Quality Education probably want more than their fair share is incorrect, in our opinion. Several CQE members have expressed to us a concern over people's inability to pay their property taxes.

Candidate Jerry Swails is probably correct in his assertion that he knows Sandy High as well as anyone. However, his experience as maintenance supervisor does not necessarily qualify him for a position on the board.

We do not question the sincerity of Swails and Tolle in wanting to serve the community.

However, Buss has not only paid his dues, but he is the most qualified. We urge a vote for Paul Buss on March 26.



Letter to the editor

Roths recognized for service, participation

Last Friday, after attending the Awards Banquet in honor of the Sandy High School swim team, I realized that there was someone else who deserved our recognition and thanks. For over 16 years while all of their children — Steve, Karen, Chris, Gary, Gail and Matt — have swum for Sandy High, Nick and Shirley Roth have been supporting and helping with the swim team. They have been timers, stroke-and-turn judges, starter, photographer, have helped with calligraphy and art work on awards, and any other job that needed to be done.

When funds for the swim team were deleted from the budget, Nick and Shirley were among the first to get out and help raise money so the swimmers would not lose a year of swimming. Also, besides helping with the swim team, they are active in many other community and church activities. Sandy is really lucky to have people like them in the community. Thank you and we love you Nick and Shirley.

Karen Hewgley
Sandy

Personally speaking

Is White House collateral for debt?

I know that we are encouraged to write to our congressmen — and even to the president — but I hesitate when it comes to our national debt.

I guess that is because of the simplicity of my idea. And it's not just my idea. There are advertisements in all the papers and on TV telling people how to get out of debt. Hasn't anyone been listening?

There are two ways to do it and still avoid bankruptcy. One is the Consumer Credit Counseling Service. And it's free! You just take all your bills to them, and then send all your paychecks and other income to them, and they contact your creditors and arrange to make payments till you are all clear and free of debt. They allow you your living expenses. I did it once when my children were in high school, and it worked fine. Of course, for a couple of years we lived meagerly. No sugar-frosted flakes and such. We really learned to appreciate Big Macs and Kentucky Fried. They were our luxuries. We learned to appreciate a new pair of "tennis shoes" before they became fashionable. But it was all worth it.

The other way is to take out Title 13. It is just short of bankruptcy, and

by JOY WOOD

can be converted into full bankruptcy if necessary.

It looks to me like someone should write to the president and outline these methods to him. Don't you suppose these solutions are available to them in Washington, D.C.?

On the other hand, take the farmers. There they are in all this trouble, debt-wise. Some of them having their farms repossessed and all.

If President Reagan — or whoever it is who keeps borrowing the money for the national debt — would tell the farmers who he is borrowing from, it looks to me like that would be a good thing. Then the farmers could have unlimited borrowing until they get back on their feet, so to speak.

After all, if the government can borrow from them — whoever they are — why not the farmers?

And have you ever stopped to consider or wonder what the government is using for collateral? Do you suppose it's the White House?

Shouldn't the American people know about these transactions? Doesn't the White House and the Capitol Building belong to "we, the people"? Who do you suppose holds the mortgages on these buildings? And if they are collateral for our national debt, just how much of Washington, D.C., is in hock? Are they liable to repossess if we don't keep up the payments?

The latest thing I heard on TV was that we — or they, whoever "they" are — are borrowing just to pay the interest on the interest from the money they borrowed last time.

Now, does that make sense to you? That our government should be in such a state? Where are all the economists? The advisors? The "people in charge"? Who are they and what are they doing with our money, anyway? Could we personally get by with such systems in our budgets?

I think somebody should write and tell them about the Consumer Credit Counseling Service. Or maybe we should even take out Title 13. It looks like we are surely headed for bankruptcy if we don't watch out. Some other country might own the whole of Washington, D.C., pretty soon. What if they held an auction? How could we buy back our Capitol? What would we do?

Maybe we need a satellite to fly around over Washington, D.C., to eavesdrop on this situation. I'd really like to know who they are borrowing from, and with what collateral. And if we found out anything, maybe I could get a loan.

Personally speaking

Spoiled, independent? 'Frankly, my dear...'

My Mother had four daughters, of which I am the youngest. My sisters thought I was spoiled rotten and they were (are) right.

I pretty much had things my own way. Mostly, I suppose, because I wasn't much of a troublemaker. I did my homework, read a lot and only ran away once or twice, just to prove my independence. And even then I had some weird ideas on independence. (I once spent five days camping in an apple tree with nothing but a sheet and some books, just to prove I could do it. I was about 6 or 7 at the time.)

I still have some strange ideas on independence — or I'm spoiled, if you prefer.

I went off to school and read some books, had a few wild experiences, nothing of which you'd want to tell you Mother about (the tree just about undid her). Came home and had some kids and settled down. At least on the outside and only to the degree I thought I could handle it. Remembering my Mother's favorite line, "Wait until you have children of your own," I waited, and sure enough they began to camp in trees, hide in bushes, get green on cigarettes, chase girls and generally make my husband's life miserable while I cheered their independence. (Had I really been independent I don't suppose I'd have had a husband, but. . .) They came out pretty much the way I planned, rotten little buggers all. Now it's my turn. . .

Lots and lots of ideas keep running around in my head. I'm too old to camp in trees, most of the guys I know can outrun me (too many cigarettes), so ideas are all I have

by SARA FORK

left. I'm learning to speak French. Wow! I'm starting to jog. Ugh! I'm going to Europe as soon as I learn French. I'm French/Irish so, do I want to go to France speaking Gaelic or Ireland speaking French?

It really doesn't matter. What counts is that I'm going. What does my family think of all this? I guess they're all for it. They bought me a sheet and a bunch of books, my husband is taking lessons in cooking, cleaning and sorting laundry in preparation for bachelorhood and they're all planning to come visit me in due time. Ha, a lot they know. Why do they think I'm leaving? Spoiled or independent? I guess I feel like Scarlett O'Hara. "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn. . ."

The Starkovich Report

Nurseries may get lottery dollars

by STEVE STARKOVICH
Senate Majority Leader

We can create three hundred to five hundred new jobs with an annual payroll of \$2.7 million. We can indirectly create another 1,000-1,750 new jobs with an annual payroll of up to \$15.75 million.

Does this sound like another high-tech industry that's coming to west Portland?

It isn't. It is an existing Oregon industry. One in which we rank third in the nation. One that is environmentally clean. One that is available to the small businessman and the rural resident.

It is the nursery industry. And I believe it can create those numbers of jobs.

I presented the case for the nursery industry to the Joint Trade and Economic Development Committee of the 1985 Oregon Legislature. That is the committee that will decide how to spend as much as \$40 million in lottery profits. They are charged with the task of spending those funds for economic development. I can think of no better place to invest a portion of those funds than in a proven industry.

I proposed a one time allocation of \$800,000 to be appropriated only when matching funds are raised by the nursery industry. It is not a handout, but rather a reinforcement of the nurseryman's efforts. The funds would go into a trust account account administered by the non-profit Oregon Nurserymen's Foundation.

Only the interest from that trust would be used for development of the nursery industry, therefore ensuring a permanent long term program requiring no further funding. The efforts would be directed not only to improved production, but also to broadened and more aggressive marketing. There is no reason why Oregon cannot become recognized as "The Nursery State."

The jobs created would run the gamut from farm laborers, retail sales people and landscapers to highly skilled tissue culture researchers and propagation specialists. Many of those jobs would be created in non-urban areas — those areas most threatened by our nation's changing economic base; those areas that have traditionally been the source of our country's stability.

The proposal I made to the Trade and Economic Development Committee calls for only 2 percent of a single year's estimated lottery proceeds. And once the program matures the state might well receive in return that sum of money each year in increased tax revenues. It is an investment, and one that would be made in a desirable and proven industry.

Commentary

Seniors Handbook comprehensive

by GOV. VIC ATIYEH

One of the greatest satisfactions of any job is to have someone call and say, "You've helped me."

Recently, a Corvallis woman called my office and said that, by using our recently-published Seniors Handbook, she had found a way both to continue working and to keep her mother at home.

Her ability to do both will come as no surprise to people who know their way around the confusing network of federal, state and local services for the elderly.

But most people do not.

For example, an elderly Gold Beach woman recently hitchhiked to Salem because she had lost her driver's license and did not know where to turn for transportation.

Oregonians now can turn to the Seniors Handbook. The woman in Gold Beach, for example, has access to transportation services locally, but she did not know whom to ask.

Available from my office, the 131-page, large-type Seniors Handbook is intended both for older Oregonians and for families who want to help their parents and grandparents.

The handbook describes services, explains eligibilities and provides phone numbers and addresses in a variety of areas ranging from Social Security, Medicare and tax-relief programs to housing, legal services and food stamps.

These are among the questions that are answered.

Q. Who is eligible for Medicaid?

A. You are eligible if you are receiving Supplemental Security Income, or if you are participating in the Oregon Supplemental Income Program, or if you are eligible for either of these programs but do not choose to receive cash benefits from them.

Q. Who is eligible for food stamps?

A. Income limits are changed annually and generally range from \$540 to \$728 a month for singles and couples, although persons with unusually high medical or shelter expenses may have more income and still qualify.

Q. Who is eligible for Oregon's program to help low-income people pay winter heating bills?

A. All individuals or families whose total family income is equal to or less than 125 percent of the poverty level. For example, a household of one person would be eligible if income was \$6,075 or less.

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.