

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representativePolitical distrust
detriment to state

Debate over the sales tax brought one sad fact of life into focus. We don't seem to have much faith in politicians.

The debate over the sales tax very often followed the high road. Proponents argued for property tax relief and a secure source of financing for schools. Opponents pointed out that the tax break would often go to corporations with large, valuable tracts of land — corporations with headquarters in other states.

For every legitimate, thoughtful debate there was another, fueled by a kind of vindictiveness. "They're going to hang us with that sales tax," was one argument. "If we pass it, the legislature will increase it, change it. They'll gouge us."

The second argument draws a picture of greedy, self-serving politicians seeking to saddle us with unbridled government, unwanted services, fraud and waste.

With its unfavorable portrait of tourists, the pro-sales tax group proved itself every bit as capable of taking the low road as the anti-sales tax group.

Sadly, news that a senior citizens group's stand on the sales tax may have been misrepresented — the subject of a recent lawsuit — even makes us question the validity of the state's Voters' Pamphlet.

While we should never forgo a good, hard look at government at any level, it may be time to think of ourselves as the government. It is not an "Us against Them" process.

Legislators in Oregon are often working people. We asked them to solve our problem with high property taxes, and balancing the state's budget with a sales tax was a viable alternative. We do not believe it was the legislature's intent to trick us, but rather to fashion a good sales tax and see if that was, indeed, what the public wanted.

Such distrust of government filters down to the local level. We like, trust and appreciate what individual members of school boards or city councils do, but we wonder why, on the whole, they don't crack down on sloth and waste.

Without a doubt there is waste in government at the state and local level, and probably some out-and-out fraud.

But we might also want to consider that taxes are high because we demand that roads be built and maintained, we want schools open and we need water lines and sewage treatment plants.

It is our duty to participate in the democratic process. For the people who have made the effort to do just that, politics is taken out of the realm of bogeymen and is an interesting battle of give-and-take.

A little distrust is healthy, but the sales tax debate pointed out the pendulum needs to swing back the other way.

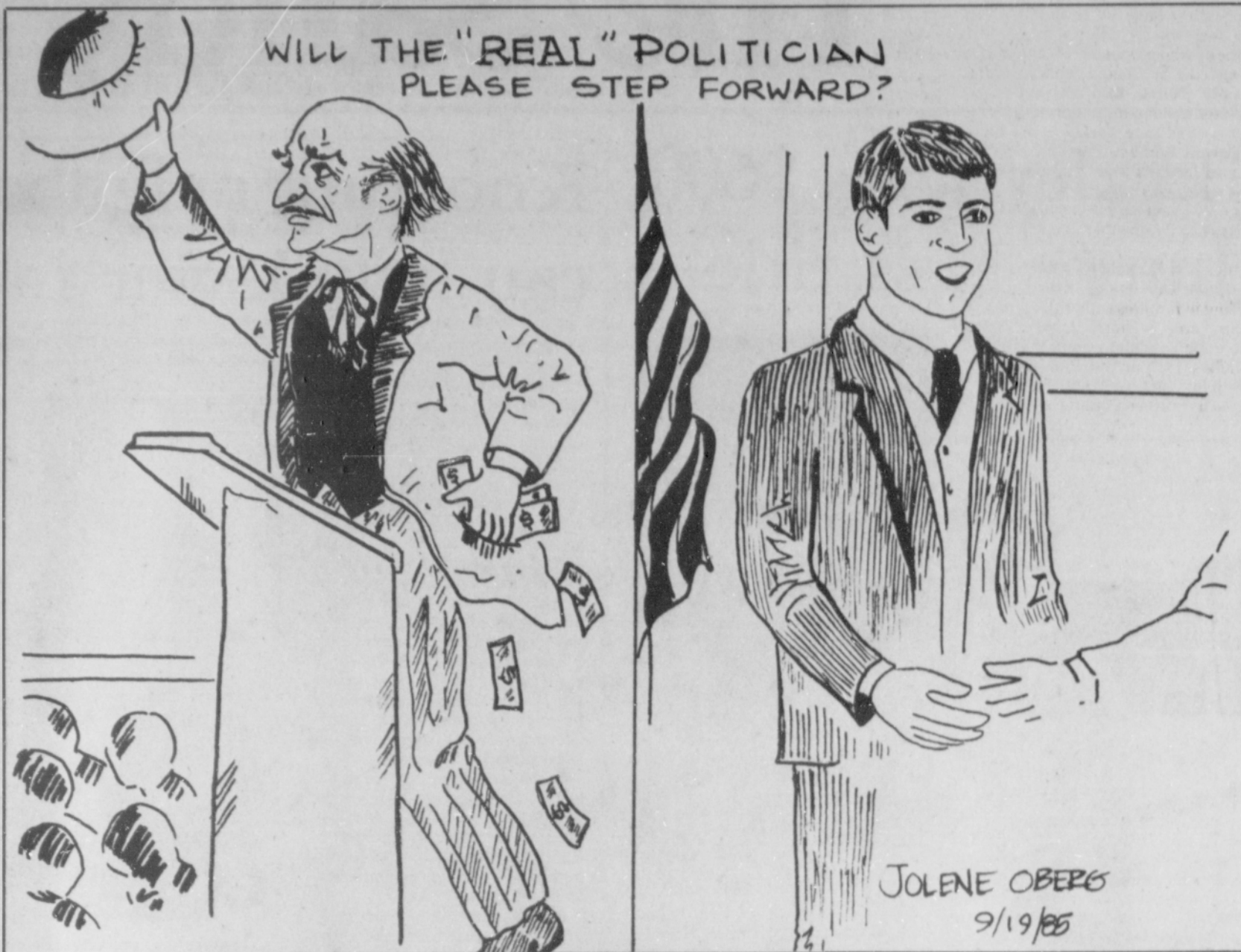
Policy on letters

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.



Personally speaking

Grandmother learning how to debate

by JOY WOOD

I've just sent away for a new book. Its title is "The Gentle Art of Verbal Self-Defense." It is guaranteed to give me a complete education in communication. And it's only \$6.95!

How wonderful it would be to be able to talk without putting my sneaker in my mouth. And to be able to defend myself diplomatically. The ad says it will do all that, and more.

It says it will enable a person to keep cool during arguments. And even win them. Now any book that can do that is worth more than \$6.95. Don't you think?

If it will tell me how to keep from getting into arguments over things like whether to have the doors and windows open or not, on hot days, regardless of the flies that come in, and whether or not it's "classy" to have a hand towel hanging on my

refrigerator door handle, well, they can double the price.

I notice too often that it's the person who can yell the loudest and longest that usually wins arguments — man, woman or child.

The person the most persistent wins. And it has nothing to do with right or wrong. What it comes down to is "your" way or "mine."

Sometimes I think people don't even care a whole lot about the thing they are arguing about. They just want to win the argument.

So, I feel I'm being pretty sneaky in sending off for this book. I am going to be fortified; I'll have some ammunition. And I'll bet in time I'll be allowed to hang my wash towel on the fence or to have a bath towel on the refrigerator door handle when my children come to visit, even if those things aren't "classy" to their way of thinking. And they'll let me alone about my open doors and windows. I might even buy a dozen or so fly

swatters and pass them out when they come.

And what else do I hope to achieve with the ordering and the reading of this wonderful book? Well, let's see.

With my 8-year-old Grandson, it's entirely possible that I could reason him out of putting two different colored socks on to go to Sabbath School. Week days don't really matter. I believe that teachers get used to that sort of thing, in time.

The 6-year-old might stop opening the lids of the jars that he brings into the house to show me his collection of spiders, bees, hornets and ants. Someday, it might be a snake.

And the baby. I call him a baby even though he is now 3. Well, it's just possibly that his interfering Grandmother might just possibly impress upon him that little, tiny boys need to keep their clothes on when they are outside playing.

His mother, at the same age, had

the same affinity for nudity. I don't remember how I won that argument. Maybe someone else impressed her with the practicality of clothes. Or maybe winter just came and cold weather solved the problem. Who knows why?

Now, here is the tough one to win an argument with — my Mother. She's 88 this year.

If this book can help me to win an argument with her over keeping bowls of stew she has made for her cat in the identical kind of bowls that she keeps her own stews in, in her refrigerator, now that would be a red-letter day.

When I go there to check on her, and I'm hungry, and in a hurry, I never know if it's one or the other I've eaten unless she says to me, "Oh, my, you ate the kitty's dinner again."

If this book will just help me out with some of my dilemmas, it will be worth its weight in gold.

Commentary

Trade protection trend is
bad for consumer and stateby BOB PACKWOOD
U.S. Senator

In the next few months Congress will continue to debate trade legislation aimed at closing some U.S. markets to foreign competitors. This growing sentiment of protectionism has caused great alarm and concern among those of us who believe competition by way of free trade, philosophically and practically, the wisest trade policy. The United States has promoted free trade ever since the international trading system as we know it began in the mid-1940s.

I am not — and never have been — a protectionist. My greatest fear is that the political motivation behind many of the current moves towards protectionism will force the issue on to a fast track that even we staunch anti-protectionists won't be able to stop.

A healthy atmosphere for trade is crucial to Oregon. According to the International Trade Commission of the U.S. Department of Commerce, recent statistics show that of the almost 1.2 million employed Oregonians, 55,000 of them depend on trade and trade-related industries. This figure will increase as we expand our trade with Pacific Rim countries. Oregon's ideal location has been a key factor in developing trade with the Pacific Rim.

The legislation Congress will act on this Fall proposes to do two things: 1) impose higher tariffs on imported goods and services, and 2) place a limit or cap on the amount of various

foreign products entering this country. There will be many arguments for protectionist legislation and they will be made by well-meaning individuals. Each senator and congressman undoubtedly will make a good case to protect individual industries specific to his or her state whether it's in textiles, steel, shoes or concrete. Taken together, the arguments and the large congressional support for protectionist action could override a presidential veto. However, protectionist legislation is only a temporary fix for ailments some U.S. industries are currently facing — it is not the solution. And let's not forget that every ounce of protection for one industry is paid for by another American industry and by the consumer.

The Administration is adamantly

opposed to protectionism, and rightfully so. For example, late in August President Reagan wisely decided not to impose quota restrictions on imported shoes. Very clearly, if one industry is granted protection from foreign imports, other industries will clamor for similar treatment.

Oregon and the United States will not come out winners in a protectionist battle. If Congress passes trade protection legislation you can count on two things: 1) the cost of consumer goods will increase, and 2) Oregon would go into an economic depression. Not only would the U.S. face almost immediate retaliation from other foreign trading countries but the impact on Oregon would be disastrous. Let's keep our doors open to free trade.

Letter to the editor

Public hearing process
works well in Sandy

When I went to the public hearing (Sept. 3) on whether or not to enforce the two hour limit on parking in the downtown area, I did so to voice my support for enforcement.

After listening to several of the business people that this would affect most, it became clear to me that a blanket enforcement would not be good for Sandy as a whole.

I would like to applaud the

council's decision not to enforce the limit throughout the town, while at the same time setting up the framework to apply specific solutions to specific problems.

It's good to live in a town where City Hall is open and responsive to the needs of individuals as well as the community as a whole.

Kjell Rode
Sandy



Jennifer Wassil, Tim Martin, Tammy Ten Eyck, Ryan Atkins and Kelly Wassil are pictured in "Three Tales."

Letter to the editor

'Three Tales' delightful

The boys and girls at Welches Grade School were treated to something truly special this past week. Sandy's Children's Theatre Group, sponsored by the city of Sandy and the Sandy Community Players, brought a delightful rendition of their "Three Tales in the

Woods" to our school.

Not only was the production well-organized, well-acted and well-executed, it was performed by very well-mannered children. Larry Leedy, the director, and Mark Kuntz, SCP's representative, are to be applauded for

putting together such a neat production.

Our boys and girls loved it, and we definitely want you back next year!

Dan Barker,
superintendent
Welches School District