

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Guest Editorial:

Head Start fund cut will create problems

By Columbia Pacific Head Start staff

The Senate Committee on Appropriations is recommending a cut of \$133 million to Head Start, affecting thousands of low-income children, including those with disabilities. This could mean dropping about 57,000 at-risk children from the Head Start program. Earlier, the House of Representatives voted to cut Head Start by \$137 million. If either proposal is signed into law, tens of thousands of children will be added to the approximately one million children already on the Head Start waiting list.

With an action that defies reason, the Senate has begun deliberations to cut Head Start funding. Head Start has long been considered the only bipartisan federal program from Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty" to have a successful record.

Serving over 750,000 children in 1995, Head Start is a comprehensive child development program that assists families in becoming more self-sufficient by involving parents in making decisions about the program. Head Start provides both literacy and training to parents. It involves them in parenting training with a goal of bringing families together and ultimately leads to a reduction in the incidence of child abuse, neglect and dependency. Recently several programs were funded to provide counseling in substance abuse.

Studies have shown children attending Head Start:

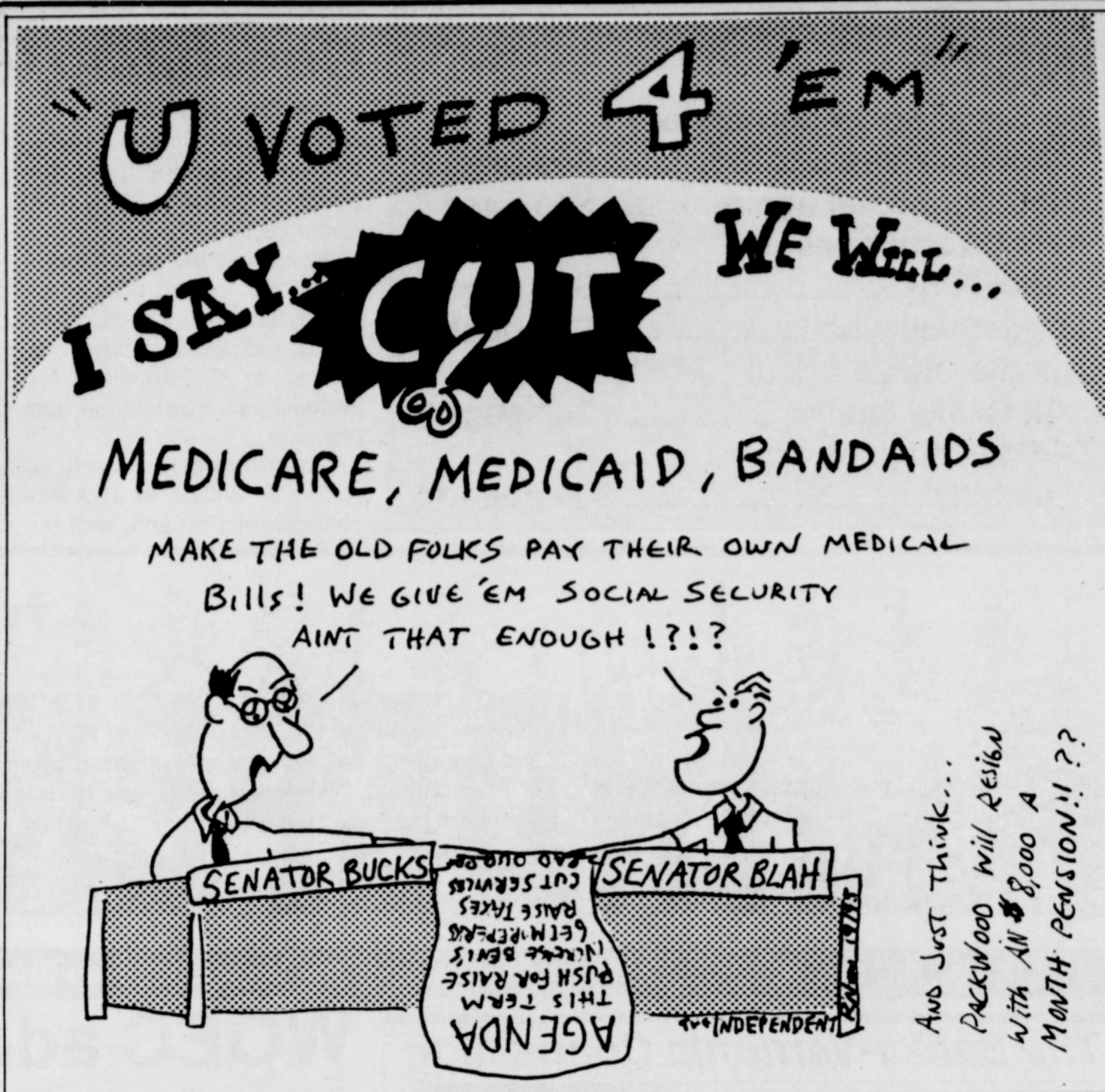
- graduate from high school at a level one-third higher than those who did not attend;
- are 25% less likely to be held back a grade;
- as adults, are three times more likely to be home owners;
- as women, are one-third less likely to become teenage parents.

It's wrong for Congress to balance the federal budget on the backs of America's children. In this age of taking responsibility for one's actions, the President and Congress should be the first to understand that cuts to Head Start will not only hurt thousands of children now, but will increase the deficit later. Their actions will have a devastating effect on families for years to come.

Ed. Note: Columbia Pacific Head Start operates Head Start programs in Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook Counties, including Vernonia Head Start.

People urged to attend school facilities meetings

The problem of crowded, deteriorating buildings in the Vernonia School District is being studied and will be discussed in public meetings. We urge concerned citizens to attend these meetings. They will start Oct. 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Washington Grade School library. The subject is important; the decisions are important and public input is important.



Ike Says

By Dale Webb, member
Izaak Walton League, Nehalem Valley Chapter

There was a letter in the last issue of *The INDEPENDENT* about a three-legged doe that apparently had been wounded by a bow hunter. The letter writer was rightly upset about the animal being crippled for a second time; I know I'm upset any time an animal suffers. But it's necessary to remember that in Oregon a sportsman has the right to pursue and take game animals and that even the most ardent hunter is going to cripple an animal at some time in his hunting career. If crippling game animals is reason to ban hunting (as the letter writer suggested), then what are we going to do about our automobiles? No true sportsman wants to cripple game animals, just as no one wants to run into game animals with a car, but it happens.

The letter also referred to the "big, brave hunter" who wounded the doe. Bravery is not an issue; deer hunting is not a macho sport and anyone who thinks it is shouldn't be hunting. I also want the letter writer to know that the person who shot the three-legged doe was not a sportsman, but a poacher! Does and spike bucks are protected in the Saddle Mountain Unit at least until the 1997 hunting season and this includes bowhunters.

Bowhunters who took spike bull elk this year in the Saddle Mountain Unit are also poachers. The three-point rule is the same for both rifle and bow hunters. By the way, I know of one spike elk that was taken and smuggled home this year.

On the subject of hunting, we should offer Cavenham a big "Atta boy" for opening up their gates for sportsmen. We can all help keep these gates open by being our brothers' and sisters' keepers. If you see somebody doing something inconsistent with Cavenham policies, turn them in! We must police our own ranks or the bad apples will get those gates closed forever.

Poachers who like to shoot after dark or from public highways may have the opportunity to star in Oregon State Police movies. I recently attended a picnic for Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife volunteers at which the OSP showed the most recent version of their decoy elk and deer in action. "Big, brave

hunters" were shooting from the seats of their pickups, sneaking down the centerline of well-traveled highways; even trying to beat each other to the "honor" of tagging a decoy deer. One person jackknifed his camp trailer off the road and into the ditch so he could shoot from his rig. A caravan of motorhome occupants put on an amazing fire fight for the camera and another person was shooting across the other lane of traffic while being blind-sighted by the camper on his pickup! I have never seen such an assemblage of misfits in my life; I cringed just watching the tape. By the way, it looks like the average number of shots taken at a decoy before the unsportsman starts scratching his head is four—this includes bowhunters.

We must put a stop to this behavior or the public will put a stop to hunting, so here are the rules if a game animal is seen alongside a public roadway:

1. You must know whose land it is on.
2. You must know hunting is allowed on that land.
3. You must be off the public right-of-way (as much as 50' from the edge of the road), on the side of the road the animal is on. No shooting across the roadway.
4. Public roads include BLM and U.S. Forest Service roads, county roads, state and interstate highways and freeways. If a road is on public ground, it is a public roadway.

Another subject of interest to sportsmen is a proposal by the Division of State Lands to sell off 600,000 acres of public rangelands in Eastern Oregon, about the same acreage as the Saddle Mountain Unit here. The Division of State Lands is worried about losing approximately \$100,000 a year, or about 17 cents per acre. If a land manager can't figure how to get 17 cents per acre out of a cattle lease, then it's time for a career change.

What the Division of State Lands is missing is that these lands also produce economic revenues to the state through recreational uses. One-thousand hunters spending \$100 dollars each would generate \$100,000 of economic spinoff. I, for one, know that a rabbit-hunting trip costs more than \$100. A quick look indicates there are close to 5,000 hunters

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