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## 'Weird' thoughts lead cast backstage

by DAN DILLON

Inspiration is where you find it. Strolling around the dingy backstage at the Sandy Community Theater one night, Rob Lawson looked at the dirty brick walls and was taken by their aesthetic qualities.

"I was wandering around backstage one time and I was thinking weird things," he remembered, "like wouldn't it be neat to do plays."

It was no more than a passing thought until some time later he was reading scripts from which to select his Sandy Community Players' directorial debut. As he read "The Woolgatherer," an adult drama by William Mastrosimone, something clicked with the dingy brick backstage at the theater. A new concept in Sandy live theater blossomed from the seed planted during his earlier stroll.

"For this particular play, the backstage really fits the mood of the play," Lawson said.

So, the new production by the Sandy Community Players, which opens tomorrow evening, will be staged backstage.

Entry to the theater will be through the backstage door near the drive-in tellers at Clackamas County Bank and, because of the limited space, seating will be limited to 50 for each performance.

To work on the mood that Lawson equated between the dingy bricks and the play, the cast—Lisa Read and Larry LaMarsh—began rehearsals in Lawson's basement until "Lovers and Other Strangers" completed its run last weekend.

"It's nice," Lawson said, "because it's dingy and it gets them in the mood—and it's dirty."

It's apparent that emotions and an earthy atmosphere are key components in this tale of two opposites attracting.

"Emotions are a main part of the play," Lawson said.

Rose (Read) is a naive recluse until Cliff (LaMarsh) blusters into her life. He's a fast-talking, beer-drinking truck driver who tries to bring her out of her shell.

"The way he does that is by antagonizing her," Lawson said.

"It's a play about loneliness because they're both lonely, in different ways."

For Lawson and LaMarsh, the play marks a milestone, of sorts. Although the two have worked together on a number of SCP productions, including "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," it was during Lawson's first taste of the theater that LaMarsh was the director.

That was in 1978 in a children's theater production of "The Beauty and the Beast." "Larry directed me my first time in theater, and now I'm directing Larry," he said.

Read makes her SCP debut, but appeared in Sandy High School

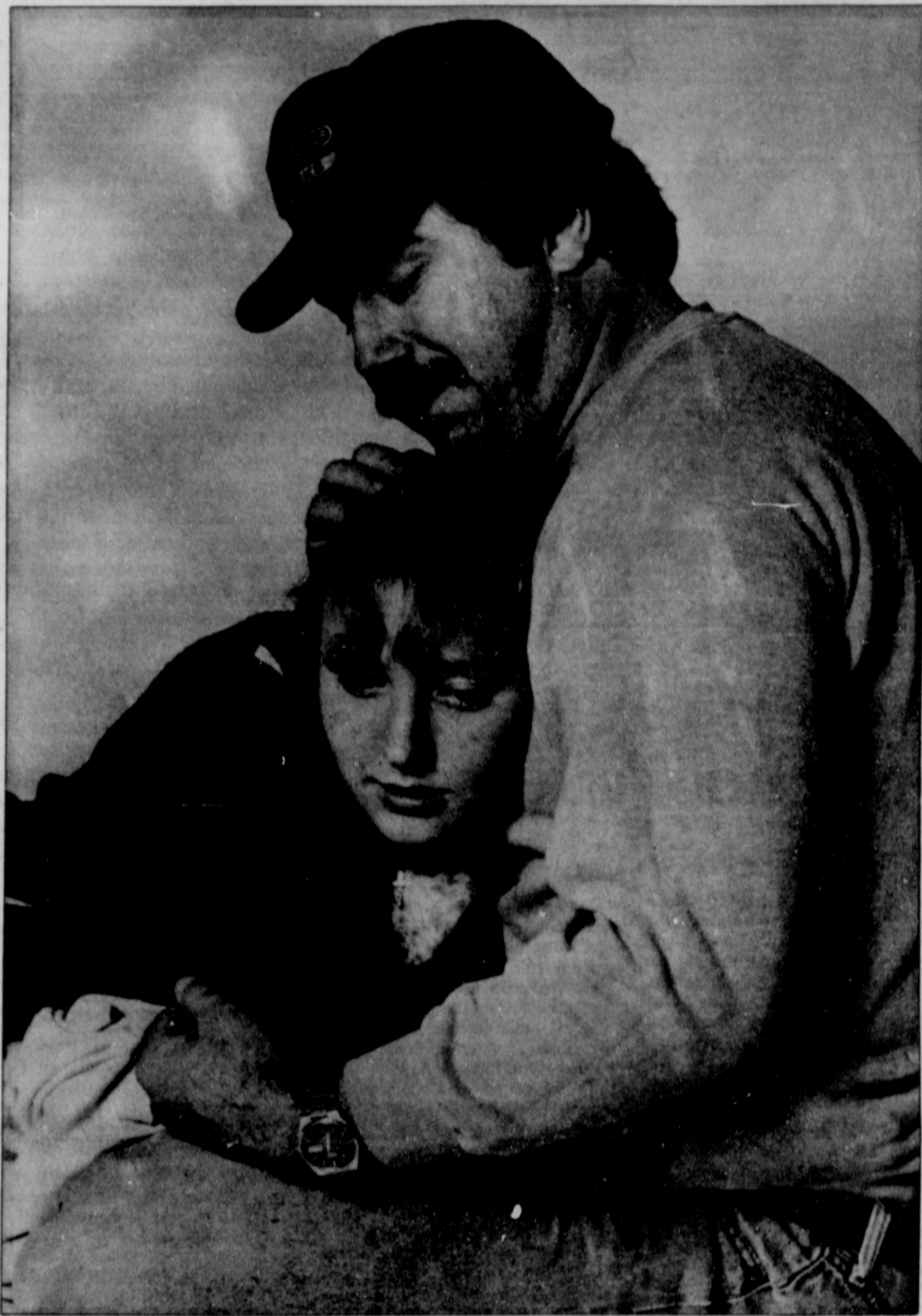


Photo by Sandi Poutala

Rose (Lisa Read) and Cliff (Larry LaMarsh) share a tender moment in "The Woolgatherer." The play opens tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Backstage Studio, a new concept at Sandy Community Theater.

productions including "West Side Story."

Lawson prepared for directing as assistant director for "Barrelful of Pennies" and "Butterflies Are Free," with Jim Wilhite and Hank Emrich, respectively.

"They'd give me a couple scenes from the show to direct," he said, "and I'd also learn from watching them. I picked up a lot of things from being an actor. Working with Katie Ten Eyck (in "Tribute") I

really learned a lot. I stole a lot from her."

The task is made somewhat easier with the smaller cast.

"I wouldn't have wanted to tackle a cast of thousands the first time out," he admitted.

Lawson, a 1982 graduate of Sandy High School, is heading for Mount Hood Community College this fall on a scholarship to study theater.

"I want to be able to work in theater, not necessarily as an ac-

tor, and support myself," he said.

He'll have some experienced help the first time out. Macy Brader is producing the show.

Theresa Varetta is stage manager and Laura Marleau is running the lights.

"The Woolgatherer" opens Sept. 3 and runs Friday and Saturday evenings for four consecutive weekends with 8 p.m. curtain times. Tickets are available at Sandy Country Florist, or by calling 668-5633.

## Mayor faces challenge in November election

Mayor Ruth Loundree faces a challenge this November in her bid for a third consecutive term as Sandy's top elected official.

Tuesday, City Councilman Jim Duff filed a nominating petition to challenge the incumbent mayor in the Nov. 2 General Election.

Regardless of the outcome, the City Council will have a new look after the balloting.

Just three candidates will compete for the three open seats on the council. The seats are now held by council members Don Blair, Vern Richards and Deane Wesselink.

Only Wesselink filed for reelection. He will be joined in the race by James B. Griffin and Dick Harrison.

Loundree was first elected mayor in 1978 and was re-elected in 1980 when she ran unopposed. She began her life in public service in 1958 when she was elected to the first of seven consecutive terms as city recorder.

When the city changed to a city manager form of government in 1972, Loundree became executive

secretary, a position she held until 1978.

Duff, a health and careers teacher at Cedar Ridge School, has served on the city council for 14 years. Prior to that, he served on the Sandy Planning Commission for four years. He is also in his first term on the Sandy Fire District Board of Directors.

Duff ran unsuccessfully for the mayor's position in 1978.

Wesselink, the only incumbent councilman to seek re-election, is completing his first term, in his second stint on the city council. He is the owner-operator of Deane's Auto Repair.

Griffin is sales manager in domestic and international markets for Raygo Wagner Inc., of Portland. The company manufactures heavy equipment, used primarily in the logging industry.

Harrison, director of student services at Sandy High School, has been active in local government with the Sandy Planning Commission as a member and advisor.

## Welches School opens without teacher pact

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

The teachers at Welches Grade School agreed to start the 1982-83 school year without a contract, after a breakdown in negotiations Tuesday night.

The bargaining session, the second in less than a week with state mediator Kathy Mistler, was a last-ditch attempt to solve the nine-month-old contract dispute before the school's scheduled opening.

With the school board huddled in the administration office and the teachers' association in the school library, Mistler shuttled back and forth trying to keep the channels of communication open.

Three hours into the session, with salaries, personnel leave, tuition reimbursement, extended leave, insurance and contract length unresolved, the hope for a settlement dwindled. Mistler halted the negotiations leaving both sides unable to even agree upon whether the session was still in progress.

At 11 p.m., two hours after the state mediator had left the school, the board made an offer to the Welches Education Association. Russell Grange, negotiator for the school district, said he could not discuss the specifics of the latest offer. He said only that it was "comprehensive."

The WEA negotiating team weighed the offer with the large number of teachers present, but did not make a

decision. They adjourned at midnight.

According to Don Robertson of the Oregon Educational Association, who is assisting the teachers, the roadblock lies with the district who will not accept the terms of a recent independent factfinders report. In early July the teachers voted unanimously to accept the report which recommended a 4.6 percent salary increase instead of the 6 percent the WEA was originally seeking.

According to Tom Well, the WEA chief negotiator, the teachers are currently \$3,000 below the state average. He said the school board claims they do not have enough money in their budget for the increase, but recent audit reports of the district's finances indicate otherwise.

With no bargaining session scheduled, Robertson said the WEA will "take their case to the people."

Already, a movement is underway among some parents to keep both sides talking until a settlement is reached, said teacher Jeanine Boldt of the WEA negotiating team.

"We are not trying to get people to take sides," said Boldt. "We are just interested in getting it solved."

Well said the teachers will be on the job when school opens on September 7. However, he said "the atmosphere will be strained, which will indirectly affect what is happening in the classroom."

## State board to hear mobile home appeals

Legal issues surrounding a proposed mobile home subdivision in Brightwood will be reviewed by the state Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) Sept. 7.

The controversial 192-unit Alderwood subdivision will get a decision from LUBA within 90 days.

Robert Stephens of Brightwood appealed the Clackamas County Commissioners' approval of a conditional use permit for the project. They overruled an earlier decision to deny the permit.

Also appealing the decision are Gordon and Andrea Cabral and Judith and Robert Decker, all of Brightwood. They own property near the development site. They are joined by Carolyn Smith of Rhododendron, of the Environmental Committee On Suitability.

The first issue involves a July 15 motion filed by Lowell Njust of Welches, on behalf of his five partners in the venture.

Njust is asking LUBA to dismiss the appeal, because the "notice of intent to appeal" was not filed within the required 10-day period.

Jack H. Hammond Jr. an Oregon City attorney representing Stephens, disputes the claim that the notice of intent to appeal was not filed within the specified time period, because the county did not give required notice. He said, "Notions of fair play and due process under the Constitution, demand the giving of notice before a party can be deprived of substantial appeal rights."

"The sole issue rests on the County's obligation to notify a participant of its final orders and

whether notice is an element of finality of those orders," according to Hammond.

Oregon law species that all hearing officers must give written notice of their actions to all parties in the proceedings.

Hammond continued, "With strict appeal time constraints, a governing body could purposely withhold notice and thereby effectively prohibit appeals."

Diane Spies, a Portland attorney representing the Sane Economic Development Association, filed a motion to remand the proposed development back to the commissioners for reconsideration.

The Alderwood development is scheduled to be heard by LUBA at 1:30 p.m. in room 106 at the State Library Building in Salem.

## Welches patrons ponder leaving SUHS

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

To secede or not to secede from the Sandy Union High School District, is a question Mt. Hood residents are beginning to ask themselves.

Figures, recently compiled for the Welches School District, show that nearly \$1 million in revenues goes into the SUHS budget from the mountain area.

Some taxpayers believe this money could give the area a reasonable economic base to create its own high school, if existing school facilities are modified.

Formation of a Welches High School is not a new idea. It became apparent a few years ago when a committee was formed to study the construction of additional buildings to accommodate the growth at the grade school.

As a result, enough land was secured from Clackamas County to build a high school if the need rose.

"We really like those young people from the Welches area and we'd be disappointed if they left," said SUHS Superintendent Jack Peters. "But, we believe in democracy and we will follow the course the people decide to take."

He added that the Welches students contribute to the school and he thinks they're getting as good an education as they could anywhere in the nation.

Richard A. Hoffman, chairman of the Welches school board, supports establishing such a high school in the area. He emphasized, however, that

neither the school board nor District Superintendent Kenneth Blackburn officially advocate such a move.

Hoffman said the recent interest in forming a Welches High stemmed from a concern for educating the 147 students from the area who attend SUHS, if the high school's operating levy fails Sept. 21.

Faced with this possibility, Hoffman said tax records and figures from the state Department of Education were studied to see if the financing such a venture is feasible. He thinks it is.

Taxpayers in the Welches area contribute 21 percent of the SUHS budget while 13 percent of the school's 1,150 students come from the area.

Estimates from the Clackamas County Assessor show the taxpayers in the area provide \$867,680 in taxes to the SUHS district, said Hoffman.

In addition, the state contributes \$121,334 in basic school support to the SUHS district, for the 147 Welches students who attend.

That means it costs Welches taxpayers approximately \$6,727.98 per pupil from the district to be educated at SUHS, said Hoffman. It is estimated the cost of educating students from the Sandy area is only \$3,272.70.

Carl D. Ostergren, Welches Parent-Teacher Association member, said formation of a local high school should not be based on money alone. He said the hour-and-a-half to two-hour bus rides the

students endure, quality curriculum and local control are equally important.

Ostergren, whose son recently graduated from SUHS, is critical of the district's administration. He feels too much emphasis is placed on athletics, instead of improving the quality of classes such as English and composition.

"I've never been satisfied with the way Sandy High spends money on athletics rather than curriculum," said Ostergren.

SUHS Board Chairman Wayne Johnson thinks secession could be a mistake. "I sympathize with them, but rather than spend energy to fight their way out of the district, they should spend their energy to help the district."

He cautioned that forming a Welches High School wouldn't allow students the educational opportunities available at Sandy.

"I get concerned because I don't think they're seeing the whole picture," Johnson said. "Sure, they can start a high school if they are talking about teaching reading, writing and arithmetic."

A mountain-area high school would give an opportunity for the community to have a say in improving on the curriculum currently available to Welches area students on a secondary level, Ostergren said. The distance between Sandy and the Mt. Hood area makes the SUHS administration less accessible for such input.

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