

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Weed abatement program viable

One of our favorite running stories is weed abatement. Every year at this time we hear people threaten to travel someplace and plant thistles in the yard of some absentee landlord. We hear people question why the City Council hasn't done something about some overgrown lot.

An element of judgment is involved in weed abatement cases to determine whether an overgrown lot is truly causing a public nuisance. Therefore, there is obviously an opportunity for human error.

However, the mechanism for solving the problem of overgrown lots is a good one.

The problem of weeds and noxious vegetation is covered in the health and safety section of the city code. Overgrown lots are said to be a problem when the vegetation goes to seed, dries out and causes a fire hazard, or creates an obstruction, impeding the flow of traffic.

Dandelions do not constitute a public nuisance.

There may be some Henry David Thoreau-types who object to having to mow their lawns based on philosophical principles, but it is pretty much accepted that if a person wants to live in town, that person must not allow his property or activities to infringe upon the rights of others.

The city's enforcement procedure is a drawn-out affair guaranteeing the property owner certain rights. A list of lots found not to be in compliance were taken to the City Council Monday evening. The city has already made an effort to contact these residents, and some have already mowed or cleaned up their lots. Compliance is said to be good locally.

Notices are posted on the lots in question following the City Council's determination of a nuisance, and owners of record are sent a certified letter telling of the council action.

To appeal, a person must explain — in writing — why their property is not in violation. That person will be allowed to address the City Council, which will then rule on the individual case. If found in violation of the city code, that person then has 10 days to comply.

If that person still does not mow or clean up his lot, the city may hire a contractor to do the work, and the property owner will be charged. The city has an account to pay the contractors, but the property owner almost always pays in the end. A lien can be filed against the owner's property.

The City Council does have a workable method of dealing with weed abatement, and we feel they have used good judgment in enforcing the ordinance.

Letters to the editor

Veterans tribute represents corridor

I have been reading all the stories, letters to the editor and etc. about the war memorial and can no longer remain silent.

I was at the VFW Post the night the miniature statue was brought in, and it is the most moving "tribute" I have ever seen.

The conversation that night said it was to be a tribute to honor every veteran of the U.S.A. that has ever served in any branch of the service, be it a man or woman. Now all of a sudden someone is trying to turn this into a "Vietnam War Memorial." I will fight this from the word go! Not because I was, or am, for or against that war, but because that is not what this statue is to represent.

enter the Sandy-Mt. Hood corridor. I feel it does not belong just to Sandy, but to everyone who has ever had a family member, friend or relative in any branch of the service, that fought so desperately for "FREEDOM" no matter how many years or wars ago. The library and Meinig Park are beautiful, but not enough people would see it.

I am a member of the VFW Auxiliary, and very proud of it. I will also be working very hard collecting donations for it, but only if it remains a tribute to honor all veterans.

I also feel all the school children from the Sandy School District, Bull Run and Welches, should be given the

School children should run a 'dimes for veterans' campaign.

A "memorial" is for the dead. A "tribute" is for the living and the dead. Or as the dictionary says, a personal offering, compliment or the like, given in gratitude, esteem or regard. There are lots of war memorials. Now it is time for a TRIBUTE TO HONOR ALL VETERANS!

I also feel the entrance to Sandy is the only place for this tribute. What better way to show how proud we are of our veteran than to have a statue of him on display for all to see as they

chance to have "a dime for veterans" campaign so they can feel like they too had a hand in honoring the veterans for making the United States of America the best place to live in the world!

So now, I will get off my soap box with just one more favor to ask — PLEASE everyone give what you can to help make this statue a reality in the shortest time possible, so we can all start to enjoy it.

Ethel Annis
Brightwood

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.

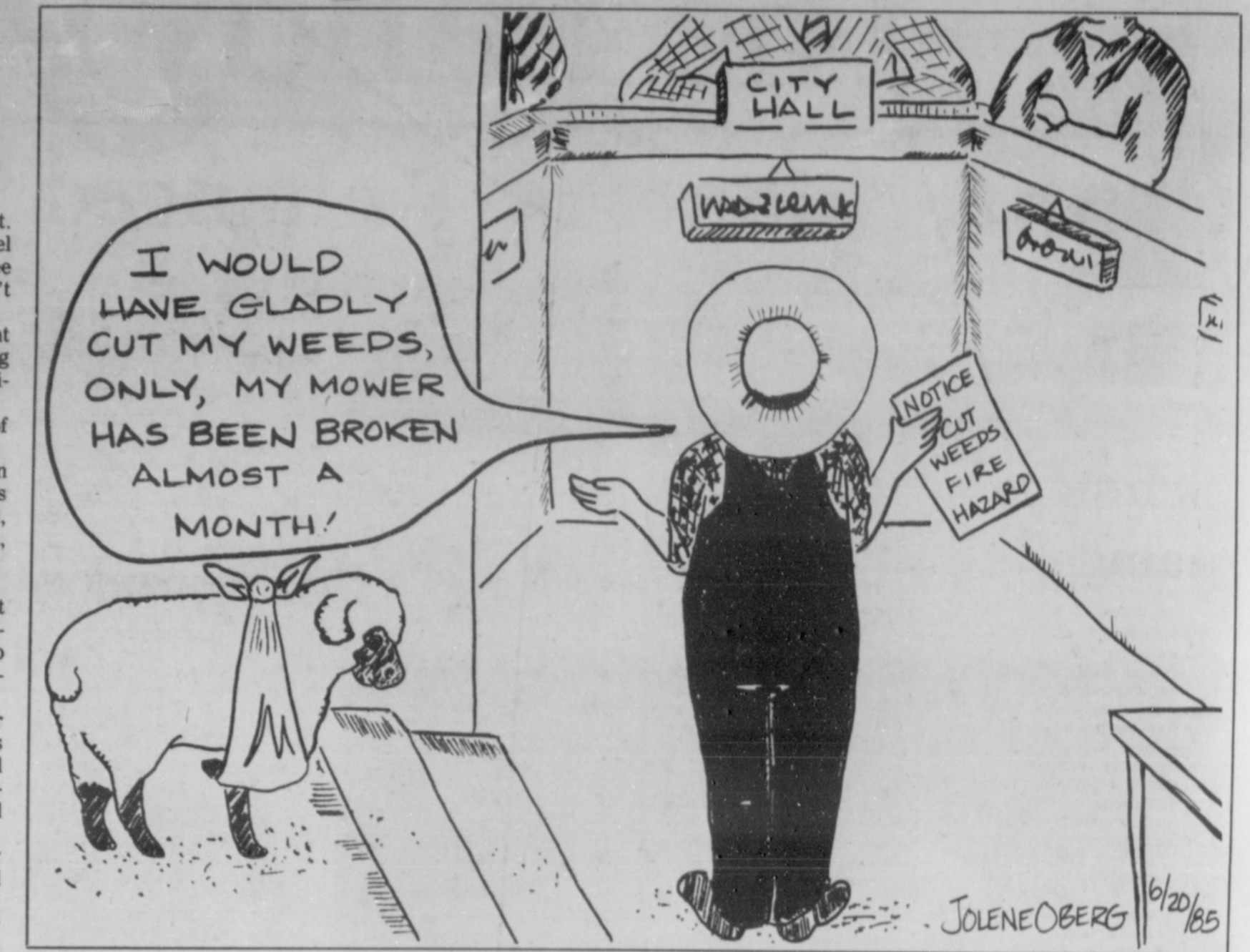
The news deadline of noon, Tuesday is also the deadline for letters to the editor.

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

Where to write

Representative Bob Shiprack
H-292 State Capitol
Salem, Ore. 97310
378-8784

Senator Steve Starkovich
S-223 State Capitol
Salem, Ore. 97310
378-8810



Commentary

State wages war against gypsy moth

by GOV. VIC ATIYEH

One of these days, someone may knock on your door and ask an unusual question. "Would it be OK," you may be asked, "if we put one of these traps in your camelia bush?"

The person asking the question will represent our state Department of Agriculture, carry a triangular cardboard trap, and be one of the front-line troops in our war on the gypsy moth.

These people will be placing about 32,000 traps in all 36 Oregon counties to see if we are winning our campaign against the gypsy moth. I urge you to cooperate with them.

Some of these people have taken to calling themselves "mothbusters."

Like the team Bill Murray led in the movie "Ghostbusters," these men and women are using specialized weapons in a high-stakes battle against an elusive enemy.

Unlike the Ghostbusters, however,

the mothbusters are deadly serious about eradicating this dangerous pest.

The gypsy moth threatens to strip forests of their foliage, residential landscaping of its beauty, and Oregonians of thousands of jobs.

The gypsy moth reproduces rapidly: A single egg mass can generate more than a thousand larvae.

The gypsy moth caterpillar seems almost insatiable: It feeds on more than 300 different trees and shrubs.

The gypsy moth, as its name implies, is a traveler: It has moved into diverse regions of the U.S. by attaching itself to recreational vehicles, barbecues, lawn furniture and other outdoor items transported between states.

That is why wood products and outdoor items in parts of Lane County — the nation's largest timber-producing county — must be inspected before leaving the quarantine area, and why it is essential for Oregonians to cooperate.

Other states do not want our gypsy moths, and we want to avoid their spread within Oregon. California law actually provides for a fine up to \$25,000 for introduction of pests such as the gypsy moth.

The gypsy moth has become such a serious problem in some states, primarily in the Northeast, that officials have given up trying to eliminate them, and now try only to control them.

Unchecked in Oregon, the gypsy moth could conceivably defoliate nearly 2 million acres of our broadleaf forests. In the short term, the moth could cost Oregonians literally millions in payrolls if other states refuse to admit our timber products and Christmas trees.

This spring, we turned an \$11 million aerial assault loose on the gypsy moth in Lane County. This assault — the biggest gypsy moth eradication effort ever undertaken west of the Mississippi — brought together an army of more than 200

people, a half-million gallons of the B.t. biological insecticide mixture, and as many as 26 helicopters.

Although early indications are that this assault was successful, we will not know the degree of success until we check the traps in August and September.

That is why representatives of our agriculture department are now setting out traps statewide.

Traps such as these first identified the problem. Although we trapped only four gypsy moths at Pleasant Hill southeast of Eugene in 1983, last year the moths literally clogged the traps.

The non-toxic traps we are setting out this summer — and that you may be asked to permit on your property — will harm neither people nor their pets. Agriculture employees will carry identification.

So if you are asked to join the mothbusters by volunteering your yard for a trap, please sign up.

Salem Scene

North Dakota best business location

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Alexander Grant has done it again. For the sixth straight year, the Chicago-based accounting firm has announced Oregon's climate for attracting new manufacturing industry is lousy.

Reaction to the annual revelation has ranged from yawns to smirks. And lawmakers in Salem — locked in the throes of attempts to adjourn their current regular biennial legislative session — seemed to ignore it altogether.

Well they might, for despite protestations from the Windy City's bean-counters that their study is the epitome of objectivity, the exercise continues to discredit itself.

Impetus for a nationwide manufacturing climate was provided by the Illinois Manufacturers Association a decade ago. IMA commissioned the Fantus Company — a leading manufacturing plant site selection firm — to conduct such a study among the 48 contiguous states. The idea was to convince the Illinois General Assembly to enact legislation that would halt deterioration of that state's manufacturing base.

Utilizing some 15 measurement categories, the Fantus study ranked Texas most attractive, New York the worst and Illinois 35th. Oregon placed 40th.

Ranked by that study which placed California next to last, the Golden State commissioned its own study utilizing 88 measurements. Texas was still number one, California jumped to sixth, New York to 22nd,



Illinois to 17th and Oregon to 32nd.

Despite the inconclusive results, IMA persuaded the Conference of State Manufacturers Associations (COSMA) to have another go at the project. Fantus declined — claiming such studies were inappropriate to the counseling it provides clients — and COSMA hired Alexander Grant.

That firm's initial study in 1979 saw Texas plummet to 22nd place, New York sank to 46th, California to 36th and Oregon was 39th. In 1980, Texas ascended to 18th, New York remained 46th, Illinois rose to 36th, California dropped to 45th and Oregon rose to its all-time high of 35th. In 1981, Alexander Grant rated Texas second, New York 47th, Illinois 43rd, California 26th and Oregon 36th.

But Alexander Grant changed criteria in 1981 and that year's results couldn't be fairly compared with previous studies.

Needless to say, members of COSMA began to look askance at the project and demanded more consistency and sophistication in methodology. But the 1982 study was so flawed, COSMA — at the insistence of its Oregon member, Associated Oregon Industries — withheld official sanction.

Oregon dipped to 43rd in that study. Texas remained second, New York

declined to 45th, Illinois was 42nd and California stayed at 26th.

Undaunted, Alexander Grant persisted without COSMA backing. In 1983 Texas dropped to sixth, New York rose to 39th, Illinois sank to 44th, California to 30th and Oregon to 47th.

The musical chairs results of the Alexander Grant studies evolve from several sources. Despite the firm's insistence criteria and methodology remain consistent — changes take place every year. While the current 22 factors on which comparisons are made appear to remain constant — they nonetheless change.

At least eight changed substantially this year and Alexander Grant admits results of most of those cannot be compared with the year before.

In other instances, sources of information for data relating to the 22 factors have changed.

In a few instances, specific information was lacking at publication time — but the missing data didn't deter Alexander Grant from forging ahead with comparisons.

This year (1984 study) Oregon bounced up to 44th, Texas is 16th, New York 38th, Illinois 42nd and California 25th. Riding the crest in first and second places respectively are South and North Dakota!

Another variable affecting results from year to year is the fact Alexander Grant asks state manufacturers associations to rank the 22 factors in order of importance each year. Changing importance of factors and the varying number of associations providing such rankings further skew results.

Meanwhile, similar studies by other concerns have met with the same yo-yo results.

As a sop to its many critics, Alexander Grant this year hired the Naisbitt Group — founded by Megatrends author John Naisbitt — to provide the current study with a more subjective analysis.

That assessment contains a number of revealing statements. "In Oregon," it declares, "... the lumber industry continues to suffer in the aftermath of a dramatic economic downturn; however, new electronic businesses are keeping Oregon's economy moving."

And in assessing the western region, including Washington, California and Oregon (which ranked a dismal sixth of eight national regions by Alexander Grant standards) the Naisbitt group was more generous.

"Oregon... is the region's best kept secret... has extended its hand in friendship... repealing its unitary tax... reduced its workers' compensation rates... streamlined land use regulations... has made negotiations with interested corporations less cumbersome... will soon produce 25 percent of the world's silicone wafers..."

Little wonder reaction here to Alexander Grant evokes yawns from media and smirks from Oregon's top salesman, Vic Atiyeh.

And major issues keeping the 63rd Assembly from adjourning sooner have largely involved how to provide Oregon's improving business climate with an adequate share of the revenue pie.