

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
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In the end, people like new Bluff Road

Bluff Road is intrinsically tied to the development of Sandy, which made the recent work on the thoroughfare all the more interesting.

The bible of local history, "Sandy Pioneers, Early Settlers and Barlow Road Days," has a picture, dated 1918, that shows a work crew with the first electric rock crusher to be used in the area.

Mount Hood is in the background behind the men, some of whom pose proudly on the bluff with the rock crusher and teams of mules setting the mood.

The pride of putting in a new road — probably much appreciated in 1918 — may not have been felt by some people in Sandy over the past two summers.

One-way traffic on the road, caused by the narrow confines on which it was built, was an inconvenience to the 3,000 people who use it daily.

One of the many footnotes on the most recent construction was the 75 to 100 tickets given to people for traveling the wrong way on a closed road — an enforcement action that was probably necessary due to the number of people who were disobeying the signs. Nonetheless, receiving the tickets, which resulted in a \$57 fine in municipal court, angered some residents.

Of course, it would be hard to match the anger some residents expressed at the public hearing on the issue a few years ago. Local property owners picked up the tab for \$70,000 of the project through the formation of a local improvement district.

They were not placated by the fact the federal government was kicking in \$648,000 — a good deal by anybody's standards.

The public's anger at the Sandy City Council in 1985 was matched by the City Council's anger at the state in 1987 in a controversy regarding engineering fees. It was a matter over which the state Department of Transportation had complete control, much to the chagrin of some council members.

The state received a great deal of blame over the past two years. City officials at one time were uphappy with the "Cadillac" road the state was requiring.

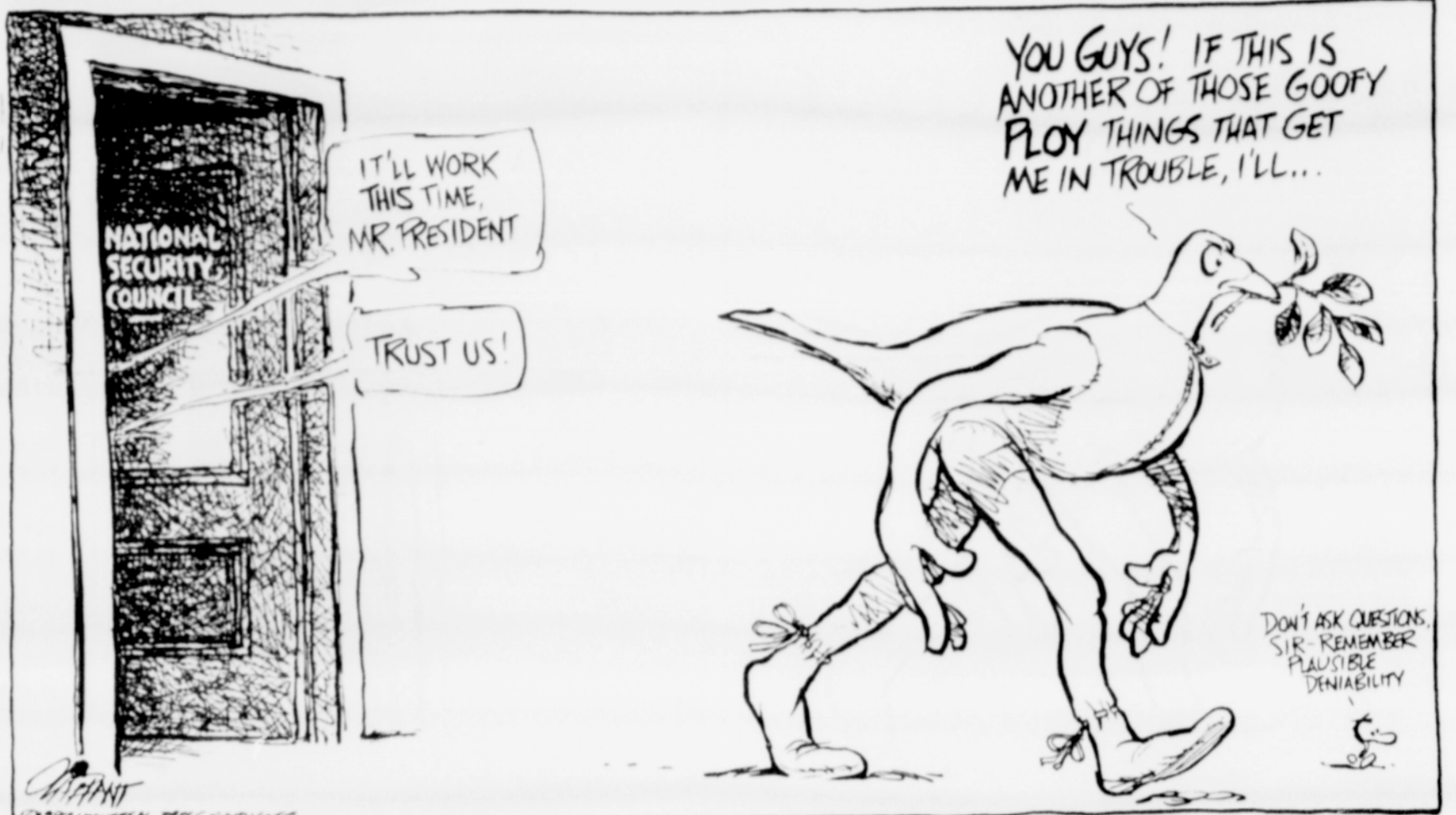
As it turns out, the work on Bluff Road is evidence that the system still works — even if it creaks and groans at times.

The state's requirements for the road were probably a good thing. There are now 4-foot-wide pedestrian/bicycle lanes on the street.

And people who are paying a tax assessment — though they may not be happy about it — must at least admit that the road is a great improvement.

Sandy got the extra bonus of having a local road contractor with a sharp enough pencil to win the bid and keep local people employed.

Now that the 14,000 tons of rock and 7,000 tons of asphaltic concrete have been put down, it is our observation that the comment heard most often now has nothing to do with the City Council, the state or even driving citations. The comment most likely to be heard now is, "That's a nice road."



Diapers and other small annoyances

Small things I've been thinking about:

• Harold Buck, manager of Multnomah Falls Lodge, went to a meeting in Corbett last week on the future of the old Columbia River Highway and reported the most interesting statistic of the evening.

He counted 16 disposable diapers thrown out along the side of the scenic highway between Multnomah Falls and Corbett. All were new that day, reported Buck, who has kind of a fetish about counting the Pampers population.

Bill Quinn, who was at the same meeting and has a child in diapers, offered, "I can kind of understand people trying to get rid of a disposable diaper. Have you ever ridden around with one of those things in a hot car?"

But I know Quinn and he would keep a soiled diaper in a car until he asphyxiated before he'd throw it on the roadside.

If I ran the world, people would have to pass a test before they were allowed to have children. One of the questions would deal with whether or not they have sufficient social cons-



Sharon Nesbit

science to properly dispose of disposables.

The thing that really worries me is this — if the parents don't know any better, what kind of slob will their children be?

• They found convicted murderer Diane Downs when she escaped from prison by using a fancy FBI gadget that read the impression her pen left on a pad of paper. In Downs' case they got an address. If the FBI used

the same gizmo at my house all they'd come up with is, "Remember to buy toilet paper."

• There was a story on the radio about a woman in the Midwest who was chewed out by the police for abusing her 9-1-1 dialing privileges. Seems she called 9-1-1 because her faucet was dripping and she couldn't stand it any more.

When the police arrived she explained that her husband wouldn't fix it.

I kind of understand that. A dripping faucet can make you crazy. And a spouse who won't fix things can make you homicidal.

Reminds me of a friend whose husband never got any of his projects finished. They're separated now and may get a divorce. If he ever gets around to it.

• The signs pointing to downtown Gresham and specifying all the delights to be found there bother me because they say, "Shops, Services, Eats." What gives me indigestion is "Eats." Such an inelegant word.

I have this rule that I never eat in a place that says "EAT."

The one exception is a little drive-

in named Mrs. Beezley's at the Ryderwood exit on Interstate 5 in Washington. Best hamburger north of Dea's In and Out.

• Rode MAX the other day and two things trouble me:

None of the cute little station roofs have gutters. That should be against the law in Oregon.

And the closer you get to town the more disfigured are the shiny, blue handicapped loading devices. Names and numbers have been scratched in the paint, including those of rock bands and folks such as Madonna.

If I ran the world, we would keep track of those things. Everytime the name of a musical group was scratched on a public edifice we would send that group a bill. After all, it is advertising of sorts and they can afford it. Eventually we would collect enough money to have everything repaired.

And then I wondered about what possesses people to scratch Madonna's moniker on a piece of public property. The way I have it figured, they were raised by parents who threw dirty diapers along the side of the road.

Letters to the editor

Vote no on Sandy levy

If you vote yes and approve the Sandy Elementary School special operating levy of \$175,000, an increase over the current "safety net" budget of \$1,950,663, are you aware that the total amount levied against your property will be the new, higher figure? There is no way of defeating this new, annual "safety net."

We recommend that you vote no to enable you to maintain reasonable control over your property tax.

L.G. Brian Sandy
Affordable Education Association

Test results are too low

Finally, after months of delay, we received a copy of the California Achievement Test results for 1987. To the best of our knowledge, there has been no discussion of the test results

and no plan to improve the quality of education.

We believe a quality basic education is necessary at the lower level if students are to successfully progress through high school, then college and/or into the work market.

Total grade school CAT test results, 1986 compared to 1987, indicated a decline from just above the national average to below the national average in 1987.

The area of immediate concern is in spelling, where fourth graders are 14 percent below the national average. We find the poor test results for grade school students is confirmed by high school testing that indicates 20 percent to 30 percent of freshmen are not ready for ninth-grade studies.

The purpose of this letter is to find out what positive corrective action is being taken to improve the quality of education in our school system. Put another way, our patience is wearing thin. We pay for quality education and get second-class service. Now, what are you going to do about it?

Lloyd A. Cummins
Executive secretary
Affordable Education Association

Salem scene

Can lawmakers make tough decisions?

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Oregon Association Industries

Oregon lawmakers often are criticized for being afraid to bite the bullet and make the hard decisions — opting instead to leave controversial decisions up to the voters.

The method by which lawmakers achieve this process is called legislative referral. In essence, it means the Legislature enacts a measure but refers its effective date until after some regular or special election in the future.

However, critics of such action tend to ignore the fact lawmakers are required to refer certain of their actions to a vote of the people. Changes in the state constitution, for instance, cannot be accomplished without voter approval.

Major changes in the state tax system — even though they may not alter the constitution — also are subject to referral by initiative petition. In other words, lawmakers can't simply say tax changes will become effective upon passage. Doing so would invoke what is called the emergency clause.

Instead, revenue measures cannot become law until at least 90 days after adjournment and registered voters can petition during that time

to stay that effective date until the next general election.

Often as not, lawmakers recognize some issues may well be referred by the people and they go ahead and refer them themselves, saving everyone involved a lot of time and money.

The 64th Assembly referred a total of seven measures to voters during its session in Salem earlier this year.

Two, Senate Joint Resolution 3 — the school finance safety net; and House Bill 405 — the measure directing the state to continue challenging the site selection process for a national high-level nuclear waste repository — were referred to a special election last May 19. Both were approved by voters.

Two others were referred to the statewide primary election May 17. They are House Joint Resolution 45 — which would amend the constitution to make fish protection and watershed restoration projects eligible for Water Development Fund moneys — and House Bill 2581 — requiring operators of motorcycles and mopeds to wear protective headgear.

Three more will appear on the Nov. 8, 1988, general election ballot.

They include Senate Joint Resolution 1 — amending the constitution to permit use of interest revenue from

the Common School fund for certain expenses of the State Land Board; Senate Joint Resolution 4 — amending the constitution to require the Governor to announce intentions of vetoes five days before vetoing a bill and extending the time for filing bills after the session ends from 20 to 30 days; and Senate Bill 87 — the mandatory seat belt law.

Of the seven, four are constitutional amendments and had to be referred to voters for final approval.

One has already been approved by voters and the other three requisite referrals don't appear likely to cause much excitement during the campaigns preceding the election. The lone exception may be tampering with the gubernatorial veto process.

Announcing intention to veto five days prior to vetoing a measure does give opponents ample time to lobby against the action and maybe dissuade potential vetoes. But giving the Governor an extra 10 days to wade through all the bills that pile up at session's end before filing with the Secretary of State may turn out to be an acceptable trade-off.

Of the two remaining referrals — the bills mandating seat belts and motorcycle helmets — the criticism about bullet-biting may be valid. Both measures are definitely con-

troversial and experienced stormy passage through the process.

In fact, the seat belt bill evoked so many shenanigans that one member of the House declared he thought most of his peers were more interested in their political futures than making good public policy.

His declaration involved the fact the seat belt bill, SB 87, achieved enactment only after it was agreed that another measure, House Bill 2399, would pass — which makes the seat belt law effective Sept. 27 and sunsets it a month after the next general election unless voters approve the referred SB 87. And that's a story interesting enough to detail minutely at another time.

The motorcycle helmet law (HB 2581) definitely will be a campaign issue in the 1988 primary election. And, along with SB 87 in the general, likely will be pro or con issues among candidates running for seats in the 65th Assembly.

However, the fact the current Assembly referred seven measures to the people and four were required because they proposed constitutional changes, hardly seems sufficient to chastise the body as being overly timid. Especially in light of the fact this Assembly did enact more than a thousand measures altogether.

Bobcats



by Adam Kraft

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