

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Vandalism only raises questions

Vandalism is the kind of thing that makes one wonder about the human condition.

On Meinig Avenue, near the top of the hill as one travels north past Meinig Park, the city of Sandy recently put up a row of 10 reflector-signs. Only a few days after doing so, every one of the rectangular signs was bent, and the reflectors subsequently broken off.

A walk downtown will reveal at least two businesses that have slogans spray-painted on them, and a grocery store — newly remodeled less than a year ago — has a cracked window.

Anyone who has done any maintenance work knows how expensive such repairs can be. Vandalism costs us as taxpayers and as consumers.

We regularly hear about young people who are winning music, drama and speech competitions, earning Eagle Scout awards and participating on winning athletic teams. Some people are managing to structure their time in a constructive manner.

What is happening with the rest?

Is it because Sandy has no bowling alley, movie theater or other places for young people to gather? Is it because of high unemployment or dead-end jobs? Is vandalism more or less of a problem here than in Portland? Gresham? Seattle? Wichita? Detroit?

Would it help to have more policemen on duty?

There is something absolutely puzzling about vandalism. It is hard to imagine how someone could get a kick out of damaging 10 reflector-signs.

Letters to the editor

Cartoon inaccurate portrait of bus drivers

I was very disappointed with the editorial cartoon concerning seat belts on school buses in the Feb. 27 edition of the Sandy Post. Sandy area schools are having enough problems with area voters understanding what really goes on in our schools without additional unfair bad publicity.

At present children are not allowed to stand in their seats or hang into the aisles on the bus as the cartoon depicts. If they choose to break the rules they are disciplined accordingly.

Most of the employees of the school district that I've been involved with are trying desperately to provide a quality service to the district with the resources that are available to them. Please limit your coverage of the schools to the real accomplishments and real problems of our schools. This will allow the citizens of the area to form an informed and accurate opinion of the Sandy area schools.

Nancy Richards
Concerned parent
Sandy

Sandy High senior supports Lenchitsky

I am a senior at Sandy Union High School. I would like my opinion heard about the upcoming school board election. I would like to recommend that you vote for Mr. Terry Lenchitsky. Mr. Lenchitsky feels students need vocational education.

As a student about to graduate, I am not going on to college. I want to find a job and start working.

At Sandy High School I have received excellent training in my shop class. I know Mr. Lenchitsky is

very supportive of our program. Mr. Lenchitsky and Mr. Boring will occasionally stop in to see our class perform. It's a good feeling to know they care and support the shop classes. With the training I have received at SUHS, I know I will land a good job and not have to be a fast food worker for minimum wage.

So please vote for Mr. Terry Lenchitsky. We need him!

Deon Cunningham
Boring

FFA chapter thanks 150 Sandy businesses

The Sandy FFA chapter would like to thank the 150 businesses in the Sandy area that supported us by buying tickets to the annual donkey basketball game. We were able to make it a great success.

The money will help support our members at the upcoming forestry skills contest at Sandy High School. It

will also provide financial support for our members going to the state convention in Corvallis during spring vacation.

Again, we greatly appreciate your support and hope that everyone enjoyed the game!

Honour Ferdun
Chapter reporter

Man proven leader

It is with great pleasure that I wish to commend Terry Lenchitsky to be re-elected to the board of education of the Sandy Union High School.

I have known Terry for several years, and he has fully demonstrated that he is a responsible and able person of the community to be represented on this board. He is a college graduate, a successful business manager, highly regarded in a local

service organization, civic affairs and church. His understanding of the challenge of public secondary education amidst the breakdown of the family structure, and its profound influence on teen-agers in our country, are only some of the problems he is fully conversant with.

Vote for Terry Lenchitsky when his name comes up for re-election.

John H. Van Lierop
Sandy

Policy on letters

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced and signed. An address and telephone number should also be provided, although only the name of the letter writer and the city or area he is from will be published.

Letter writers may also wish to include a title or office held if it is appropriate considering the subject matter.

The news deadline of noon, Tuesday is also the deadline for letters to the editor.

Letters should be accurate, free of libelous remarks and in good taste. This newspaper attempts to publish all letters it receives from local residents. We reserve the right to edit letters to conform to style guidelines or for length. A preferred maximum length is 300 words.



Letters to the editor

Board members respond to criticism

In the Feb. 27 Sandy Post, Mr. and Mrs. Cooke wrote criticizing Welches School. We would like to respond.

Contrary to what was stated, administrators at Welches are not asking Welches patrons to finance a full-time counselor or more remedial aides.

The Cookes say "scholastic aptitude tests have declined every year for the past 18 years." Statistics from the U.S. Department of Education show Oregon Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores have risen from an average of 908 in 1962 to 928 in 1985. This 928 point average was surpassed by only one state, New Hampshire, in the 22 states using the test.

The Cookes state "only 15 percent of public schools use a phonics-first reading system." Welches recently adopted "Success in Reading," which is a phonics-first system.

The petition the Cookes are circulating suggests Welches students are not being academically prepared for Sandy High School. In national California Achievement Tests (CAT), Welches students have consistently averaged scores in the upper half of the nation in virtually every subject and grade level. In the state-wide writing test conducted at Welches last year, eighth grade students averaged scores above the state norm in every area listed.

We, too, are concerned about Welches kids dropping out of Sandy High. Some of the contributing factors, Roberta Hutton, superintendent of Sandy High, listed at our January

meeting were:

1. The transition from a small school to a large school.

2. The distance Sandy High is from students' homes and families.

3. Availability of teenage jobs on the mountain. Roberta Hutton reports a significant number of dropouts occur at the start of the ski season.

4. Lack of activity bus. When the activities bus ran there was a far greater involvement in Sandy High School from the feeder district students. Involved kids feel good about themselves, their peers, and school. Right now there are fewer kids participating in anything — not just sports.

5. Dropout rates vary. Oregon has a poor student tracking system. If Sandy High is not sure if a departing student has re-entered another school, he is considered a dropout even though he may be in school elsewhere.

It is ironic that while Oregonians are pressing youth for higher academic achievements our state laws allow students to drop out of school at 16 with little more than their parent's consent.

In that truancy is related to the dropout rate, Welches' absentee rate stands at 4.5 percent compared to a county-wide rate of 6 to 8 percent.

Welches students are academically well prepared for Sandy High School. We're proud to be part of the Welches education system.

Dave Enna

Zigzag
Don Thornberg
Welches
Carol Harmon

Brightwood
Marjorie Wicks
Brightwood
Welches School board members

Lenchitsky serves well in important position

Schools are the largest employers in our area and it is important that we secure the best people possible to serve on our school boards.

Terry Lenchitsky is a man who has served very well and is presently on the board.

His interest is in providing a good

education for students, but keeping in mind the concerns of the taxpayers. He has no personal axe to grind, and I recommend a vote for Terry Lenchitsky for Sandy Union High School board member.

Howard Berger
Sandy

Personally speaking

Words not always what they seem to be

by MARK CISSNA

A rose is a rose is a rose.

Is this true? Apparently as consumers we think so. We often tend to categorize like-products under brand names.

Take, for example, Q-tips. Q-tips is a brand of swabs, but it is frequently used to describe various other swabs, not just Q-tips. When people want to clean their ears, most will ask for a "Q-tip."

Also, when a person asks someone to hand him a Kleenex, he usually doesn't mean the specific brand, he merely means a facial tissue. There are many brands of facial tissues on the market today: Coronet, Scotty, and Viva, just to name a few. But absent-mindedly, we tend to refer to them all as Kleenexes. Since I work in a grocery store, people often ask me where the Kleenex is. I just smile and show them where the facial tissue is.

Another example is Band-Aid. Band-Aids have been stereotyped to such an extent that I couldn't even remember what the generic name was. Finally, after some help from

Webster's Dictionary, I discovered that Band-Aids are a brand of adhesive bandages. Every time I get a cut I find myself asking for a Band-Aid.

How about Chapstick? The word Chapstick is used to describe various lip glosses and lip balms. I'm sure we all remember Suzy Chapstick skiing down the mountain saying, "Hi, I'm Suzy Chapstick." Can you imagine a Suzy Lipbalm?

What do you call "a-stereo-worn-on-the-head?" A Walkman. Actually the specific term, "Walkman," only refers to Sony's popular brand.

A final example that is becoming a thing of the past is coke. It used to be that the name Coke was used to refer to all colas. However, I think Pepsi is working hard to make sure we all know that colas are not all the same. This is the Pepsi generation.

For the companies who own name brands, the categorizing of like-products must be a good form of advertising for them. But are all like-products the same? I'm sure other companies don't think so.

A Band-Aid is a Band-Aid is a Band-Aid; unless it is made by Curad.

Lenchitsky concerned, involved, hard worker

We wish to comment on the candidacy of Terry Lenchitsky for re-election to the Sandy Union High School board.

Our interest is prompted by our concern for the youth of the Sandy area. We want those boys and girls to learn much, have their talents developed and with their teachers to vigorously pursue excellence.

We believe that Terry Lenchitsky is truly concerned about what happens to boys and girls and that he projects his hopes for them and his pride in their achievements with enthusiasm.

Terry is one of those rare people who willingly give many hours of labor in public service. He takes

pride in the fact that our democracy provides a welcome and an open door to every boy and girl through its school system. Sandy Union High School belongs to all of us and we are fortunate when men and women are found willing to work for us in the education of our youth.

We respectfully suggest to voters of the Sandy Union High School District that a vote for Terry Lenchitsky makes good sense. We get a hard worker, an intelligent and experienced board member and a good friend of boys and girls ready to give all the hours the position requires.

Pete and Helen Sulzbach
Sandy

Man voc-ed supporter

Please vote for Terry Lenchitsky, who is running for Sandy Union High School board position number 2. His track record indicates he is a supporter of vocational education.

With only a small percentage of SUHS graduates proceeding on to

higher education, students need an alternative. This alternative is vocational education. A YES vote for Mr. Lenchitsky will assure us this goal.

Jon Tobias
Sandy

SUHS budget too high

VOTERS!

Don't be fooled by the OEA or the NEA (Teacher's Unions). If you vote for a tax base for Sandy Union High School and Mount Hood Community College you will be relinquishing your control over future spending.

The tax base being asked for Sandy Union High is about \$4,300 per year

per student; higher per capita than most schools. MHCC should eliminate all athletic programs.

Yes, I'm Mad! 80 percent of our property taxes are going for schools. Sandy Union High's \$4.9 million is excessive!

Fred Dalziel
Corbett