

Survey reflects student opinions

Students at Sandy High School last month got an opportunity to affect future policies and programs at the school, when a student opinion survey was distributed during a class period.

The survey dealt with subjects such as students' evaluation of teachers, administrators and counselors, student satisfaction with school activities and extent of drug and alcohol use among the student body.

The questionnaire did not require students to provide names, and school administrators hope that fact would lead for freer and more accurate answers.

Of the 1,400 students enrolled, 913 returned surveys. They gave the school an average "C" rating in most areas.

District board member Ginny Brewster emphasized that the results would be used as an evaluative tool, and would be considered when planning changes in school policy and programs.

"They don't mean people are doing a good job or a bad job — this is simply the way the students view them," she explained. "There are some very subjective questions involved."

Mrs. Brewster tabulated

the results of the survey into "mean" scores, placing them on a scale in which a rating of 5.0 means very favorable and 1.0 is very unfavorable.

The students gave a healthy rating to teachers, curriculum and school image, with mean scores ranging from 3.21 to 3.25. 3.0 is a neutral rating, or a "C" score on the letter grade system.

Students were asked to indicate how often teachers clearly explain what to do on assignments and how assignments are to be done, and how many teachers give personal encouragement and individual help outside the classroom.

Administrators, predictably, received the lowest rating on the scale, a mean score of 2.56, or a solid C-minus. Mrs. Brewster pointed out that administrators must carry out most disciplinary procedures, lessening their popularity, and they have the least personal contact with the students.

Counselors were given a mean score of 2.92. They were rated on such areas as vocational counseling provided, help with personal problems and assistance in selecting courses.

Students rated their personal relationship with the counselors at 3.62, the highest score given in any area tabulated.

In questions dealing with students' personal life, 678 said they did not smoke cigarettes at all, with only 135 indicating they smoked, even irregularly.

There were 405 students who said they did not smoke marijuana, with 74 indicating they smoked one or two "joints" a month, 78 listing one or more "joints" per week, and 74 indicating one or more "joints" per day.

Mrs. Brewster felt the most critical problem area indicated by the survey was the drinking of alcohol among high school students.

While 224 students said they did not drink at all, 327 listed occasional drinking, 88 only at parties, 86 on weekends and 101 very infrequently.

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Firwood Neighbors to convene

Firwood's Neighbors will hold their annual meeting on Wednesday, April 25, to elect

new officers.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 in the Firwood School auditorium.

New officers will be elected for a one-year term. In addition, four directors will be elected to two-year terms.

Members are urged to attend and give consideration to the selection of new officers. The group is in the midst of carrying out a revision of the comprehensive plan and rezoning of the Firwood area.

Out-going president Dennis is optimistic that the task will be completed during 1979.

LUCILLE HOYT prepares a floral arrangement for "Eternal Spring" a judged flower show to be presented by Sandy Garden Club. The show will be at the Sandy library, April 26, from 1 to 4 p.m. The Sandy Garden Club is a member of Clackamas Dist. 15, of the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs. Mrs. Hoyt is chairman of the flower show.



Kaye Barton Bakke photo

Eternal spring

Boredom biggest problem

by DAN DILLON

A crowd of 30 teen-aged boys are milling around in the parking lot of Taco Time on Proctor Boulevard. It is 11:30 on Friday night and they have no place to go, so they sit, socialize and race their engines.

Slowly, a police car pulls up in the street and parks. The teen-agers gradually become aware of its presence, shuffle into their cars and, in single file, begin to cruise out of the parking lot.

"I wondered how long it would take them to get nervous," says Kelly Adovnik, the Sandy policeman manning the patrol car. An unnecessary face-to-face confrontation had been avoided and Adovnik has accomplished his goal. The parking lot is empty.

"Boredom is not a unique problem to Sandy," according to Patrolman Mike Sciales. "We've got to offer these kids something."

Teen-agers used to spend their time working, he continues, but now they have

more free time "and that isn't necessarily good, but I'm not recommending we make everyone get a job."

The boredom leads to burning off restless energy in informal parking-lot gatherings or racing cars. That presents a problem, according to Sciales.

"It's difficult to tell a kid 16 or 17, you're going to get snuffed," he said. Warnings and tickets from the police seem to have little lasting effect, although they do serve as a deterrent, for awhile.

"With the adults, they'll phone when they have a problem, but with the kids, you've got to go out and see what they're up to."

Cruising down Proctor, Sciales notices a teen-aged girl weaving unsteadily as she walks down the street. He slows to investigate.

After talking to the girl, listening to a number of variations in her story and emptying a bottle she had concealed, Sciales is back in the car.

"If you're honest with me, you're not going to get in near the trouble. Con-

sequently, most kids are honest with me. I figure, if you lie for something small, it's only a matter of time before you lie for something big," he explains.

"When I was a kid, I got in some trouble and some neat people helped me out," Adovnik says.

He has established a rapport with local teen-agers, as has Sciales, and talks easily to the students he meets on the street. As a result, when something happens, he says, "It's almost like watching one of your own kids get in trouble."

There is a curfew in Sandy, but Adovnik admits that it is not well enforced. "If we want to get mean and nasty, then we can get them on curfew. But then we have to take them down to City Hall and babysit until someone comes down and picks them up," he said.

"That takes us away from the streets. We may not be doing anything when we patrol, but at least we're out where they can see us and that's half the battle — being visible."

Being visible can have its problems too. Driving slowly down Pioneer Boulevard, passenger cars pull up next to the police car but hesitate passing.

"No one wants to be the first one to pass a cop," says Sciales. "I mean, we're not monsters. We're human. We get up in the morning and eat our Wheaties just like everyone else."

Part of that hesitation may come from Sandy's reputation as a speed trap. That image, says Adovnik, has been fostered by Portland-area media which warn skiers to watch out for Sandy when they make their run for the mountain.

Sciales drives his cruiser down Industrial Way en route to a favorite spot of local spooners. He flashes his spotlight but there is no action tonight.

"If the older people who complain about the kids today think back to when they were kids," he says, "I'm sure they'd admit they weren't all 'good' kids."

He admits there may be "five or six" habitual trouble makers in the high school, but for the most part, the young people in Sandy are all dressed up with nowhere to go, and that's where parking-lot parties begin.

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