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Photo by Dan Dillon

All eyes will be on the lord of the house, here cowering in front of the couch, as he tries to clear himself with his wife who suspects him of infidelity in Sandy High School's production, "A Flea in Her Ear." The play opens tomorrow evening at 8 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door.

French farce fractures funny bones with pace

by DAN DILLON

The Sandy High School drama department takes another new turn this weekend when the curtain rises on the French farce, "A Flea in Her Ear."

"I like to broaden the kids' spectrum of types of plays they're doing," said Director Mark Kuntz, explaining the departure from the musicals the department has staged in the past.

"Even the musicals were different," he pointed out. "West Side Story" was a tragic musical about death. "Godspell" was a different type of musical and so was "Forum."

"A Flea in Her Ear" was written by George Feydeau and translated by Barnett Shaw. It follows the lines of a classic bedroom farce

with a misdirected letter thrown in to complicate the plot.

The wife of a lord suspects her husband of being unfaithful. As a test of his moral character, she addresses a letter to him in which she poses as a smitten woman suggesting a rendezvous at L' Hotel Des Amis from whence has arrived a pair of his suspenders.

He gives the letter to a friend, thinking it must be intended for him. The wife goes to the hotel to catch her husband looking for his secret admirer.

When she arrives, the porter at the hotel looks just like her husband (Craig Thacker plays both roles) and the already-twisted plot thickens.

With a set Kuntz calls "a real dandy," the stage in the SUHS commons will transform from the living room of the lord's estate to the marbled lobby of L' Hotel Des Amis.

The whole set moves—partly on wheels and partly on a lazy-susan—and that leads to one of the characteristics of farce, according to Kuntz.

In the second scene, at the hotel, there are nine sites for entrances and exits.

"For the kids to learn farce, the pace has to be incredibly fast," he said. "There are about 150 entrances and exits in the play. It's the toughest thing to teach.

"With that number of entrances and exits, it becomes quite a chore for these high school kids," Kuntz said. "It takes a tremendous

amount of concentration." Particularly when some cast members have more than 30 individual entrances and exits to keep track of, as some roles call for.

The 14-member cast includes Thacker, Shannon Spradling, Stu Cabe, James Davis, Lilian Muff, Julie Griffin, Sam Romey, Dave Stafford, J.P. McLellan, Kari Sundstrom, Dawn Davidson, Tomi Griffin, Duane Hall and Ray Wolf.

Curtain time Fridays and Saturdays, April 30, May 1, 7 and 8, will be 8 p.m. in the SUHS commons. A special high school matinee will also be presented next Thursday afternoon.

Ticket information is available by calling Sandy High School, 668-8011. Tickets will be available at the door.

One-car crash kills woman east of Sandy

A Sandy woman was killed early Saturday morning when she apparently lost control of her vehicle and it rolled over, throwing her from the car.

Danell Rene Wilson, 20, died in a one-car accident at 1:40 a.m. on Highway 26 near Chapel of the Hills, about one-half mile west of Sleepy Hollow.

Wilson apparently lost control of her car. The vehicle first ran into a ditch and then back onto the road, finally striking a curb on the right side of the road.

The impact caused the car to turn over, throwing Wilson from her car. She was pinned underneath it when it came to a stop.

Wilson was alone in the car, according to Clackamas County sheriff's deputies.

Sandy cyclist hurt running from police

A Sandy man suffered minor injuries last Thursday when he lost control of the motorcycle he was driving while attempting to elude local police.

Ronald Scott Coombs, 21, was cited by Sandy police for attempting to elude, disobeying a stop sign and failure to display license plates after police chased a man on a motorcycle on the west end of Sandy.

According to police reports, the motorcycle rider lost control of the motorcycle and slid into an automobile at the intersection of Bluff Road and Scenic Avenue at 6:25 p.m.

Elsewhere, a Revenue Street resident told police Saturday evening that someone entered the residence after kicking open a door. The burglary was thwarted when the residents returned and scared off the intruder.

Sunday, police responded to a minor fender bender on Langensand Road. Fawnda Lynn Buck told police she was backing out of her driveway, didn't see an oncoming vehicle and got hit.

The driver of the second car, Michael Steven Chesnut, of Sandy, was southbound and told police he couldn't stop in time.

No citations were issued.

Button sale underway to aid festival

The new 1982 Sandy Mountain Festival buttons have gone on sale in local businesses this week.

Designed by Mark Peasley, they feature a totally new look, but still include the familiar mountain man and dancing bear which is the registered logo of the Sandy Mountain Festival.

Buttons sell for \$1 and proceeds go to help finance the ninth annual festival, set for July 10 and 11.

Buttons may be purchased at Joe's Donuts, Rexall Drug, Clackamas County Bank, Independent Bank of Sandy, Sandy Sentry Market, Cejka Hardware, Montgomery Ward, Ron's No Place, Gateway Inn, Calamity Jane's, Shorty's Corner, Tollgate Inn, T.J.'s Fireside Dining, Paola's Pizza Barn, Sandy Decor, Sandy City Hall, Thriftway, the VFW Club and Janz Berry Land.

SUHS seeks 'inexpensive' security

by SCOTT NEWTON

Security is as inexpensive as a Dairy Queen hamburger a week.

At least that's the way Dr. Jack Peters, Sandy Union High School superintendent, likes to look at it.

The school will put a \$3,566,965 tax base before the public May 18. For someone with a home assessed at \$100,000 that would cost \$79 per year, or \$1.64 per week.

"I don't know that that's too much to educate 1200 children in high school," Peters said.

The current tax base, established in 1916, is \$313,853. Explaining why the tax base should be increased by more than \$2.3 million is the problem Peters faces.

"Many people don't understand that a tax base is just like a levy, it just gives you some stability,"

Peters said.

"We could say, with confidence, that these incoming freshmen are going to go through graduation without anything closing the school up."

Peters points out that the school will still be accountable to the public via the budget process.

Also, the school would have tax base authority that would not be used during the '82-83 years, and beyond. The tax base, Peters thinks, would fund the operation of the school until at least 1985-86.

The school needs \$3,019,327 to operate next year, which would leave \$547,638 of untapped tax authority.

According to Peters the board has a policy that they will not increase the budget any more than the Consumer Price Index.

Total resources for the school are down about \$600,000 for the 1982-83

year. Basic School Support (set by the Oregon legislature) is down about \$116,000. Interest on investments is down as Basic School Support will now be paid eight times a year instead of four.

The school will also be missing the tuition it used to receive from Redland students, and timber sale receipts are down about \$38,000.

The beginning cash balance is down about \$400,000. "We needed that money to operate," said Joan Hay, business manager.

As to what is in the present \$4,884,673 budget, an increase of 5.6 percent over last year, Peters said that 72 percent goes to salaries and benefits.

"We're a service organization," he said. "The major portion of our operation is people."

Peters was asked if it was

necessary to give notice of non-renewal to 19 probationary teachers.

"It's true, we could have waited and relieved everybody in September (if no levy passed)," he said. "But I felt it was important to those 19 people to let them know."

"Under the law we had to notify them April 1. Also it gives them an opportunity, if they wish to look someplace else, to get going with it."

"The 19th of May I intend to write them each a letter and ask them if they'll stay."

Although Peters at times seems optimistic, about the chances of the tax base passing, he said, "I think it'll be close."

Eight of 36 combination A-B levies were approved by Oregon voters in March.

Some have questioned the addition of a \$3,000 girls soccer program to the

'82-83 budget in these austere times.

Peters referred to the federally-mandated Title IX legislation. The boys still have one more sport to choose from than the girls through the course of a school year.

Even if the part of the budget marked "co-curricular" were cut, it would only save the school \$236,209. Cutting co-curricular, in effect, would eliminate all athletics and activities.

Peters said that nearly all students at SUHS participate in some extra-curricular activity. "Ninety-four percent of our students stay all year. Only 6 percent drop out," Peters said.

He feels activities, to a large degree, help keep the dropout rate low.

Asked if it is possible for what happened in Estacada last year to happen to SUHS, Peters said, "I hope not. If we're not funded in September we're not open, and that's a fact of life."

"How do you handle the lady that will call me right after you publish your article and say to me, 'I get sick and tired of you threatening to close that school.'"

"I've lived in Sandy," this year she'll say 39 years, "and it has always been open."

"Last year she said 38. "Thirty-nine years and it has always been open. She's absolutely right. It's always been funded. We've always had a levy."

"Lord, I can tell you, I wish we didn't have a \$600,000 shortfall."

"It's a tough one. I'm out there meeting with my neighbors, and they're telling me how tough times are. I know that."

"But I also know that if your house is worth 100,000 bucks, the increase in taxes will be one Dairy Queen hamburger a week."

One way in which the school is attempting to gain voter support is through a back-to-school night, which will be May 10 at 7 p.m.

Midway through the evening program there will be a presentation by the tax base committee. This will be held during a regular school board meeting, which it is hoped will make it the most well-attended board meeting in SUHS history.

Two sites vying for new post office

The first round hearings on the proposed site for a new Sandy post office gets underway this Wednesday, May 5, when two groups bring conditional use applications before the Planning Commission.

U.S. Postal Service officials and a local landowner have both filed applications for two different sites that they feel would be ideally situated for the new facility.

The Postal Service favors the northeast corner at the intersection of McCormick and Wolf Drives, behind the Scenic Fruit Company.

Mike McKeel, who owns property on Tupper Road directly north of the Tupper Park site, has also filed for a conditional use for a post office. He has indicated to city officials that he will offer his site as an alternative in the event that the Postal Service's

preferred location hits a snag.

Some local businessmen have indicated they would prefer to have the new post office located nearer to the downtown core area.

"I think the site's certainly acceptable from our standpoint," said City Manager Roger Jordan, "but that's definitely a thorn in the bush that anyone can raise."

He said that postal officials have

indicated that they don't want to be told what site they have to purchase at no matter what the cost.

Jordan said he told them that consideration of door-to-door delivery could assuage concerns.

The public hearing on the two proposals will begin at 8 p.m. next Wednesday at Sandy City Hall in the City Council Chambers.

High bids boost jail expansion costs

Higher bids than expected have jumped the price of a new expansion and remodeling project at Clackamas County Jail nearly \$500,000.

Last week county commissioners decided they will ask voters to bear the brunt of that burden with a special tax levy in November. That would reimburse funds taken from the county's general fund to meet the increases since the project was bid last fall.

In 1980, voters approved a one-year levy for a \$1.5 million jail expansion project. But when the design-build team recently received bids from subcontractors, they found that it would cost more than \$1.9 million for the project.

Since 1980, new standards for jails have been set, requiring more space for each cell. That added cost to the project, according to architect Phil Balsiger. Construction costs and

workers' pay scales have also risen.

Commissioners went ahead with plans to add 50 beds to the jail. Costs will be cut by not finishing a room that would have held 18 beds, and by not developing an outdoor recreation area. The 18-bed room will be used as an indoor recreation area, according to the new plan.

The addition will provide extra beds as well as adding on to the kitchen facilities.

If voters don't approve of covering

the price hike in November, the money will still come from the general fund.

The new jail standards prevent cutting the size of the expansion project without jeopardizing the county's goal for keeping up with a growing jail population.

According to Balsiger, the costs per cell and per square foot of space at the Clackamas County project are lower than other jail projects around the state.

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