

Rev.
Hults
Editorial
Now & Then



Last month we asked our readers to comment on the proposed relocation of the Cannon Beach Elementary School. We received letters, e-mails, had conversations and heard shouts from folks driving past the bookstore. As promised we are printing a selection of the most thoughtful responses. The three to one ratio that favors the RV site seems to be in keeping with our personal feelings about the IMPACT site. We feel that the IMPACT site is already an educational facility and art center and any efforts on our part to improve on it would lessen its value to the community.

There has been another option suggested; that being to swap with Willamette Industries for some land they own east of 101. This would give the city a geologically sound site for the school, and get Willamette out of the sticky situation of rubbing our noses in a clear cut in our back yard. We were also informed that bears were damaging a lot of the trees on the land, and that a 'hunt' might be needed, if the city agreed to a deal. We can just imagine how much the children would enjoy that. Maybe we could have a baby bruin stuffed to serve as a school mascot.

Anyway thanks to all for your thoughts.

Hey Billy,

Since you asked I'll share with you my views about the relocation of Cannon Beach School. First of all, I don't think the IMPACT site is the best place to put a school. Too many wonderful trees, too much traffic for the neighborhood, things like that. So if we really are going to build a new school, the RV Park has the space, a pool (good for teaching the kids how to swim), better traffic pattern, things like that. But what I really think is that we will never get a new school because by the time all parties agree to a location and hire all their experts and do all their studies, hire an architect, pass a bond (I'm sure there'd have to be something for Seaside & Gearhart in it!) all the grade school age children will be in high school and there won't be a need for a school because about the only people that can afford to live here are retired!!! I hope I'm not sounding too cynical. What bothers me as well, is what would happen to the property that the school sits on now. The County owns the property!!! So, there you have it, my condensed version!!!

Happy Trails, Anita

To the Editor:

I am in favor of having the school located at the "Imagination, Method, Persistence, Acting Creatively Together" site. Perhaps the most important reason for me is that I feel that the school should function in as close a manner as the longhouse that Doug Deur wrote so eloquently about in this (last) month's column. The school serves its primary function to educate our children and also can be a place for us to celebrate our cultural aspirations both for how we live with each other and with nature. The school currently is located in a special site that has a view of the ocean and the river as well as being closely connected to the center of our community. It is fitting that our community should seek to provide an equivalent site for the school. The Impact site comes closest to providing that equivalence exactly because of its beauty and sacred nature. The School district is asking for only 2-3 acres of the 9 acres available. The portion being considered is mostly alder trees along the north edge. A school at this site would be at a symbolic center between residences, the business community, and natural systems of forest and wetlands. Our community has the capability to create a school at this site that melds the school into the site and serves as a model of how a school can be fully integrated into the community to not only educate children, but serve other community functions such as an art center, performance space, community center, and laboratory for restoration of ecosystems.

The latter is especially important since the site is actually under stress from earlier interventions and its proximity to the city. The site needs to be actively helped and we could borrow a model being used by Neal Maine and the North Coast Land Conservancy to preserve and study wetlands in Warrenton. The school and students already use the wetlands as a study area and this can be extended to the upland area of the Impact site. The remaining land not used for the school would be a dedicated nature preserve under the control of the North Coast Land Conservancy. The Conservancy would use the school as base for the study and restoration of the site which would help educate not only our own children, but others throughout the state about this unique environment. When combined with our special wetlands/sewer treatment facility, the entire site becomes a lab for how communities can operate in a sustainable way in the environment. The idea for using the school as the long desired art center was raised by the Blue Ribbon Commission and supported by the School District and the City Council. The Impact site is the best location for the Art Center because of its beauty and for its direct connections to the downtown, other cultural facilities such as the art galleries and the Coaster Theater, and existing City Parking. The simple ability of being able to walk easily between the school, post office, businesses, and the beach is a powerful but subtle way of tying together our community. This ability to walk to visit the community is one that the school district views as essential to its educational goals. It is also a necessary element for a future art center to reach its true potential.

We should hesitate long and hard before moving any community functions away from the downtown since it is one of the essential ways we keep it as our own, rather than as the exclusive realm of visitors.

Jay Raskin
P.O. Box 1160
Cannon Beach

Dear Beloved Rev. Billy,

About the 'IMPACT' site for the school; Is there a big problem with putting a safe crossing bridge across 101? If there is, is it financial, or emotional, or engineering? If there isn't, I hope the school gets cited east of 101, because I think that tiny, swampy, corner of forest is very important. They are the town's windows on the wilderness - and on the past. I'd hate to see the windows shut, sealed up with asphalt and concrete. I want to take my granddaughters walking in those woods.

Love,
Ursula Le Guin
(W. Washington St.)

To the Editor:

It would be better to relocate a new Cannon Beach Elementary School at the RV Resort property than at the IMPACT property.

The RV site provides enough room to construct an arts center and sports facility as well as a new school. Vision dictates that the school site should be able to accommodate a facility that is twice as large as the existing school. CBES is over-crowded. There were two kindergarten classes this year. The District has re-drawn the school boundaries so next year some kids that would have gone to CB will have to go to Seaside. IMPACT proponents argue that a same-size school would fit on the northern 2 acres of the site and not jeopardize the spruce forest part of the site. This concept lacks vision and represents limited planning foresight. (See Comprehensive Plan, Recreation, Open Space... Policies 4,5. Visual and Performing Arts Policy 5.)

Vehicular access, especially for buses, would be much easier at the RV site than at the IMPACT site. New access of 101 to the IMPACT site, if that is considered an option, would probably be disallowed (CP Transportation Policies 4,7.)

The current school site of about 2 acres has no on-site parking. The new school would have to include parking spaces which immediately makes the argument that only 2 acres of the IMPACT site would be necessary incorrect.

A school at the RV site would come with its own swimming pool.

The infrastructure at the RV site is already in place.

Site preparation at the RV Resort would be minimal compared to that required to develop the IMPACT property.

The commercial structure at the RV site could possibly be recycled by the District.

IMPACT proponents argue that the site is better because it's closer to town and residents would have a better chance to interact with the kids. Regardless of the school's location any resident or business that chooses to volunteer with the students would still be encouraged to do so. (Do the kids at recess really care whether their playground is .2 miles from downtown Cannon Beach or .6 miles?)

The neighborhoods in town that are most densely populated with year-round residents are the ones located east of the highway. They are very much part of the community. A school at the RV resort would be a true neighborhood school.

There is concern about kids crossing the highway. They should be taught not to, no matter where a new school is constructed. Demographic information might indicate how many kids currently cross the highway to go to school who would not have to if the RV site was used. The vast majority of kids travel to and from CBES by bus anyway.

The city could eventually build a walking-biking bridge over 101 at the east end of Monroe St. (CP Midtown Policy 6.)

The opportunity to preserve a nine-acre, second-growth coastal forest, next to a busy downtown area, west of Highway 101, along the Oregon coast, is extremely unique and should not be squandered. (CP Midtown Policy 2. Recreation, Open Space Policy 10.)

Comprehensive Plan Housing Policy 7 reads, "The City shall preserve and enhance the qualities that contribute to the character and livability of its residential areas. These qualities include limited traffic disruptions, uncongested streets and a low level of noise and activity." Consider this policy in light of how many vehicle trips (buses, staff cars, parent cars, service vehicles) will be generated per day at each of the proposed sites. The RV site is prepared to easily handle this traffic influx, the IMPACT site is not.

It is probable, due to site conditions, that the foundation for a new structure at the RV Resort would cost more than one at the IMPACT property. So what? A new school should last 50 years. Choosing the best place to build one should not be based on the cost of its foundation.

One of this year's City Council's goals is to establish a more specific Open Space acquisition policy. The last Council pledged \$125,000 for Inspiration Point. The IMPACT site is a fabulous piece of open space that simply requires preservation, not acquisition. It makes no sense to purchase one piece of open space while simultaneously sacrificing an existing piece for development, especially when there is an alternative.

Kirk Anderson

WHERE TO GET AN EDGE

Cannon Beach: Jupiter's Rare and Used Books, Oxborn's Grocery, The Cooke Co., Coffee Cabana, Bill's Tavern, Cannon Beach Book Co., Hane's Bakery, The Bistro, Midtown Cafe, Once Upon a Breeze, Copies & Fax, Haystack Video, Mariner Market, Espresso Bean, Ecola Square & Cleanline Surf
 Manzanita: Mother Nature's Juice Bar, Cassandra's, Manzanita News & Espresso, & Nehalem Bay Video
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 Eugene: Book Mark, Cafe Navarra, Eugene Public Library, Friendly St. Market, Happy Trails, Keystone Cafe, Kiva Foods, Lane C.C., Light For Music, New Frontier Market, Nineteenth Street Brew Pub, Ossa Market, Perry's, Red Barn Grocery, Sundance Natural Foods, U of O, & WOW Hall
 Corvallis: The Environmental Center, OSU
 Salem: Heliotrope, Salem Library, & The Peace Store
 Astoria: KMUN, Columbian Cafe, The Community Store, The Wet Dog Cafe, Astoria Coffee Company, Cafe Uniontown, & The River
 Seaside: Buck's Book Barn, Universal Video, & Cafe Espresso
 Portland: Artichoke Music, Laughing Horse Bookstore, Act III, Barnes & Noble, Belmonts Inn, Biblot Art Gallery, Bijou Cafe, Borders, Bridgeport Brew Pub, Capt'n Beans (two locations), Center for the Healing Light, Coffee People (three locations), Common Grounds Coffee, East Avenue Tavern, Food Front, Goose Hollow Inn, Hot Lips Pizza, Java Bay Cafe, Key Largo, La Patisserie, Lewis & Clark College, Locals Only, Marco's Pizza, Maryhurst College, Mt. Hood CC, Music Millennium, Nature's (two locations), NW Natural Gas, OHSU Medical School, Old Wives Tales, Ozone Records, Papa Hayden, PCC (four locations), PSU (two locations), Reed College, Third Eye, Multnomah Central Library, and most branches & the YWCA,
 Ashland: Garo's Java House, The Black Sheep, Blue Mt. Cafe, & Rogue River Brewery
 Cave Junction: Coffee Heaven & Kerby Community Market
 Grants Pass: The Book Shop
 (Out of Oregon)
 Vancouver, WA: The Den
 Longview, WA: The Broadway Gallery
 Hazzle, WA: Rainy Day Artistry
 Nahcotta, WA: Moby Dick Hotel
 Duvall, WA: Duvall Books
 Bainbridge Island, WA: Eagle Harbor Book Co.
 Seattle, WA: Elliot Bay Book Co., Honey Bee Bakery, New Orleans Restaurant, Still Life in Fremont, Allegro Coffeehouse, The Last Exit Coffee House, & Bulding News
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 Paris, France: Shakespeare & Cie
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UPPER LEFT EDGE

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The fact is that censorship always defeats its own purpose, for it creates, in the end, the kind of society that is incapable of exercising real discretion. In the long run it will create a generation incapable of appreciating the difference between independence of thought and subservience.
Henry Steele Commager