

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Award application not the best idea

The city manager of Sandy would like to receive an award for union-busting. The City Council erred by not nipping this one in the bud.

In the Award for Excellence Competition, sponsored by the League of Oregon Cities, the city of Sandy has entered a project titled, "Employee Relations."

In early 1984, the city of Sandy's employees voted to form a chapter of a public employees union. The move was partially in response to a wage freeze. A year later, the union voted to decertify, or disband.

"At this point, the mayor, City Council and city manager felt they had won, but there was also the realization that the underlying issues would not go away without attention," the application for the award reads.

What the application does not say, at least directly, is that it is a lot easier to give pay raises when the city has guaranteed 6 percent growth within a tax base.

The public approved the tax base in May 1984, eliminating the necessity of further salary freezes for city employees. City of Sandy employees have received pay raises the two years since the tax base was approved.

The application also states that the city has a safety committee and that it is addressing concerns raised by CIS Insurance Services and the state Accident Prevention Division.

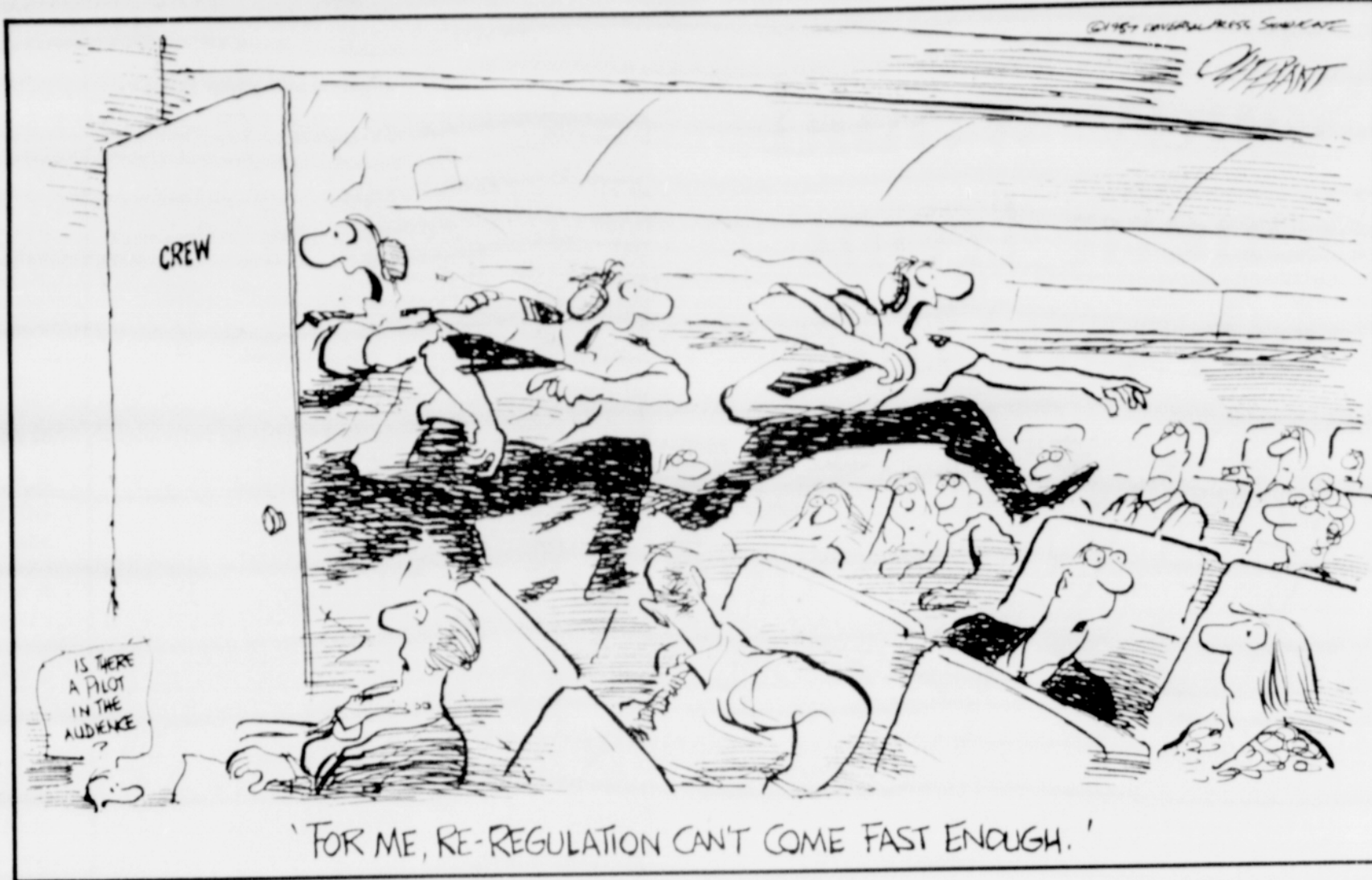
The application does not mention that the safety committee was formed after CIS Insurance Services and the state Accident Prevention Division found areas in which the city of Sandy could make improvements.

To be fair, the Accident Prevention Division investigation did not turn up serious problems. The point is that the application is misleading.

Good employee relations are definitely something to work for and, once achieved, to be proud of. To management's credit, the city did pretty well on a confidential survey of employees.

The city manager's idea in entering the competition was to make the point that it isn't necessary to have a union to have good employee relations.

But the city fails to make its point. Applying for an award for union-busting was poor judgment.



Communism washes color out of life

The uniforms were the tip-off. It was a hot summer day and the border guards were dressed in wool — ugly, rumpled and itchy-looking. At the borders of the so-called "Western" countries, the guards had all looked as dapper as doormen at swanky hotels.

But Hungary is no swanky hotel. It is a poor country, a communist country and the first communist country I have ever visited.

I wanted to see for myself what an Eastern Bloc country was like. And I tried not to pack any preconceived notions in my baggage. One fellow with us, a pudgy Floridian who was uncommonly proud of his camera gear, left it all behind in Vienna because he feared "the commies" would take it away from him.

After paying \$2.50 for a cup of coffee in Vienna, the first shock at the Hungarian border was the prices — coffee and rolls for two amounted only to \$1.56.

"I want to defect," Hubby joked.

But it was only a joke. We knew that when we saw the guard towers. They mark an invisible line between the bright flowers and colors of Austria and the drabness of Hungary. Once across that line, paint and landscaping became luxuries. Communism, I guess, washes the color out of a country.

The only bright spots along the road to Budapest were fruit stands



Sharon Nesbit

with peaches and green peppers, festooned with garlic and red peppers. I puzzled out what was different about them, and suddenly it dawned on me. The owners were competing with each other to create the best-looking fruit stand. "The stands are small private businesses recently allowed by the government," our guide explained.

And then she told us a bit about living in Hungary. How you have to pay cash for a car, wait two years for delivery and then keep it for five years before you are allowed to sell it. The result is that used cars in Hungary are more valuable than new ones because the buyer doesn't have to wait for a used car.

I thought about No. 2 Kid who owns

two cars, one for good and one for everyday.

From a distance Budapest is a lovely city. Close up it is shabby and neglected. There are still bullet holes in the walls of downtown buildings. Whether they are left from World War II or the 1956 revolution, we do not know. Building facades are gone, either blown away or eroded by neglect. Once-proud homes are unpainted and uncared for. Only the city's castle district has been restored, proof that the people know how to do it when the means can be found.

You can't tell much about a government in a short visit, but you can see how its people live by peering in store windows. The biggest crowd was at the new Addidas store, even though it was closed. "They love Western things," our Austrian guide said.

The shops were bright with summer clothing that tried, but failed, to measure up to Western goods. The acid-washed denim wasn't real denim. The shoes were pretty but plastic.

And then I looked at the people and realized they knew the difference. The kids on the street were in real denim, obtained at what cost I do not know. Their shoes, if not Addidas and Nikes, were reasonable facsimiles.

No one in Hungary is hungry, as we used to joke in grade school

geography. People have places to live and schooling and medical care. But somehow, their living lacks luster.

I saw it most clearly that night when a moon as orange as a Union 76 gas station ball rose over the border station. The guards in their clutzy suits — scrawny young men no older than No. 2 Kid — took their own sweet time letting us through.

Sometimes the process is hastened, our guide informed us, with the gift of a can of beer from the cooler on the bus.

I watched. Our driver nonchalantly offered a can of lemonade to the guard. He took it quickly, nodded a brief thanks, pulled out his bulky uniform coat, tucked the cold can inside and walked away.

"I thought it was supposed to be beer," I questioned the guide.

"Oh, it does not matter," she said. "They have plenty of beer and lemonade in their own country. What they want is the can."

"The can?" I asked.

"Yes," she said, "all their drinks come in bottles. A can, you see, is Western."

And I thought of No. 2 Kid and the pop cans that are undoubtedly rolling right now on the floors of his two cars and I thought, how lucky he is.

School financing studied by group

by NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT
Governor of Oregon

Earlier this month, I was pleased to announce the members of the Governor's Commission on School Funding Reform. They are an outstanding group of Oregonians, representing every region of the state.

The commission has three major goals: 1.) Find ways to reduce the reliance on local property taxes for funding elementary and secondary education in Oregon— 2.) Bring stability to state and local revenue for school districts— and 3.) keep local involvement in local schools.

The final report of the commission, with recommendations for the 1989 legislature, will be presented to me by Sept. 1, 1988.

The commission is one of a number of initiatives adopted by the 1987 Legislative Assembly and designed to begin a major overhaul of a troubled and troublesome system.

About one third of Oregon's 304 school districts must now go to voters each year with operating levy requests because their tax bases are inadequate.

Oregon's level of state funding for our public schools ranks 48th in the nation, at not quite 30 percent. Local taxes make up over 67 percent of the costs, second highest in the nation.

Since 1968, voters have considered and rejected 19 proposals that would have changed Oregon's system of financing elementary and secondary schools primarily from property taxes.

For years now, the focus of talk, of debate, of action has been on the sales tax, and the response from the electorate could not be more clear — they do not want any part of it.

I believe that the situation requires that we adopt a new approach. What we do not need is another round of

unachievable solutions. What we need is a series of doable steps to raise the level of basic school support.

Several steps have already been taken. The legislature passed and voters approved a safety net that will guarantee that no school will close because local voters failed to approve a levy.

As I have said many times, passage of the safety net was only a first step toward solving the larger problem of providing stable and adequate funding for our schools without bankrupting the taxpayers of this state.

The safety net should not be used to justify a no vote on a budget levy.

The legislature also added \$30 million to state support for local schools, increasing the state share of local costs by a full percentage point.

And we are proposing to the voters that they amend the Oregon Constitution to allow more flexible investment of the Common School Fund, which will increase state earnings for local schools.

But perhaps the most important step we have taken is the establishment of the school funding reform commission.

Governors by themselves can fix very little. But what I enjoy most about this job is the opportunity I have to put exceptional people into positions where they can fix things. And if anything ever needed fixing, it's our method of financing public schools in this state.

I am confident that the people I have appointed to this commission will arrive at an equitable solution to our school funding problem.

The stakes are no less than to ensure that Oregon remain economically competitive in the future. A healthy education system is the key to the growth of the economy and the preservation of our standard of living.

Yesteryear in Sandy

School under way with 250 students

The Sandy Women's Club celebrated its 25th anniversary with the club taking a stand on a political issue of the time, according to the Sept. 9, 1937, issue of the Sandy Index newspaper.

The club went on record as opposing the sending of U.S. troops to foreign countries.

Those in attendance at the 25th anniversary meeting included the president, Mrs. Robert Jonsrud, and honored guests Mrs. Alice Scales, Mrs. R.S. Smith and Mrs. Sadie Bosholt.

NEW RESORT — After visiting resorts from New York to Florida, and on both coasts, Mr. and Mrs. E.S. Lindsay decided the Mount Hood recreation area had more to offer than any other part of the country.

Therefore they settled on the Allen garage property 10 miles east of Sandy, according to The Index.

"Flag Pole Inn will offer food of quality and good service, and there will be cabins, trailer accommodations and attractive free picnic grounds," the newspaper said.

SCHOOL NEWS — School commenced in Sandy with 250 students welcomed to the high school by George D. Orr, principal.

The most popular course with freshman girls is the home economics course, "where the girls learn to serve well-balanced and properly cooked meals, make clothes, budget the family finances and bring beauty into the home through the study of interior decorating. (Lucky boy that gets a Sandy home economics girl for a wife!)"

According to The Index, shop, or woodworking, was the most popular class for freshman boys. They would learn "to make some really beautiful furniture, which would be most expensive if bought new, also hand-

some cedar chests."

Some of the students rode up to 50 miles on the round trip to school and back. The buses were painted a "new brilliant yellow to conform to the latest laws laid down by the state."

"Their last year's green color was more restful to the eyes, but the new glaring yellow makes it almost impossible not to see one coming a long way away and should avert accidents."

FAIR — Sandy 4-H members came home with 12 of 20 prizes at the Clackamas County Fair in Canby. Barbara Pagh finished second in home economics, clothing, and Bill Howard and Robert Gray finished second in crops, vegetable gardens.

NEW LIGHTS — Seventeen students returned to Sandy Ridge School in September, 1937, to a new teacher and new electric lights.

Miss Mary Macho was replaced by

Anna Louise Larsen as teacher. The lights had only been installed a week earlier.

IN RHODODENDRON — "Things are noticeably quiet here after the rush of Labor Day activities, and most summer home folk moving out."

It was reported that a new store was to be built at the Salmon River and the place was to become a resort. Owner was Dr. Hill of Portland, a.d the site known as the John Buchholz property.

It is claimed there are still many red huckleberries in the mountains, and despite delays caused by rains, many berries are being marketed and taken home for family use. The Index said.

"Henry Junker, who drives a bakery wagon from Portland up the mountain, says there has not been a week this summer that it did not rain at least one day."

Bobcats



by Adam Kraft

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