

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Educate on drug abuse

Drug education seems to be a popular topic this week, and the openness with which local officials have been discussing the topic is refreshing.

Now what is needed is parental involvement.

"Considering the social atmosphere, drug education is necessary — even at the grade school level," said Gary Dietderich, vice principal at Welches School.

Jackson Taylor of Mainstream Youth Program Inc. was so dynamic in dealing with eighth graders at Welches last year that school officials wanted him back.

He'll work an hour with sixth, seventh and eighth graders every day for a week.

Mainstream is affiliated with United Way, and Welches School will only have to pay mileage to and from Portland.

Equally open was Randi Leuthold, Cedar Ridge principal, in a presentation to the Sandy Elementary board of directors. Grade school students are "freshmen on the scene of drugs," Leuthold said, adding that there is a "potential" for problems at Cedar Ridge, just as there is at other schools.

Leuthold recommended the hiring of Jevon Thompson of Eugene, who would put on hour-long presentations for students at all the schools in the Sandy Elementary district. He would also hold a

session with just the parents in the evening.

Total cost for Thompson's presentation is \$425; the board did not okay the spending of the money — though support for the idea was expressed.

At Sandy High School, Superintendent Roberta Hutton admits the drug education program is not "real assertive." Plans are underway, however, for a staff inservice on the problem of drug abuse.

One valid complaint being heard is that the schools are forced to do provide more and more guidance for problems once handled solely by parents.

In the case of drug education, the schools do need to pick up the slack.

Sometimes that will mean money for qualified speakers.

More importantly, parents and others in the community need to become aware of how to deal intelligently with the problem of drug abuse — each situation must be dealt with in its own way.

Parents need to help the schools find innovative ways to explain the danger of abusing a drug or drugs. Then they need to help provide guidance to as many youngsters as possible.

If only one potential problem is averted here during the school year, the payback will be enormous.



Letters to the editor

Resident blasts use of tax dollars

Are we going to let our federal tax dollars be used to promote communism?

The poster that hangs in our Sandy Library titled, "Understanding the Soviets: A Path to Peace" is just one more example of the waste of our tax money being used by colleges and universities. Clackamas Community College and the Oregon Committee for the Humanities are putting on an eight week series of lectures on the U.S.S.R. The Oregon Committee for the Humanities is putting up \$1,500 of our tax money. Clackamas Community College has to put up at least matching funds, but they were able to use \$4,100. I realize that we in Sandy do not pay taxes to Clackamas Community College, however, other public educational systems

also use money from the National Endowment of the Humanities to promote communistic views and philosophy.

In April of this year the University of Maryland spent \$10,700 of our federal tax money for a two day celebration of Karl Marx, the founder of communism.

There are just two examples that I am aware of. I wonder how many other times our tax money is being used by our educational systems for these kinds of programs?

Teresa Shaw
Sandy

Democrats

Commissioner Groener's and Commissioner Harlan's attack on the

Democratic Party for opposing the sales tax shows how out of touch with the people of Clackamas County they really are! Since when is it progressive taxation to support a sales tax, particularly this one which also covers a broad range of services, which will drive business over the border to Washington and California?

What these commissioners don't realize is that the sales tax is a doomed proposition from the start and thus offers no real hope for property tax relief. But how could a commissioner who's afraid to pick up his phone and talk to a constituent know that?

The Democratic Party of Oregon recently voted to support a Homestead Property Tax Exemption initiative which targets all property tax relief to those that need it, homeowners and renters, not the big business and real estate holdings that both the sales tax and son of measure no. 3 would benefit.

Perhaps we need to break up the "good ol' boy" system that has mismanaged Clackamas County to the brink. A single district five-member Board of County Commissioners (with reduced salaries) that would guarantee rural representation would be the way to do it.

Richard Weiss
Organization Chair
Democratic Party of Oregon

Utilities

In 1978 Oregon voters passed Ballot measure No. 9 overwhelmingly with the intent of prohibiting PGE and PP&L from ever charging ratepayers for the costs of uncompleted and abandoned projects. As executive director of Oregonians for Utility Reform, I was chief sponsor and campaign director for Ballot measure No. 9.

PGE and PP&L have never accepted the voters' decision. First, through secret meetings with Oregon legislators and then working hand-in-hand with the Public Utility Commissioner they tried to channel the costs of the defunct Pebble Springs projects to

their ratepayers through a device known as a "debt-equity swap," currently being challenged in courts by Forelows on Board and the Coalition for Safe Power. PGE also has run into trouble with the Bonneville Power Administration by improperly including the Pebble Springs debt in the high-cost power they have exchanged with Bonneville for low-cost power.

Unfortunately for PGE and PP&L investors, more bad debt looms in the termination of the Skagit project which was to be built on the Hanford Reservation in Washington. PGE has invested \$126 million and PP&L \$89 million in that one project.

Unwilling to let their investors take a loss (they took the risks), PGE and PP&L have asked Public Utility Commissioner John Lobdell for a declaratory ruling that would permit them to charge ratepayers for their abandoned investments and in effect, administratively overturn the mandate of Oregon voters when they passed Ballot measure No. 9.

As chief sponsor of Ballot measure No. 9 I have intervened in opposition to the PGE and PP&L request (PUC case UM-13) joined by Forelows on Board, the Coalition for Safe Power, and U.S. Representative Jim Weaver. Oregonians who don't want to pay for unfinished or abandoned utility projects should write Public Utility Commissioner John Lobdell, Labor and Industries Building, Salem, 97310 to object and support Ballot No. 9.

Although I have intervened in this PUC proceeding, it is clearly illegal. The whole intent of Ballot measure No. 9 was to prevent exactly what PGE and PP&L are asking. Oregonians never should have to pay for the utilities' bad investments and power they will never receive.

In our free enterprise system, the investors takes the risks, the profits and the losses. Bailing out the Fortune 500 monopolies is lemon socialism of the worst kind.

Dave McTeague
Milwaukie

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 and may edit material lightly to conform to guidelines. Maximum length is 200 words.



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Personally speaking

Steaming towel not too tasty treat

I am probably not the only person to try and slice a steaming towel with knife and fork when a French waiter presents it at the dinner table. Those things look an awful lot like some fancy pasta dish, especially when you can't read French and have been surprised by every course ordered so far in the evening.

Come to think of it, the towel didn't taste that bad after snails, and that is just what they are, no matter how expensive of a label they put on them.

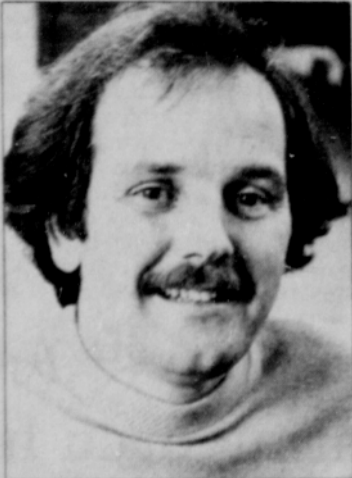
It is a really uncomfortable feeling, wishing your dinner would crawl away. Even if it could, it would be too slow to make a difference.

I can't really believe that people in other countries eat the kind of food sold in international restaurants here. I think it is just a conspiracy to get us to eat socialist nation's leftovers.

No matter what language you say it in, fish eyes do not sound appetizing. I am already self-conscious about eating in front of people without my food watching me too.

It would be almost impossible to put a fork in something looking straight at you. People tend to look at you strangely if you try to distract your dinner before taking a bite, and it can get pretty sloppy eating with a blindfold.

Usually in that kind of place



by HANK EMRICH

they cook the food right in front of you anyway and I like to keep an eye on the guy with the knives. The way our foreign relations are nowadays, you can't afford to be too careful.

That isn't the only thing that bothers me about those places. They always pretend they can't speak English and I like to know what they are saying to my wife. In some cities I also have to be careful what they are saying to me.

The way ethnic restaurants are decorated is probably not too authentic either. If those countries really liked that furniture,

they would have never given it away.

In Mexican restaurants, for instance, there are always hump covered chair seats. I happen to know that they like naugahyde south of the border just as much as we do. I had a car upholstered there once.

On the other hand, I doubt that every restaurant chair seat in China is covered with red vinyl, but it seems like that is the case in every one I have eaten at here.

The Chinese probably perpetrate the biggest fraud of any. I can just see somebody laughing away as he prints 2,000 menus with Yuk Yuk Duck for \$5.95. Go ahead and order it if you think you have the stomach to eat a cartoon character.

I also don't believe that take-out food is a Chinese custom. In all the travel films I have seen, I have yet to see someone in those black pajamas carrying a little wire-handled box that looks like a tiny suitcase full of steamed rice.

If you ever wonder why they encourage customers to take what is left home, ask for a photocopy of their garbage bill. These guys are not dumb. The only thing they don't tell you is what that stuff is going to look like after bouncing around in the box on the back seat for an hour on the way home. Or what your back seat is going to look like if the box comes

open.

Another great one for getting you to take their food home is the Italian restaurant. They would have you believe the delivery van was invented at the same time as pizza. The whole idea is ridiculous. I don't know about delivery vans, but I do know Canadian bacon and pineapple do not come from Italy.

It can really get ridiculous. Maybe we just like to eat the food as a substitute for foreign travel. Two things that have always frightened me are flying and drinking water in foreign lands. This way I can experience that "international feeling" without ever leaving town.

Most people do have a fascination with foreign food, regardless of age. That is the age of the people, not the food. I even have a friend who can get his children to eat spinach just by putting it on pizza and singing Italian opera songs.

In actuality, our preoccupation with foreign food probably contributes greatly to the trade deficit. If every person in the country would try not to eat any food other than American, we could probably have this country back on its feet in no time.

I think I will start with a good old American hamburger... without the French fries... or the towel.