

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1983

Estimating drug use

According to Jevon Thompson, a recent guest lecturer in the Sandy Elementary schools, the national rate of drug use among junior high-aged students is around 65 percent.

Thompson made a "calculated guess," using information he gathered from students and personal observation, that the rate in our community is nearer to 30 percent.

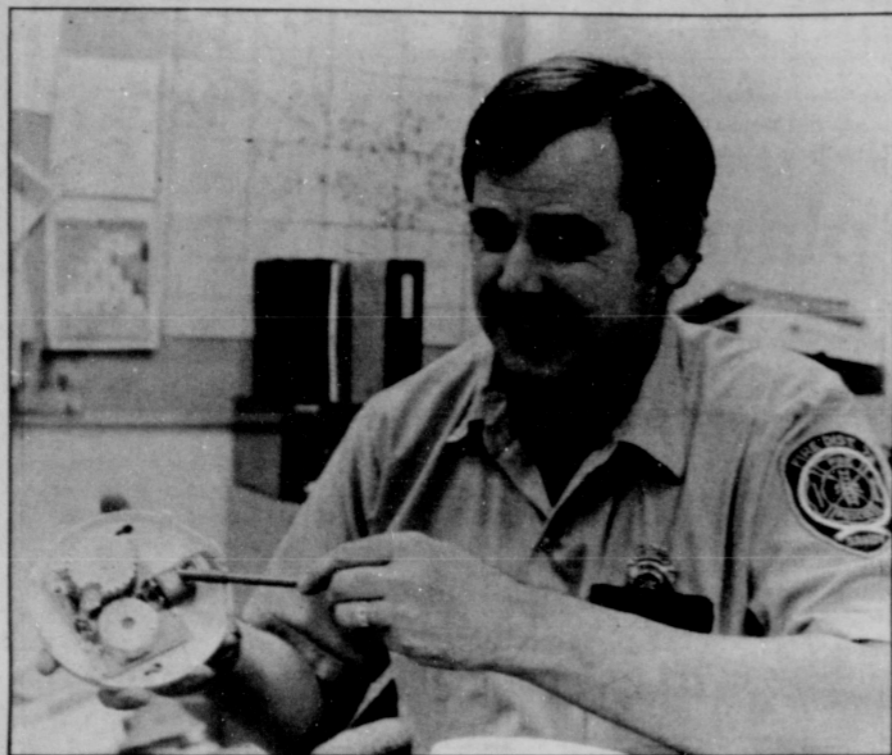
While this may sound like good news to some, it is something akin to only breaking one arm. It still hurts.

When statistics such as these are given, there are many who question their validity. It is probably correct to assume there is a large potential for error in any study relying on children's assertions as to whether or not they use drugs. Peer pressure might cause those who don't to say they do, and guilt may cause those who do to say they don't.

If we say Thompson's figures are grossly overestimated, and cut the figure all the way to 5 percent, we would still have the problem and the potential for any child to be involved. Let us not wait for the statistics to reach a certain number, or for absolutes. It is a problem and it needs to be dealt with daily.

Many more parents attended Thompson's lecture than were anticipated but there were fewer attending than there should have been. Administrators from all four schools were present as were four out of five board members, showing a welcome concern for the problem.

A parent's group was formed after the lecture, and there is also a group formed around the recent "Chemical People" television series. Parents can, and should become involved. Any progress these groups can make will be welcomed.



Jim Gallagher

Christmas safety urged

As Christmas approaches people like to relax a little, let down their guard.

That is fine as long as common sense is maintained concerning fire safety. Jim Gallagher, Sandy fire marshal for six years, has over 18 years of experience in fire prevention.

His advice seems simple, but the reality is that two people in Sandy died last January in a Sandy Heights home because the batteries in two smoke detectors were bad.

Gallagher, in fact, says a smoke detector is "a gift of life, the most loving gift you can give anyone." And after that, one can give batteries as a gift for years.

Gallagher recommends Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved products, not only with smoke detectors but strings of lights as well.

Strings of lights should be checked for frayed areas, and Gallagher says to be sure and not overload circuits. He also advises against leaving one's home with the lights on, which is probably a common practice.

Trees being sold are often over a month old, and freshness is a factor in reducing the risk of fire. A fresh tree gives off a pungent odor, and the needles will not come off easily.

Cutting two inches off the base will cause the tree to absorb more water, keeping it fresher longer. Keep the tree out of the way of escape routes in the home, and away from heater registers and wood stoves.

The temptation to put candles on wreaths should be dismissed, said Gallagher. "That's asking for a problem to happen," he said.

Proper use of wood stoves is a must all winter long. In Sandy's district, 10 structure fires in 1982 were related to wood stove problems, one-third of the fire calls made.

Free wood stove inspections are offered in the Sandy, Boring and Hoodland fire districts. That is cost-effective when one considers the number of rigs sent to fight a fire.

Keeping local firemen at the station is a good goal for the holiday season.

Letter to the editor

Mismanagement charged

The Deep Creek Park sale represents another example of the County Commissioners' mismanagement of the assets and best interests of the people of Clackamas County.

These elected officials are going to sell off public land at a price that would make a prudent investor blush with embarrassment.

The land plus valuable timber are being sold for \$5,300 per acre. Most citizens would be very happy to find just land at that price, let alone a windfall of valuable timber.

This isn't the problem though. This money raised from the sale is to be used to support the remaining inadequate parks system in Clackamas County. The kicker is that the purchaser has agreed to pay off the modest debt from the timber revenues

in five years or less. What happens to our park system when we no longer receive payments from the sale of Deep Creek Park? Sell another park?

I would certainly not want my investments handled by Clackamas County Commissioners! Sounds like a sure-fire way to end up bankrupt.

Obviously, the Commissioners have turned a deaf ear to the residents (so what's new) in the area of the park, not to mention the Estacada City Council in coming to this decision to sell off the public's resource.

Just when we thought we had gotten rid of James Watt, he shows up here in the form of Clackamas County Commissioners.

Richard Weiss
Aurora



Comment

Economic development ongoing

by LARRY WALKER

The single biggest topic of concern in Oregon today, without doubt, revolves around that big, amorphous, foggy vagary we call "economic development."

Economic development. A handy term. Perhaps too handy. We read about it, we talk about it, but just what is it? Is economic development jobs? Is economic development a new electronics plant? Is it higher retail sales. My answer is no.

It is none of those. Those elements are the results of economic development. Because economic development, in my view, is a process, not an end result.

Economic development is an extended, difficult, time-consuming, often frustrating process of dedication. It is fraught with problems, delays, setbacks, rewards and exhilaration.

Economic development is a continuing process that all communities must go through in order to create a more aggressive, positive, fertile and receptive atmosphere wherein business can flourish and prosper to the highest and most profitable degree possible.

The economic development game is now, and will become so

even more in the future, a survival of the fittest, not the fattest.

I won't attempt to predict the future. But there are some characteristics about that future that I think we have to understand.

First: Attracting quality future development to this state; enhancing expansion potential; retaining existing industry; driving the entrepreneurial spirit; and creating the atmosphere for dynamic change, does not lie with state government. But strong leaders in state government are crucial, and we've missed them. Nor does the responsibility for this process of attraction lie with the federal government.

The responsibility for future attraction lies, instead, directly and firmly in the laps of local business people: Workers, educators and politicians in local communities.

The old "top down" approaches don't work anymore, if they ever did work very well. Instead, it's the "bottom-up" approaches that will turn the tide in Oregon.

It's the carefully targeted individual solutions that grow directly from a uniquely local set of circumstances and are derived from local consensus that will drive Oregon in the next 20 years and beyond.

The second of the future characteristics we need to unders-

tand is this: Every community in this state, in an honest and a forthright manner, must address the several and varied key community elements of effective, quality business growth and diversification potential.

Define them, analyze them, assault them, refine them, rework them, establish them. That is the process of economic development.

So it's time to attempt a more complete answer to that question: What is economic development?

Economic development is having something unique and specific to offer those prospects who have needs to match what is being offered.

Economic development is being capable of offering an efficient, honest, cooperative local government, from top to bottom.

Economic development is being able to show a sound, strong, helpful and hopeful working relationship between employers and employees across the statewide spectrum, with a minimum of management/labor conflict.

Economic development is dynamically demonstrating a progressive, pro-active government, and general community attitude toward issues of growth and planning.

Economic development is being able to offer both new and existing

industry an adequate supply of people. People with good work attitudes and education; and to provide along with the people, ample facilities for specialized training and retraining.

We must think of ourselves as being examined on a shopping center shelf, and we need to amend and modify our ingredients label accordingly.

If we work on those elements, we're going to be in a position to present a much more attractive product label to our upcoming relocation shoppers.

Futurists tell us that America is in the process of a transformation away from the industrial society and toward an information society. We're in the continual process of changing from an outmoded, outdated crumbling rusty old heavy industrial society, and towards a sleek, lean, dynamic, fast-paced, world-class information society.

If that is true, no state could be in a better position to capitalize on those trends than Oregon. We have the people, the facilities, the space, the temperament, the tradition and the quality of life to meet that new age nose-to-nose, long term.

Larry Walker is publisher of Oregon Business magazine.

Personally speaking

All tied up in knots over scouting

My son wants to be a Boy Scout. What for I don't know. It seems to me now that we have velcro on tennis shoes, there is no longer any reason to learn to tie knots.

I don't know what took the collective geniuses of this country so long to come up with the idea anyway. Dragging shoelaces are probably responsible for more injury accidents than rear-engine Corvairs. If we hadn't thought of velcro, we probably would have had to put one of those warning beepers like they have on seat belts in every pair of shoes.

I personally have a problem with tying my shoes. A warning beeper to let me know when mine were untied would make me the only pedestrian on the street with musical accompaniment.

If I had been a Boy Scout, maybe I could have learned to tie them properly. With my son learning to tie 800 different knots, we might be able to make it more than two blocks before the car-top carrier slides off the car next time we pack up for a family outing. I am probably the only person in the country who received a traffic citation for failure to clean peanut butter



by HANK EMRICH

stains from the highway.

I still have nightmares of the grisly sight of four days' worth of campsite meal supplies spread over one-half mile of I-84. Peanut butter and olives mixed together on asphalt does not make a pretty picture. I would have thought the trooper would understand my reluctance to touch that kind of a mess without surgical gloves.

Perhaps my son's Boy Scout training in first aid would have come in handy in that instance also. There should be a merit badge somewhere in the manual for things like that. It is probably listed somewhere near cleaning up oil spills, under environmental cleanup. With all the badges I see those kids wearing, there are probably even sub-headings for creamy and crunchy.

I know that making fun of Boy Scouts is the only thing lower than making fun of household felines, but I just do not understand why kids want to get all those badges and go around looking like miniature Douglas MacArthurs.

I have a friend who saves a fortune on Christmas tree ornaments each year. They just hang their son's merit badges by little pieces of thread, bring out a few of his projects from Cub Scout days, and have the troop come in and hang them up on the tree.

The only trouble was, as soon as those 17 scouts saw an evergreen, they thought they were on a campout. It took my friend two days to convince the scouts to dismantle

their pup tents and remove them from the living room.

Luckily, it is almost impossible to build a campfire using a magnifying glass and the light from a 60 watt lightbulb.

When you are a scout, you are a scout all the way. There are scout shirts, scout caps, scout belts, even scout fruit-of-the-loom.

Even their toys are scouts. Anyone who wants to know the extent to which this has gone only has to look at Luke Skywalker and R2D2 in a scout uniform.

The nice thing is they can use their scout knives and other scout tools to make all kinds of scout projects.

Scouting is an important part of the economy. These projects have to be the single biggest source for garage sale items in the country.

No matter what anybody tells you, everything kids do in scouting is not always put to good use. Parents' time is spent not only helping with cooking projects and memorizing scout mottos. There is also the time spent untying the knots from little brother and sister.