

The Sandy Post

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Editorial & Opinion

SUHS Able & Gifted will survive

The Post erred last week in suggesting that Sandy High School's accelerated program for able and gifted students faced financial cutbacks in the district's proposed budget.

Actually, the district is proposing an increase from \$6,200 local funding to \$14,338 or one-sixth staff member to one-half staff member in terms of special personnel for the program.

That may sound like a generous increase in local funding, but many parents and students feel the program should grow bigger faster with a full-time instructor specially assigned to the accelerated academics program.

What especially cramps their growth — and the district's pocketbook — is the high school's loss of initial federal funding. The program now lives or dies on local transfusions, and conscientious administrators and budget committee members apparently diagnose present temperature of taxpaying patrons as critical.

Hence, Sandy High's proposed budget for July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1982 is only 18 percent higher than the current budget or \$4.6 million

versus \$3.9 million.

In the case of 27 advanced students in Able and Gifted, the loss of outside funding certainly hurts. The program started two years ago with a \$9,342 federal grant, and last year enjoyed a \$14,000 grant. This year, however, federal funding was cut to \$4,313. The district's general fund added \$6,200 in local funds.

In addition to two periods per day when the 27 accelerated students meet together as a class, there are 36 classes on campus that provide them with advanced instruction in language arts, math, science, social sciences, art and other humanities.

The question whether to sustain the program with \$14,000 in funding next year or infuse it with more capital clearly is a question of economics. Unfortunately for program advocates, this may be a sustenance budget in a make-do economic year.

The budget committee, however, meets again Jan. 15 and probably will meet again before budget completion, tentatively set for Jan. 26. Presumably the public will have some input on budget priorities. (VB)

Boosters give teens just rewards

A new booster club at Sandy High School is doing a lot to improve youth and community relations by recognizing the achievements and character of local teens.

A recognition banquet Jan. 28 at Sandy High will provide a showcase for all the good examples of outstanding youth the 30-member booster club has uncovered in its first two months.

The boosters have invited students and parents of nominated students to share in an awards banquet, with former Trailblazer Terry Dishinger featured speaker. All nominated students will receive certificates of merit, while a few will receive plaques as outstanding athlete and outstanding student of the month.

Until recently, the only public honor showed to Sandy High's finest was a photo of the month's top athlete on display at the school and occasional mention of a Sandy student by Gresham Elks as East

County's top student of the month.

The Sandy High Boosters Club seeks to change all that by taking the fanfare into the streets. The banquet list of 80 nominees suggests they've found a lot to be proud of at the local high school, and the standouts aren't all athletes, either.

Students who excel in academics, drama, band and other activities will be honored, too, as well they should.

The boosters plan another recognition banquet to honor more students in May, as they hope to make the awards banquet semi-annual.

The supportive club also seeks to help the high school with tutoring services and chaperone services. Soon they'll sport windbreakers as symbol of their school support.

We applaud their example and commend their efforts to improve the image of Sandy's youth in the community. After all, most Sandy youth are pretty special people. (VB)

Chamber move to hire pro timely

The Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce is raising dues slightly to afford a new part-time executive secretary, and we think that's a worthy expense overall.

After all, Estacada and Hoodland chambers already have part-time paid chamber professionals, and Sandy certainly now has a lot going on, with its Mountain Festival, Christmas promotions, industrial development, planned commercial growth, tourist potential and political liaison.

Just in the last year, the chamber has grown. Now there are more than 100 members, overflow crowds at weekly meetings and a downtown chamber office with

regular hours — thanks to volunteer efforts by a group of "chamber maids."

The Estacada Timber Festival draws fewer visitors than Sandy's Mountain Festival, yet realizes more financial income for self-sufficiency — thanks in part to professional management by a paid part-time chamber manager.

Sandy as a community has a lot going for it, and a paid part-time chamber professional would help this community reach its potential.

We salute Bob Kallen and the chamber board for taking this giant step forward in the community's behalf — even if dues have to go up a bit to pay the way. (VB)

Here's chance to be editor for day

One approach to publishing a community-responsive newspaper is to act as though the readers own the newspaper, with the staff serving as caretakers of the public interest.

We like to think this way at the Sandy Post, and our faith is reaffirmed every time a reader plops down 20 cents to buy our latest effort.

Consequently we want to know how you feel about our newspaper and what things you might want

added in our weekly mix of news. After all, we do it all for you.

So please take just a few minutes to fill out the readership survey on pages 4 and 5 of this section. Then return it to us by mail or in person at 17270 SE Bluff near the high school.

We'll even reward you with a gift for your effort. But, moreover, it's in your self interest to tell us how to run the Sandy Post. It's your community newspaper.



Letters to the editor:

Evolution, Bigfoot draw mail

Teach creation

A recent issue of the Post included an article about teaching scientific creationism as well as the evolution theory in our schools.

Many years ago I was almost expelled from a high school science class for daring to question the evolution theory and ever since I have had a keen interest in that aspect of science.

Though it is questionable from a purely rational and scientific view, the evolution theory managed to acquire an almost sacrosanct standing among teachers and text writers until recently.

Now Ph.D.s with impeccable scientific standings are prepared to show very vital weaknesses of the theory and the strong evidence that we live in a created world.

Most science texts in past years have treated evolution theory not really as theory, but as fact — not to be questioned and not subject to critical analysis. Those asking for scientific creationism to be taught in our schools as well as the evolution theory are content to let the chips of reason and inquiry fall as they may.

Students then would feel free to search for truth and accept whichever had the best case in the opinion of the student. For many years schools have presented the evolution theory as beyond debate and thus have done violence to those students who believe in a creator.

A few of the main arguments for the creation theory are these: 1. The mathematical odds that such

a marvel as the human brain

or the exquisite structure of a hummingbird could come about by chance mutation and blind forces of the environment stagger the mind. The world around us fairly shouts evidence of design and planning. 2. The fossil record of plants and animals shows an abundance of specimens and amazing variety, but fails to present the intermediate forms, the gradual changes required by the evolution theory and the step by step progression to higher forms postulated by the theory. 3. The evolution theory fails against the general rule that things left to themselves do not go from chaos to order, nor from simple to complex which that theory requires. Our common observation is that things and creatures tend to get old, fall apart, decay, or fall into disorder when left to themselves.

A classroom atmosphere of free inquiry and freedom of choice in accepting either theory seems a reasonable solution. No harm then would be done to the students with belief in a creator and none of those holding the more materialistic view of the evolution theory.

Obviously such a neutral class atmosphere would please parents who themselves believe in a created world and who may have met the intolerant attitude I met as a student in high school and university.

Peter Sulzbach
Sandy

Bigfoot here?

For many years I have been intrigued with a still unsolved mystery that has been explored by geological societies and the press with hopes that some reader or

watcher might offer some explanation. An account of my experience is contained in Peter Byrnes book that explores reported sightings of the Sasquatch, or Bigfoot.

But nowhere have I ever hinted that there was any connection between my discovery and the existence of the legendary monster, nor do I hold to such a theory that there is.

However, since the unexplained mystery had its origin in Alder Creek canyon, I hope that some reader may offer a comment.

A companion and I were hunting along Alder Creek canyon. We left Alder Creek Road and made our way across an area once logged off and later ravaged by a forest fire in 1926. A machete would have been useful, as we groped our way through a tangle of underbrush and second growth alders. Obviously no one had gone this way since the passage of time had erased the scar upon the hillside with heavy undergrowth and young trees.

Suddenly, we discovered a strange mound of earth which rose to a height of about 4 feet. It resembled a huge gopher hole. But such a creature could not exist. The mysterious mound of earth covered an area approximately 50 square feet. The mound was of recent origin, for no scrap of vegetation had taken root in the soil.

We climbed up on the mound, while our boots sank to the ankles in the moist, churned soil which might be compared to a garden lately worked by a rototiller.

I did observe that around the perimeter of the mound was a narrow border of upturned vegetation, about 4 inches wide — as though

some upheaval from below had created this oddity far off any beaten path in the wilderness. No ferns had been crushed in the area, no was there any indication that anyone had lately been 'is way.

This discovery was made 30 years ago, and I am still searching for a solution to the mystery. At the present moment, I have heard no salient comment other than there must be a logical explanation.

As a result of a published article I once wrote upon this subject, an interested author who has a book in our public library offered to fly his private plane from Vermont, land at the Sandy airport and then fly over the area.

"There must be other such strange mounds," he commented. But obviously he was unaware that the Cascade wilderness is covered with dense vegetation, and observation from the air would be impossible.

Perhaps some reader of the Sandy Post might respond by reporting a comparable discovery in the wilderness, or offer some explanation.

Keith Soesbe
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Sprinklers help

The City of Sandy is to be complimented for its most recent accomplishment, completion of a water system master plan.

Both long and short-term requirements were identified, along with practical solutions and alternatives to meet these needs. I was especially pleased that the plan separated improvements that could be made using city crews and

could be accomplished in a relatively short period of time, from those that are needed as future development occurs and which can be financed by system development charges or long term City levies.

Just as important is that the city has a plan with predetermined goals. This will mean future savings in limited tax payer funds.

The article mentioned that improvements were needed to facilitate industrial and commercial development, fire protection and fire sprinkler systems.

I would like to point out that water for fire protection and water for fire sprinkler systems are one and the same thing. The city has a certain obligation to provide water for fire protection.

Sprinkler systems reduce the amount of water that is needed for fire protection for individual buildings. If there are enough buildings with sprinkler systems installed in a given area — say the Sandy Industrial Park — the water requirements for the entire area can be reduced.

Sprinkler systems not only mean better fire protection, but lower costs to the public in terms of reduced public water supply facilities.

Bob Rathke

Attend hearing

As a member of the budget committee of the Sandy Elementary School District, I would like to invite all to come to our budget board meeting 7:30 p.m. Jan. 21 in the Cedar Ridge Library.

If you would like to know how your tax money is used and express your ideas, come to the meeting. The budget process works better with more citizen involvement and awareness.

Ann Marie Amstad

The Innocent Bystander:

How do you handle a man with flu?

I have the flu. I am not saying this, for God's sake, because I want your sympathy. I am simply stating an obvious fact so that you won't get too close and catch it yourself. Isn't that just like me? Always thinking of others even when I'm at death's...

Oh, not that I feel bad, mind you. In fact, when I stagger out to the kitchen in my rumpled bathrobe, unshaven, bleary-eyed, coughing and gasping for air, and my dear wife, Glynda, inquires how I'm feeling, I invariably reply, "Fine, just fine."

"Don't you feel any pain?" she asks solicitously. "Only when I breathe." I respond manfully. Then I'll cough rackingly and dab my lips with a handkerchief in order to examine it for blood flecks. Not yet? I'll be darned.

As you can probably tell, I am a living example — albeit, a barely living example — of The Brave Flu Victim.

There are many ways to have the

by ART HOPPE



flu. And as the odds are quite good that you'll have it yourself this season, you may wish to give the matter some advance thought. I strongly recommend facing the virus with incredible courage. We Brave Flu Victims would never admit to our loved ones how much we are suffering. But woe betide them if they don't find out! This, of course, requires a delicate blend of stoicism and dramatics. One of my better techniques is to

totter out of bed toward the medicine cabinet for cough syrup.

"Let me get it for you," says Glynda.

"No, no," I say. "I can do it myself. I just feel a trifle weak, that's all." At this point, if I'm lucky, I'll crumple to the floor, crying, "Don't get close to me! I'm sure I can probably crawl back to bed on my own."

We Brave Flu Victims are not so egocentric as to desire sympathy. All we want is our richly deserved admiration for being the gallant Christian martyrs that we are.

If you want sympathy, try being a Sweetly Suffering Flu Victim. This requires retiring to bed wearing a permanent weak smile and expressing effusive thanks for the hot water bottles and freshly squeezed orange juice this gets you. Unfortunately, this technique requires a great deal of energy and I'm much too exhausted from the flu to go through a charade like that.

A perfectly viable alternative is to be a Grouchy Flu Victim. Merely snarl things like, "You mean there isn't a single damned Kleenex in the house!" This has two advantages: (1) You can vent your ire without fear of retribution for, after all, you're sick and (2) your loved ones will leave you alone to die in peace.

Lastly, there are The Hibernating Flu Victims. These are poor misguided souls who simply retire to their rooms with a quart of warm ginger ale and a box of soda crackers only to emerge 48 hours later completely cured. But what on earth's the point of having the flu if it doesn't earn you any fear, sympathy or admiration?

Well, I hope I have been of some small help in making your forthcoming bout with the flu more rewarding and enjoyable. All I ask in return, if I should survive the night, is that you don't tell me about it.