

The Sandy Post

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SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1983

# Editorial & Opinion

## School discipline, needs, vote stir readers

### Discipline SUHS

Last week I had the opportunity to accompany my teenage daughter to high school. I was shocked, as well as awakened, to a most unbelievable fact.

As I went from class to class with my daughter throughout the day, I could not believe what I was witnessing with my own eyes. You see, I was one of those parents who until last week thought our teachers were failing us, as well as our children. Was I mistaken? While attending this day at school with my

daughter, I saw the majority of our dear, sweet, innocent children as being very cruel and inconsiderate. It was like something you would only expect to see on our television sets at home. I thought these things I saw could not really happen in real life. I kept telling myself our children are not really like this. If so, why are these teachers putting up with it? Some of these teachers were all but pulling their hair out one second at the majority of the class cutting up, but in the next second, trying to be kind, gentle and helpful to another student who was

asking for help.

Our sweet, innocent children were shouting at one another from one side of the room to the other, throwing paper across the rooms at each other and scuffling and tipping over desks. They showed these teachers no respect whatsoever, even when they were asked repeatedly to sit down and be quiet. They just kept defying our teachers and went right on in the same manner. The majority of these children only carried their books to make noise with. Very few ever opened them to try to study or participate in the

class projects. However, I was in one or two classes where our children were fairly orderly. I don't know what these few teachers had on them!

It seems our teachers no longer have the authority or control over our dear, innocent children; and our children know this and take a great deal of advantage of this situation. Is it our laws today? If so, who is failing whom? Are these teachers failing us, the parents; or are we the parents failing the teachers, as well as our own children?

From what I have seen, we taxpayers and parents are failing ourselves and everyone concerned. What is especially sad is the minority of these students that want to learn. Let us put ourselves in their shoes. The ones who want to learn and cannot even concentrate in this noisy environment and confusion, better yet how about the average student that wants to try... how do they stand a chance in this kind of environment? Is it any wonder we have so many dropouts today? If a student can no longer concentrate in our schools and get a passing grade, why should he or she even try? Why not just stare out the window and give up? Why not just participate in the fun and confusion with the rest of the bad apples, until they can drop out? Why not join in, until they can either drop out or their parents give up on them?

As you yourself these questions. Where is all this vandalism coming from? Where are all our street people coming from? Our misfits? Our sex offenders? Why does our crime rate keep rising, and why do we have so much drug abuse? Why shouldn't our children stick their heads in the sand like an ostrich, if they do not have the education to cope with today's society? Why not resort to drugs? But the most important question is, whose fault is it? Is it we, the parents, who say we love our children and really do feel it inside, but have really never taken one real day out of our lives to get down to our children's level? We haven't even seen what they are doing, what they are experiencing, where they are at—myself included. Has one day out of our lives been spent letting our children know we care? Walk in their shoes at school.

Let's not be like an ostrich, ourselves. Let's not say, my Johnny wouldn't do that. Maybe, just maybe, it is your sweet, little John that is getting cheated the worst. Let's not say, my son or my daughter is getting good grades, so everything is OK. Just maybe it is your son or daughter who is causing some of these anxieties that are cheating himself or herself, as well. Some of these children are getting cheated worse. Look at some of our athletes today. Some cannot even read. Now all of our children in sports can't make it to the top, so where does that leave them?

I am a single parent of three children and work an eight-to-five job. I thank God I found the time to attend my daughter's high school. I also thank the school officials for allowing me to do so. Had it not been for their cooperation, I would still be blind to the facts. We have some fine teachers here in our area.

Friends, I am not taking the time to write this article for my benefit. I'm writing this for other parents and children of this community who are being cheated. I pray that the parents of this community read this with all the love and concern with which it is written. My plea goes out to you parents. I hope you also do as I have and see for yourselves, then you be the judge. Then let's do something about it. Let's help not only our children

but also our teachers who are desperately trying to help us and our loved ones, even after all the humiliation and disrespect they receive from our children. Most important, I hope that this article does not offend a single sole in this community, as that is not my intention. We are all either blind, or are waiting for someone else to do something about it. Just look around and see what our blind eyes and deaf ears have caused.

I am sorry to say that Sandy High School does not have a parent-teacher association, but this would be a darn good time and place to start one. Let us loving parents open our eyes, and then do something about the situation. We all know our children are worth it.

George E. Maitland  
Sandy

### Aid library

At the April 11 Sandy Union High School budget hearing, it was mentioned that the school could pursue volunteer help more aggressively. This is an idea with particular appeal to me, as there are tasks here in the library which

volunteers could perform that would be beneficial both from the standpoint of money saving and improvement of service. I invite volunteers who wish to come in on a regularly scheduled basis to contact me in the library between 7:30 and 3:30 any school day.

Jan Luelling  
SUHS librarian

### Support levy

Education is the key to the future, and voters of this district hold the future in their hands.

On May 17, you—the voter—will be asked to consider whether our education is worth the money you will be asked to spend. If you shortchange our education now, in effect, you are shortchanging yourself later. We are tomorrow's leaders today. If we aren't educated well enough to carry out that responsibility, it will affect everyone—not just us.

Maybe when you went to school reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic were good enough; but in this age of micro chips, computers and robot-automation it doesn't begin to cover the information we will be required to know. We need the physics class, the computer classes and the shop classes.

When you attended high school, your community funded your education. Now it's your turn to fund ours. Soon it will be our turn.

You owe it to us and to yourselves to give us the best education you can. Don't deny us our education, merely because the price has gone up. Vote "yes" for a bright future for all of us.

Joe Betchart  
Co-editor, SUHS Mountain Echoes

### Elect Japley

I am writing to support Sandra Japley for position 5 on the Welches School Board in the May 17 election.

Ms. Japley is employed by Mt. Hood Community College and has a strong background in education and budgeting. She can offer a fresh and objective outlook as a member of the board of directors.

Those wishing to meet Sandra Japley may do so at the Hoodland Women's Club 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 14.

Your vote will be impor-

tant May 17.

Marjorie Wicks  
Rhododendron

### Elect Cox

Because it is vitally necessary to the well being of our schools that we maintain a continuity in our board of directors, I urge all patrons of the Sandy Elementary School District to re-elect Sharon Cox to position 4 May 17.

To elect a new member to the board for no apparent reason would serve no useful purpose. Mrs. Cox has nearly 18 months of experience, works well with other members of the board and has shown herself to be fiscally responsible and concerned with the needs of the children, parents and employees of our district. If a new member were to be elected to her position, it would be at the very least a year before her replacement could learn the issues, legal responsibilities and financial concerns facing District 46.

Having attended 19 of the last 21 monthly board meetings as an interested parent and patron of our district, I have carefully examined the actions of the

volvements with Optimists Club, the youth soccer league, Cub Scouts, past and present president of the Sandy grade school parent-teacher club and upcoming Soap Box Derby are only a few of the concerns she has devoted much time and sincere effort toward.

Debra Hoard is a rare, energetic and sensitive person, who if on the school board would facilitate with effectiveness the deep need for serious considerations on basic educational requirements and learning environment of our youth. She will welcome and seek resident and business input in her effort to work for us, while implementing and carefully exercising wise spending on our hard-earned tax dollars.

The impact of voting Debra Hoard a place on the school board now will assure a better future for our children and community sooner.

We can't afford to wait, when our best chance for improvement is here.

Denise Redman  
Sandy

### Vote Doty

Unique qualifications and special qualities are of-

fered to patrons and students of SUHS in the candidacy of Jeanne Doty, who has filed for a board of director position. As a former student of hers, she has my vote and hopefully yours. I realize that being a board member is one of the hardest volunteer positions that we as voters can ask others to do for us, since my husband, Ralph "Pete" Griffin, was on the board for more than six years.

Jeanne Doty is willing and able to give of her time in this capacity to our community. She already has dedicated to the education of the voters of tomorrow many years of her life. Recently she retired as principal of Gordon Russell Grade School in Gresham. Still immensely dedicated to educational standards that enable a student to write a job resume, file a tax form and question before signing a legal document, in other words, "the three R's" at a reasonable cost to taxpayers with benefit to students are her goals as a member of the board.

As voters, staff or students of SUHS, what more could we ask for in a board member? She has the credentials our district needs. Vote Jeanne Doty May 17.

Patti Griffin  
Rhododendron

### Elect Albers

I appreciate the local coverage the Sandy Post provides and would like to see more through interviews of those individuals running for the Sandy High School Board. What is their philosophy and education? Where would they gain information pertinent to decisions of education in relation to state and federal laws? What are their personal motives for seeking this office?

Because I know Janet Albers personally, I've been able to ask her such questions freely and am excited to recommend her to the voters of Sandy.

Janet Albers has been close to education and is familiar with processes of implementing policies. She cares about academic excellence and giving students every possible boost toward high standards, yet she has a common-sense approach to budgeting and finance.

Since many of the policies and standards initiated by the school board now will affect our children far into the future, those of us who have younger children not yet in high school would do well to see that Albers is elected. The decisions that the school board makes are important for the present student body and the future. Janet Albers can carry that responsibility and has vision for success at Sandy High.

Edna Cooke  
Sandy

### Vote Albers

Albers is a candidate for position 4 on the Sandy Union High School Board at the May 17 election. I would encourage you to support her candidacy for this position and hope you will acquaint yourself with her qualifications.

Janet has shown interest in our schools for many years. She and her husband have four children, who are future Sandy High students, and she believes in being involved in the schools that will provide their education.

Her college degree in business administration has helped her understand the mechanics necessary to run a school. Most of all, I believe her greatest asset to community service is her personal integrity.

Dorothy M. Mills  
Sandy

### LETTERS POLICY

The Post asks that all letters to the editor be typed, double-spaced and signed. Deadline is noon, Tuesday. Letters should be accurate, free of libelous remarks and in good taste. This newspaper attempts to publish all letters it receives.



### Control speed to polish image

If Sandy as a community sincerely wants to change its image as a great place to visit, work and play, then something needs to be done to control speed.

We're not talking about drugs on the loose, but cars on the loose. Cars, after all, kill more persons than drugs. So let's put the brakes on cars that roar down Pioneer and Proctor Boulevards through town, as though Sandy weren't worth slowing down on that stretch of highway.

Ironically, Sandy as a spot on the map still smarts from a past reputation as a speed trap. Surely, the current police administration has done well to reverse this poor image that couldn't have attracted many welcomed visitors to town.

But now we see the other extreme. Most cars roar through town 35-40 mph. Few seem to observe the 25 mph city limit. When big trucks enjoy this

breakneck speed, it makes one worry a bit about safety here. That's especially true on highway stretches like from the light at the west end of town to the city center site of the old post office on Pioneer. Count the few crosswalks and then take your chances crossing.

One worries, too, about the safety of cars backing in to parallel park in such traffic or trying to pull out from a highway parking spot. It's hard to judge whether an oncoming car allows proper time to park or pull out, or if the speeder will be on your bumper before you blink.

A lot of senior citizens and school children cross the highway through town each day. Many residents park along this highway. Perhaps it's time to give Sandy a new "safe and cordial" image by strict enforcement of the 25 mph speed limit in town. (VB)

### Representative's report:

## Cuts will balance budget

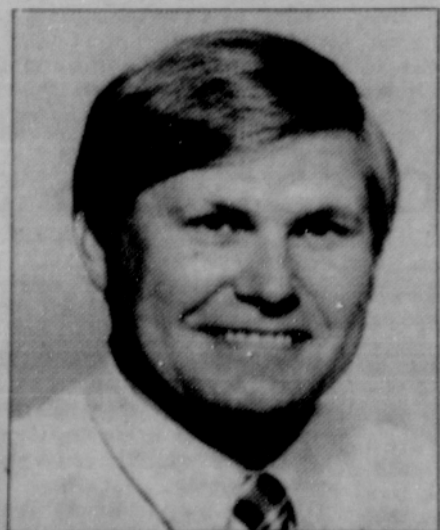
by BOB SHIPRACK

State Representative, Dist. 23

Last week the Democratic caucus compromised in their disagreement over where to cut state spending. The plan will cut close to \$200 million from the governor's proposed budget of \$3.3 billion. \$117 million will come from state agencies and \$63 million from state payments to local governments, of which \$20 million will be cut from basic school support and \$43 million from property tax relief. This will lower the property tax relief from \$192 to \$170 per household.

The temporary taxes instituted last session and subsequent special sessions will also be maintained for two more years and they will raise \$395 million. These taxes were the income tax surcharge, disconnecting from the federal tax code, increased cigarette taxes and delaying the indexing of the personal exemption for inflation. These actions will assure a balanced state budget, and we can now turn our attentions to getting a good property tax relief plan on the ballot in November. This should also help us get on track for an early adjournment.

HB 2235 passed the House last week on a 41-18 vote. It would require after 1986 that all new woodstoves sold in the interior valley of Oregon from Washington to California be certified by DEQ for pollu-



tion emission standards. Some areas of the state cannot site new industry because of air pollution levels, and it is thought that this action will help clean up the air. There are several models of cleaners, more efficient stoves on the market now, although they cost more.

If I can be of any help contact me by writing: Representative Bob Shiprack, Rm H292 State Capitol, Salem 97310.

The Post gratefully acknowledges essays and written opinions from readers to appear on this page—separate from the unbiased news reports on other pages of this newspaper. Your opinions generally will be printed as letters to the editor, while ours generally will appear as editorials. Occasionally, we are able to print guest editorials. We attempt to print all signed letters of good taste, legible form and reasonable length. Our deadline is noon on Tuesdays.