

Tax base best for school stability

Tax bases are the only option for the stable operation of Sandy schools. It is an option voters should give serious consideration to this spring.

Kent Heaton, superintendent at Sandy High School, has already announced that he will seek a tax base in the spring. Lee Chapman, superintendent of the Sandy Elementary District, has indicated he will seek one as well.

This time around, local voters should know exactly what they are getting.

Sandy High School is operating for the third year on the same budget amount. The Sandy Elementary District is trying to determine if it will be able to meet state requirements for a "standard" program.

In other words, taxpayers can be fairly confident their dollars are funding lean operations.

That will give voters a yardstick for measuring the tax base proposals made by the two districts.

The key to winning the public's support? Two reasonable requests.

If reasonable requests are forthcoming, efforts should be made to get out every potential "yes" vote.

Tax bases for the two Sandy districts would provide stable financing while the state decides what it wants to do about the inequities in school financing.

In the meantime, it is imperative that Sandy keep up its standards. Stability in our schools is a goal worth striving for, and the community of Sandy deserves no less.

Metro should stick to immediate task

Metropolitan Service District officials, who are desirous of taking over Tri-Met and getting involved in planning for a regional library system, should not be tempted to stray too far away from the immediate tasks at hand.

Solving the Portland area's solid waste problem and building the regional convention center must occupy the majority of Metro's time, energy and activities for the next five years. Ambitious goals, such as those offered recently by Metro Executive Director Rena Cusma, could distract Metro from getting the job done on garbage and the \$85 million convention center.

Cusma suggested that Metro should take over Tri-Met operations and get involved in establishing a regional library system in Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah counties.

Whoa . . .

While Metro has the legislative authority to take over Tri-Met, we are certain such action is not warranted nor appropriate at this time. After years of stumbling, Tri-Met is finally on a roll with improved service, a better public image and MAX, the light-rail line. Tri-Met's board may be appointed by the governor — not elected — but it is responsibly and effectively concentrating its efforts on one goal: safe, efficient and cost-effective public transit.

Metro should let the specialists in transit and libraries do their jobs. Metro can enhance the performance of local governments by offering assistance from a regional perspective, not attempting to control situations.

Such participation is already working well. Metro is a significant player in the planning and funding of major highway improvements. And Metro has established a pilot program allowing business operators to receive a passport business license, eliminating the need and expense for them to purchase licenses from all of the cities in which they do business.

Cooperation with — not takeover of — governmental agencies will best serve Metro and residents of the region.

Where to write

State Representative Bob Shiprack, D-Dist. 23, 22610 Forest Park Rd., Beavercreek, Ore., 97004. 631-3817. Or: State Capitol, Room H288, Salem, Ore., 97310. 1-800-332-2313.

State Senator Bob Kintigh, D-Dist. 14, 38865 E. Cedar Flat Road, Springfield, 97478. 746-1842. Or: State Capitol, Room S310, Salem, Ore., 97310. 1-800-327-7389.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Oregon, 711

Hart Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. 202-224-3753. Portland office phone 221-3386.

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Oregon, 259 Russell Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. 202-224-5244. Portland office phone 221-3370.

Rep. Denny Smith, R-5th Dist., 1213 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C., 20515. 202-225-5711. Salem office phone (toll free) 1-800-452-7889.



Letters to the editor

Sandy DRB has double standard

With all the recent turmoil in our city over noxious weeds and business signs, I decided to attend the Sept. 14 Design Review Board meeting.

This became even more imperative when I heard they might discuss the "For Sale" sign on my front lawn. I had been informed by the local realtor the sign violates the sign ordinance.

I immediately made a tour of Sandy to check sizes and locations of various signs. It became apparent that there are many more "for sale" signs in the city larger than the one on my lawn.

If you have never been to a Design Review Board meeting, I recommend it. You would be very surprised

how these appointed members would like to change our city.

While at the meeting, I learned about various signs that are being proposed in our city. I did not get to discuss the sign on my front lawn because it was not brought up.

I listened to how they handle signs and design review hearings in Lake Oswego and Portland. Yes, a few of these board members would like to see the city of Sandy turned into another Portland or Lake Oswego!

There was a lengthy discussion about how some of the members did not feel the job they do is appreciated. They even discussed the possibility of disbanding.

There was a discussion about the complaints the city manager has received from citizens regarding the board decisions. There was even a discussion about the trees planted along the sidewalks and the com-

plaints being received by the city about them blocking the view of traffic when entering Pioneer or Proctor boulevards.

The trees are also doing an excellent job of blocking the business signs that people have to be so fussy about to please the DRB.

Oh, yes! If you are not aware of it,

there are some members of the Design Review Board who are responsible for these beautiful, uncontrolled trees being planted many years ago.

The most disgusting part of this meeting was when several members of the board pulled out their cigarettes and lit up. One member went out into the hall, gathered up a group of ashtrays and brought them in. That was the signal for the smokers to light up.

This board needs to be reminded

that City Hall is a public building. The City Council chambers is posted and designated a "No Smoking" area. Smoking in this room is a violation of Oregon laws, especially during an open meeting!

I am amazed that this group is so adamant about seeing that city codes are enforced, but still blatantly will violate state laws in regard to smoking in a public meeting room.

The smoke got so thick in the room after about 30 minutes that the city planner excused himself due to the smoke affecting his breathing. I left with him.

It is my opinion that if the DRB expects other people in our fair city to clean up their act, then they should start an example in their own meetings.

Roland A. Cartisser, pres.
Tri-County Electric Inc.
Sandy

Football team lacks size but not spirit

My son has propelled me into the world of high school football.

As the mother of three daughters, I have spent years watching softball and volleyball games. And Bill, my only son, played two or three seasons of Little League baseball and youth soccer for more autumns than I care to count.

But this football is a new experience. Oh, he played last year as a freshman. He even got in enough quarters to earn his varsity letter. But so far this year he has been sidelined only a half-dozen or so plays in three games.

A sophomore, playing varsity? Well, yes. Bill goes to Lutheran High School, where every student counts and football players are at a premium. The team numbers 18 players; only two of them are seniors; only three of them weigh more than 180 pounds. But what they lack in muscle, they make up for in heart.

They haven't won a game yet this year — but not for lack of trying. For four quarters, the "first string" players work their hearts out. There isn't much difference between the offensive and defensive line-up, so the boys get little chance to rest. Between plays, they catch their breaths.



Jan Cooley

An opponent's time-out call means a chance for precious gulps of water. At half time, they straggle into the locker room, exhausted.

But when they return to the field, their spirit seems somehow renewed, and they tackle their task with freshened, if not fresh, energy. They are ready once more to fight hard, make the most of their talents.

They make me proud.

We fans — parents, teachers, fellow students and friends — give them all our support. No pep band blares encouragement, no cheerleaders urge them on to victory — just loyal fans perched in the bleachers at fields as far away as Vernonia and Salem.

If the game is on Saturday, I am one of those people on the sidelines. And I watch with interest because so-

meone I care about is on the field. I don't always watch the ball; sometimes I watch my son. Did he make that tackle? Will that 197-pound kid across the line of scrimmage grind my 145-pound son into the ground? What does Bill think when he stares into the eyes of a senior with a full beard and more weight in his legs than Bill has in his whole body? I don't know; he never complains.

Don't get me wrong. My son is strong, and getting stronger. Since most of the boys play all four quarters, Lutheran's team probably has more endurance than any other team in its league, he tells me. But I'm a mom, and I think about the team's inexperience, its size, its tiny pool of substitutes.

Without the crowd, without the band, we can hear the crack of helmets, the thud of shoulder pads, the grunts and groans of players on both teams as they unfold after a play and let their teammates pull them up to standing positions. They huddle, then break with a clap of hands and a shout.

And then Lutheran's players complete a pass, or tackle a ball carrier or — a thrilling moment — get the ball across the goal line.

We cheer, and they leap in the air in excitement. It may not mean the game, but it's victory for the moment.

I watch the boys mill around on the field, congratulating each other. I see my son, nearing what will become his full height. I hear his voice, almost as deep as a man's. I study his profile under the protective face mask. It is strong, confident. Very close to what it will be a few years from now, when he is full grown.

They are all like that, these Lutheran High School football players. On the verge of becoming men.

They miss a play, and the other team gains a first down. Then another.

"Be men," yells a Lutheran fan from the sideline.

"No," I mutter under my breath. "Be boys just a little longer. You will be men soon enough."

But I know what the other parent means. Be strong, be brave, be determined. Don't give up.

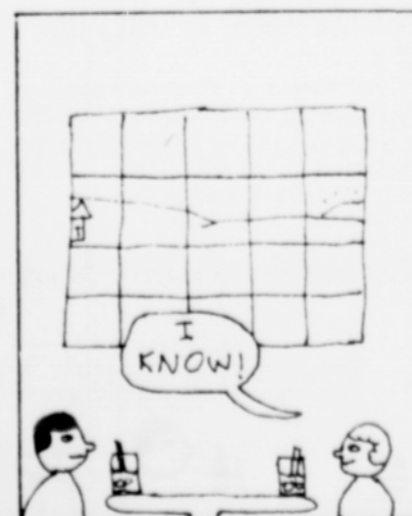
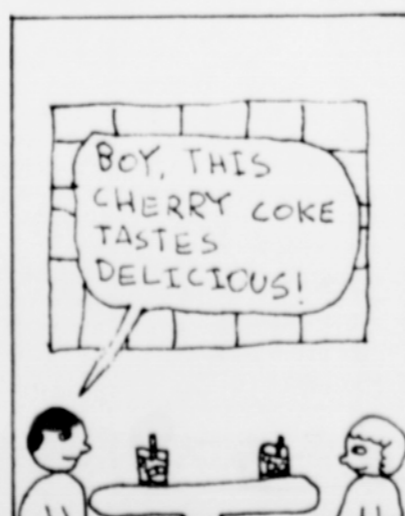
I turn back to the field in time to watch my son make a tackle.

He's learning — learning to fight tough odds, to take on someone bigger than he is. And he's enjoying it.

So am I. Win, lose or draw.

by Adam Kraft

Bobcats



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