

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representativeMount Hood loop
good promotion

The Mt. Hood Recreation Association — the branch of the Mt. Hood Area Chamber of Commerce that works to promote tourism — has yet another good proposal on the drawing board. It is a plan to revitalize the Mt. Hood loop drive.

Keith Petrie, executive director, is realistic in his expectations. People should plan to see the economic benefit from the tourism promotion in five or 10 years, not next year.

In the meantime, there is plenty of foundation to be laid. It includes soliciting the help of the Highway Division in marking the route, which would take travelers through the Mount Hood corridor, by Cooper's Spur and past the seven water falls along the Columbia Gorge.

The success depends, of course, on the assumption that the American public still prefers to vacation from its cars. All indications are that that is true.

Four areas would be included in the loop drive promotion: Sandy, Mt. Hood, Hood River and Cascade Locks.

The Mt. Hood Recreation Association is moving ahead on the proposal regardless of whether the Sandy, Hood River and Cascade Locks chambers decide to pitch in. The Recreation Association has budgeted \$8,000, and is asking for a \$2,000 contribution from the other three chambers of commerce.

Part of the money would go toward the printing on 10,000 color brochures. A rough draft presently lists 54 points of interest. Some kiosks would also be set up in shopping centers to provide directions and stir interest.

It is our opinion that the Sandy Chamber should participate in the promotion. Some local businesses are already slated to appear on the list of attractions, and the entire area should eventually benefit from the promotion. It is up to local business people to figure out how to best benefit from the tourism industry.

As Petrie pointed out, the Mount Hood loop drive is a natural for out-of-state travel writers and tour promoters. One could begin a vacation with a morning at the Sandy Mountain Festival, visit a site along the Barlow Trail, take a picture from Buzzard Point, see the Bridge of the Gods, take a ride on the Sternwheeler, check out the view of the fish going through the ladder at Bonneville Dam and end with a three-mile hike at Ramona Falls. Granted, that would be a long day, and that is just the point. The possibilities are endless.

Petrie sees the promotion as one that can be built upon. It is possible to eventually get a matching fund from lottery proceeds. This is just the kind of project that meets the criteria. It takes in a large area, produces jobs, and is matched by local money.

Petrie also has a hunch the Tourism Division will set up a fund with money available if local communities will match it.

To support the Mount Hood loop drive promotion, one must accept the premise that tourism can be financially beneficial to an area. When we look at the options, tourism is the one that continues to look the best to us.

Letter to the editor

Minority censors
public forums

Due to recent events in the mountain community, it is no longer possible for the majority to stand by and let the minority dictate choices for members of the community.

This letter is to express concern over the actions of a few members of the Welches PTO at the May 13 PTO general meeting. At this meeting, a small group of misinformed people decided they had the right to censor public forums for the entire community. We feel it necessary to clarify the issues in question.

Four months ago, a parent in our community approached the Welches School PTO board about the possibility of allowing Planned Parenthood to conduct an informational presentation on the programs they have available. This presentation, for adults only, was to take place at an evening meeting.

At the Feb. 11 board meeting, the PTO board discussed the request and put it on the agenda for the general meeting that evening. The program was presented to the general membership as an informational meeting for parents to decide whether or not this program would be an appropriate supplemental sex education program. It would be presented in the evening to those sixth through eighth grade students whose parents gave permission for them to attend.

Never was the program, or any other program, considered to become part of the school's sex education curriculum. This was to be a totally voluntary extracurricular program for children whose parents decided the program was worthwhile after listening to the Planned Parenthood representative.

At the March 11 PTO meeting, the membership was informed that the board was working on scheduling the

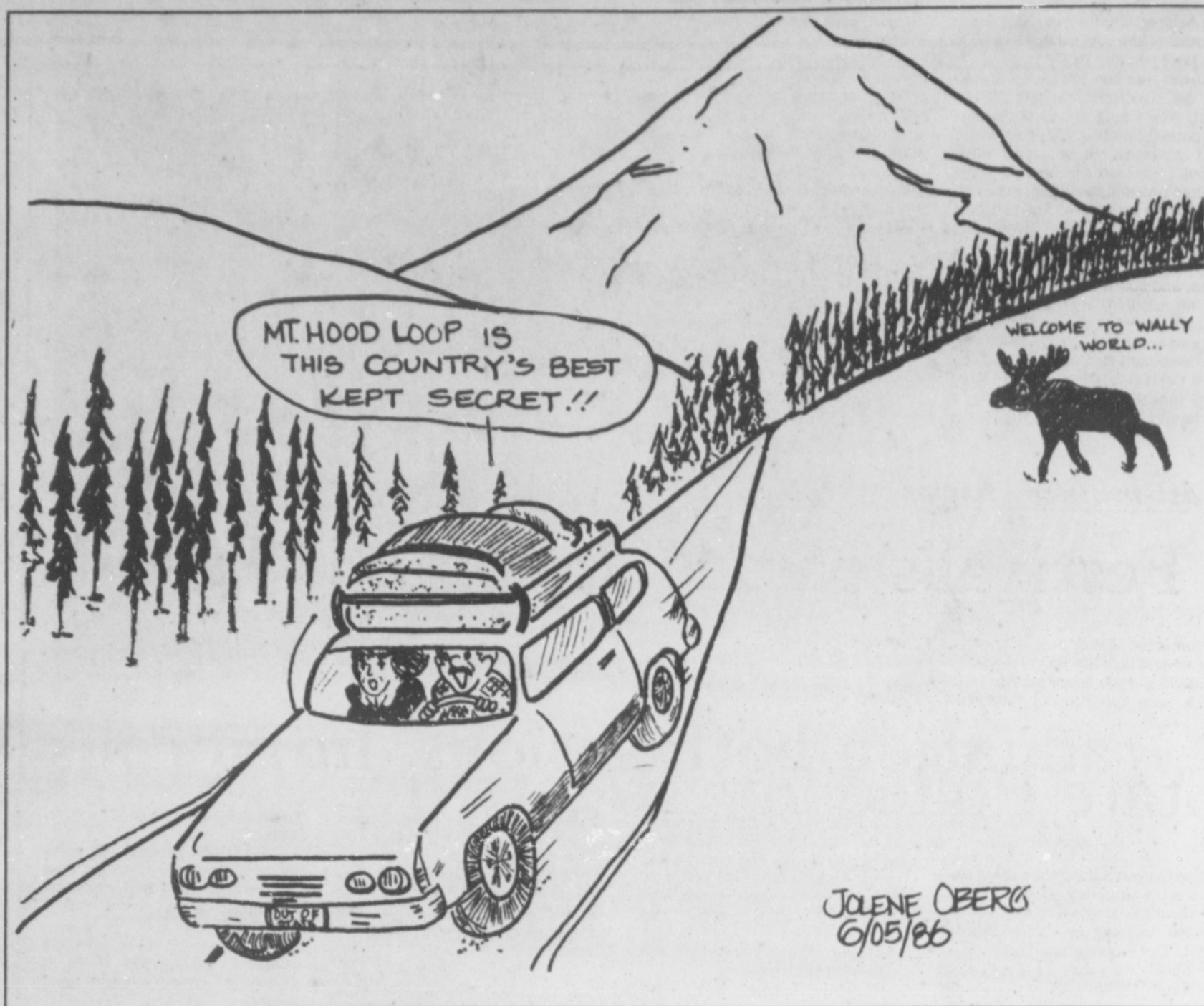
information meeting, but that a date had not yet been set. There was no additional information about the program to be presented or discussed from the membership.

During the April 8 general membership meeting, a letter describing the presentation to be given to the parents was read to those present. Planned Parenthood had been invited to give its presentation on May 15. After two members expressed their concerns about this presentation, a vote was taken as to whether or not to go ahead with this project. The vote was 10-2 in favor of continuing with the presentation.

Before the May 13 board meeting, a PTO board member asked to have a speaker give a presentation about alternative sex education programs to the membership that evening. The PTO allowed presentations from two groups without first publicizing information about the speakers or allowing the membership to vote on the presentation. No one questioned their right to bring in this information program. However, a small group then forced another vote to prevent Planned Parenthood from presenting their scheduled informational meeting.

It is extremely important that people understand the reason behind this letter. It is not the issue of Planned Parenthood as the people signing this letter do not necessarily agree with Planned Parenthood philosophies. The real issue is whether a few uninformed people in the community should be allowed to take away the freedom of choice for the rest of the community. We believe they do not have that right and feel it is too important an issue to be ignored.

Kathleen McDougall
Welches
And 101 co-signers



Letters to the editor

Teachers, relax; jobs not in jeopardy

Schools will soon close for summer vacation and I would like to share with our classroom teachers before they leave. Unfortunately, classroom teachers have been brought into the school levy problem, leaving some teachers to feel their jobs may be in jeopardy because the levy failed. I don't think that assumption is correct.

First, the proposal made by Affordable Education Association was to cut the levy 50 percent, not the budget. No responsible group would even consider a 50 percent reduction in the budget. Actually, the proposed reduction in terms of the total budget would be 20 to 25 percent, not an unreasonable request under present economic conditions.

Secondly, I believe school is teacher-teaching students. To cut teachers is just as silly as cutting school bus services that bring the students. If we don't have teachers and students how can we have a school? I believe there are three basic points that can't change. (1.) Sandy will have schools. (2.) Sandy has students. (3.) Sandy needs classroom teachers.

Third, my study of the high school and elementary school budgets indicate administration costs are almost the same as teacher costs. As I stated above, teachers-teach students, so why are we spending millions on administration? I realize the problem is more complicated

than outlined here but a school could function with one or two administrators and classroom teachers. (Check the private schools.)

I hope my simple note and logic

will be helpful. In due course, the levy problem will be resolved. Meanwhile, teachers be patient with the taxpayers who are just trying to survive. We appreciate and need our classroom teachers. Hope to see you

next fall. In the meantime, have a nice summer.

John King
Sandy

Duplication is too expensive

As most of the voters in the Sandy Elementary District are aware, we will soon be voting on yet another school budget measure. Like the rest of the voters here, I am also aware that we will be the ones who determine the outcome of that measure.

I feel like you do, no doubt, fellow voter, that it is really a heavy responsibility because we are faced with determining how we can best educate the children without asking the taxpayer to carry an unrealistic part of the costs involved. As I have stated, the outcome of the measure rests with us, the voters. I suggest that our votes be cast with a sense of fairness in mind.

I draw your attention to one important consideration in voting. Costs of funding kindergarten will be more than offset through elimination of the money currently being spent in funding positions that duplicate themselves by a factor of five. We feel that parents of preschoolers should be particularly interested in

this measure and to the taxpayers I can say we would be upgrading our local education system without increasing tax bills. Should the school board agree with our proposal to include kindergarten and consolidation but fail to offer reductions in their proposed levy, such action would be a very counter-productive move on their part.

I personally believe that all processes of consolidation would be made with the goal of maintaining quality basic education and at the same time eliminating costly duplications throughout the district. Just to give you an idea of what I mean by costly system duplication, please consider the fact that we taxpayers are footing the tax bill for the following unnecessary positions:

1. Five school superintendents; 2. Five administrative offices; Five business managers and other personnel; 4. Twenty-five school board members at approximately \$3,000 per board member times 25 covered

by liability insurance plus other costs.

I really think the above positions to be costly, unnecessary and actually detrimental to conducting an efficient, smooth running and cost-effective school system. I can't recall the last time I ever spoke to anyone who, when presented with a bill for services, failed to scrutinize the charges and complain loudly if he felt he was being overcharged.

Another thing I find disturbing is the fact that not all elementary schools within the district are preparing their students for high school entry with identical curricula. Our thrust would be to institute a standardized, integrated curriculum which would benefit students and teachers at all levels.

It is further observed that by improving bus scheduling, consolidating purchases of school supplies and unification of instructional supplies and equipment, would all assist in reducing tax levies to us through reduced operating expense.

I feel that any school board in the state should have respect for the financial conditions of the people who support their schools. Efforts towards running a more cost-effective school system should be their focus of attention, while never giving an inch regarding quality basic education, as is being accomplished by our teaching staff.

Lloyd A. Cummins
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.

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

