

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Karinda Hedlund, advertising representative

POST Thurs., December 24, 1987

Sandy issues 1987:
News is good, bad

Good News: In January 1987, the Sandy Elementary District board settled with its teachers after a year of negotiations.

Bad news: Teachers in the Sandy Union High School District are currently working without a contract, and have been without one since July.

Good news: The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office implemented a new method of scheduling patrols that allowed deputies to initiate more investigations and therefore make more arrests in 1986.

Deputies initiated 8 percent more investigations, resulting in a 30 percent increase in arrests, the sheriff's office announced in February.

Bad news: Twenty people out of every 1,000 could expect to be burglarized in 1986, the year covered in the crime report. In 1980, 15 out of every 1,000 could expect to be burglarized.

Good news: It was announced that Clackamas County was second in the state in agricultural sales in 1986 with \$145.6 million in gross cash farm sales.

Bad news: Due to tougher immigration laws, there may not be anyone to pick next year's strawberry crop.

Good news: The original score of "Oregon, My Oregon" is no longer stored in a safe at Sandy High School. In March the SUHS board gave the score to the state Historic Properties Commission for proper safekeeping and display.

Bad news: Proper display of the score might encourage more bands to play the song.

Good news: Sandy City Manager Tom Reber showed creative flair in running a classified advertisement in the Wall Street Journal seeking a few good companies that could "cut the mustard" in Sandy, Oregon.

Bad news: Taxpayers can kiss the \$642 the City Council spent to run the advertisement goodbye.

Good news: By consistently challenging the city of Sandy's sign ordinance, a business owner has created great awareness of the town's most controversial issue.

Bad news: While business owners concentrate on the sign ordinance, an issue that could make a difference — like withdrawal from Tri-Met, which would lift a \$395,000 tax burden — goes virtually unnoticed.



Local sport is poking fun at public art

by SHARON NESBIT
Staff writer

Autumn Rider and I got acquainted the other day. The new equestrian statue at Gresham Town Fair looks better in the horse flesh than it does in photographs.

I understand that. The same thing happens to me.

One shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth and that is true of this statue. The Town Fair developers didn't have to put a statue there at all.

In the long run, I think I will probably grow to like the one-legged horse and his stumpy knight. It tickles me that he seems to be headed uphill to joust with Gresham's most

distinguished citizens on Wallula Avenue. And we country folk, given time, can get a handle on abstract art.

I admit the horse looks a bit like those beef charts you used to see on butcher's walls — the ones with the dotted lines showing the rump roast.

And several things puzzle me. I can't figure out what a medieval knight has to do with the shopping center theme based on the old Multnomah County Fair. What does this elegant fellow have in common with pig and Ford races and beautiful baby contests?

And I wonder why we have to keep trotting off to Washington for our artists. Sculptor James Lee Hansen is

from Battleground. The last I heard, Lorenzo Ghiglieri lives right here on our turf. We also went to Washington for our Mount Hood Festival of Jazz poster. Does the Oregon Comeback apply to artists?

But the truth is, we wouldn't have any fun at all if we didn't get to poke it at the artwork placed in our midst.

The last public statue everybody liked was a miniature statue of Liberty that perched on the horse trough in the intersection of Powell Boulevard and Main Avenue. Liberty became a traffic hazard in the 1920s and was hauled away.

The award for Gresham's most innocuous art goes to three wooden things that looked like concrete

forms stuck upright in a traffic island at Main Avenue and Burnside Street. Visited on us by a would-be artist in the 1960s, their greatest virtue was that nobody noticed them at all. That lasted until the 1980s, when people started sneaking out at night and painting them funny colors.

The result was a kind of artistic guerilla warfare. A classic case of tempest-in-teapot, the battle between artistic souls and the people who thought the wooden things were dumb lasted right up until the wooden things were discovered to be riddled with dry rot and carpenter ants.

You have to more careful with a bronze. I hear it lasts longer.

Letters to the editor

Woman criticizes
discipline policy

A confrontation between student Jim Dempsey and hall monitor Dennis Daniels, who is employed by Sandy High School, has many parents of the district discussing policy that governs behavior of the school administration as compared to that of the students.

The consensus is that unnecessary physical force should not be tolerated from either group, and that consequences at the very least should be equal.

This reaction came forth when citizens learned that the outcome of the Dempsey/Daniels incident was that Dempsey was suspended and Daniels was not.

It was perceived as expecting mature self-control from a student, while smoothing over the lack of it from an adult.

Afterall, says the administration, it is the administration, parents and adults everywhere who are expected to set the example of grown-up behavior for youngsters to follow, not the other way around, and there are non-violent procedures for handling discipline problems.

Keep in mind that these are all parents who fully subscribe to the notion that their own children be held to a defined set of rules and consequences. They also expect no less, and perhaps more, from the administration.

When they hear the phrase, "Whatever it takes to maintain discipline," they respond "except in

real self-defense, or aid to the same."

Slapping, slugging, shoving and throwing ought to be beneath the behavior of school employees. That should be stated in adopted policy, and penalties dispensed should be as serious as those given to students.

Residents of the Sandy Union High School District who wish to sign in support of these views, which will be presented to the school board, should stop at the blue Quonset hut directly behind the Sandy Liquor Store on Saturday, Jan. 9, between 5 and 7 p.m.

Sharon Sather
SandyCrime problem
is out of hand

The story about the couple who had their Christmas presents stolen makes me and, I am sure, many other people disgusted with the crime situation in Oregon.

Unfortunately, every day someone's life is hurt as a result of criminal activity. Last week a 94-year-old woman was raped and now the story of a meat market robbery.

I was appalled at the remark made the public information officer for the sheriff's office. He suggested that we not leave presents under the tree. Next year he will suggest we give up Christmas.

Other suggestions might have been, don't buy Christmas presents, don't own a TV, silverware, a car or

anything worth stealing. Maybe we should build a large bank-style vault and each time we leave home, move all our appliances, clothing, furniture and dishes into the vault.

We need "crime prevention." Everyone should use common sense by locking doors and not leaving children unattended. But "crime prevention" does not prevent crime.

The solution to crime is to terminate the career criminals. These are the people who have committed crimes, gone to jail and immediately returned to a life of crime.

When convicted again, these people may be sentenced to 20 years in prison at a cost of \$300,000. Even if they serve only half the time, they are not worth the cost and risk to the taxpayer.

"Career Criminal Termination" is the answer to the crime problem. It is economical and makes absolutely certain the criminal commits no

more crimes.

The program has been used in the Orient in regard to drug dealers. Anyone dealing drugs there is terminated. No criminal who has been terminated has ever committed any more crimes. The cost of termination in that area is about \$20. It would be slightly more in Oregon.

If you agree with "Career Criminal Termination," get your typewriter (if it has not been stolen), write a letter to the governor, put your tear gas protective canister in your pocket, close and lock all windows, leave a light burning, call neighbors and ask them to watch the house, turn on the burglar alarm, let the guard dog loose, get in the car (if it has not been stolen), roll up the windows, lock the doors, drive to the post office, look around carefully, get out of the car, have tear gas protective canister in hand, go in and mail letter.

Dale E. Brown
Boring

Sandy Post letter policy

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 of the letter.

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 area residents.

We reserve the right to edit letters to conform to style guidelines or for length. Letters should be 300 words long.

by GOV. NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT
Special for The Post

Like a runaway horse, Oregon's workers' compensation system has resisted efforts to harness it over the years and has run wild.

Attempts to saddle it and rein in costs — currently the sixth highest in the nation — have, until now, been unsuccessful.

Many an employer and injured worker have been kicked in the pocketbook by this expensive and unapproachable system. For some businesses looking at locating in our state, the cost of workers' compensation in Oregon has been insurmountable.

The State Insurance Commissioner recently announced two actions to reduce the costs of the system in 1988 — moves that will save Oregon employers \$55 million next year and reduce the costs of doing business in our state.

First, there will be no average increase in the workers' compensation pure premium rates in 1988. These rates, which have gone up consecutively for the last four years in Oregon, are expected to rise on the average of 10.5 percent nationally next year.

Second, the assessment employers pay on workers' compensation premiums — funds that pay for government administration of the program — will be reduced 21.4 percent next year.

This assessment cost rose 7 percent in 1987, 12 percent in 1986, and 16.8 percent in 1985.

Oregon's workers' compensation law was overwhelmingly approved by voters in 1913 (one of the first

states in the union to adopt such a law) for the purpose of healing injured workers and returning them to gainful employment.

The framers of Oregon's law believed that one of the best ways to control the costs of the system was for employers to provide safe working environments.

This year, the Oregon Legislature passed the most sweeping reforms in 20 years of Oregon's workers' compensation system.

These reforms, along with increased payroll revenue due to Oregon's economic growth, and reconsideration of a proposed increase in workers' compensation pure premium rates, have succeeded in reducing costs.

Most of the tools the Legislature adopted won't be felt for the next few years. Because each workers' compensation insurer must file premium rates for its use on top of the pure premium rates — to allow for company expenses, taxes, profit and contingencies — 1988 insurance bills will go down for some employers and up for others.

I cannot stress enough the importance of safety as a way of further reducing costs. Workplace accidents cost employers in terms of increased premium rates, and costs workers their productivity, wages and, sometimes, their lives.

Together with our 1987 reforms — and a renewed commitment to workplace safety in this state — we will rein in the costs of this system.

I am confident that by working together, government, employers and employees can make workers' compensation work again for us in Oregon.

Adam Kraft

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Bobcats

