

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Patriotism goes beyond flag waving

The short presentation by Senator Mark Hatfield during a breakfast hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Sandy was well timed. His speech served as a reminder that there are varying ways of being patriotic.

During a time when the public generally supports muscle flexing in a confrontation with Libya, a well-placed U.S. Senator reminds us not to equate a strong military with national security, to keep in mind that there are other important factors to consider.

Hatfield's liberal views on world matters are no secret, of course. But his talk was like a breath of fresh air. It is nice to have it reconfirmed, every once in a while, that someone else also thinks the arms race is lunacy.

We also like his call for "ingenuity in geopolitics." Certainly there are better solutions than having more bombs than anyone else. Those solutions require an understanding that other people around the globe see the world differently than we do.

And certainly, as Hatfield pointed out, we can no longer afford the national debt that the military largesse is contributing to.

Besides just celebrating a day off, remember this Fourth of July that we are also celebrating having a choice.

Letters to the editor

Look at consequences before closing schools

Oh boy, here comes another Sandy School election. How do I vote? Let me see, if I vote "no" schools could very well close. Do I want schools to close?

When schools close no one wins. Looking back in time, all through the history of this great country, schools have been the center of our community.

Like, time changes, our schools must change to keep up with the times. No longer can we just teach the three R's. Our lives are becoming more and more complex and competitive. With this, a student must take full advantage of the curriculum offered. By cutting the curriculum, we as taxpayers are only cheating and robbing the students of a good education.

Let's cut the budget! What does this mean? We have such a hard time passing budgets I just can't believe there is any gravy in the budget to

cut. Sure, there are sports, music, clubs and extracurricular activities that could be cut. On the contrary, when I went to Sandy High School the only thing that kept me there was sports. Without music and the performing arts how will students know if they possess any kind of talent?

Furthermore, if schools close the crime rate will probably rise. Just think, while you are working on your nest egg for the future, a bored, out-of-school, soon-to-be delinquent could be ripping off your house. Now this is purely hypothetical but it makes good sense to me.

In conclusion, when schools close families move out of the area. When families move, the economics of the community suffers. Therefore, the next time we are called upon to vote, let's think about what happens when schools close.

Stephen Aubin
Sandy

'Slobs' make it hard to keep parks clean

Once again we are at a point where we have to put up with the negative forces of this society.

We can't call them pigs for the pig is a noble beast that should not be so insulted. The sub-humans litter the roads, parks and rest stops and vandalize wherever they go and most surely do not fit into our culture. The only term that seems to fit such vermin is slobs.

There is a certain environment where this sub-species would fit in. These areas are called dumps. They contain rodents, flies and all kinds of stinking, obscene materials, so the slobs should feel right at home. They might even find a sanitary sewer outfall where they could fish and swim. We should allow them to live like rats as long as it is away from where the Homo sapiens dwell.

As long as we are on the subject I would like to suggest a few things to the regular good people who frequent these facilities. Disposal of your refuse by the attendants is a courtesy and not an obligation.

Placing all wet and perishable materials in tied or sealed plastic bags would be a great help for sanitary reasons. And don't overfill the cans. It is better to find other facilities or take it home with you if the containers are at capacity. Remember many of these places are maintained by part time people or have limited personnel.

With a little cooperation we can make our parks, roads and rest stops more clean and beautiful.

Al Harper
Eagle Creek

Where to write

State Representative Bob Shipprack, D-Dist. 23, 22610 Forest Park Rd., Beaver Creek, Ore., 97004. 631-3817.

State Senator Steve Starkovich, D-Dist. 14, 52 Willamette Green, Canby, Ore., 97013. 263-8551.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Oregon, 711 Hart Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. 202-224-3753. Portland office

phone 221-3386.

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Oregon, 259 Russell Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. 202-224-5244. Portland office phone 221-3370.

Rep. Denny Smith, R-5th Dist., 1213 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C., 20515. 202-225-5711. Salem office phone (toll free) 800-452-7889.

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 of the letter.

The news deadline of noon, Tues-

day 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 area residents.

We reserve the right to edit letters to conform to style guidelines or for length. A preferred maximum length is 300 words.



Personally speaking

Show business spawns a few tale tales

by SCOTT NEWTON

Dale Nicholls, local musician, real estate agent and producer of the Front Stage Theater, can tell a story or two. They may sound like tall tales, but Nicholls claims they are true. A sampler:

At the age of 19, Nicholls hired on with a band that played alternately in Borger and Pampa, Texas, near the Oklahoma Panhandle. The place was rich with oil money. Nicholls was offered \$25 a week, which he accepted along with a ride from Nebraska to Texas. After the first week, Nicholls was paid \$20. The second week he was paid \$15, and complained loudly.

The director said he could get a lot of trombone players for \$15 a week. The remark may have hurt Nicholls' feelings but his pride was intact. He hitchhiked 850 miles home.

Nicholls, who left immediately after his confrontation with the band director, may have had the last laugh. "I always wondered where he got a trombone player on such short notice."

Just how tough was that job in Texas? Well, Nicholls remembers ducking a beer bottle thrown his way. It went over his head and directly into the bass drum. Nicholls has a way of adding, "That's a true story..."

In 1936 Nicholls got a job playing in a mob-owned night club in Kansas City. The kind of place where the help wears shoulder holsters.

"It's hard to imagine now, but here is how the job was: The band started at 9 o'clock at night, finished at 6:30 a.m., worked seven nights per week. The wages amounted to \$3 per night, \$21 per week."

One night two sailors were sitting with their girlfriends when a man at the next table made a remark that "didn't meet with their approval. The sailor raised him out of his chair

by his necktie and with one well-placed right, knocked the gentleman through two ringside tables. Before it was over, everyone in the entire place was in the fight. Customers, ladies, bartenders, bosses, everyone but the musicians."

Nicholls said it was a better bar-room brawl than one would see at the movies, and it was live.

There was a flight back from a USO show, with a large troupe of entertainers in a dangerously overloaded C-47. "When we finally landed in Burbank, the pilot kissed the ground. He said, 'If one of the motors had coughed a couple of times, we'd have had a big problem.'"

The times weren't all tough. There was travel in private compartments while touring with Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis. After he started working with Ricky Ricardo and the Tropicana Orchestra on the "I Love Lucy" shows, bookings in the summer months would include such places as the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas.

During one early period of barnstorming with a band he co-directed in the Midwest — comprised mainly of University of Nebraska students — they toured Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, North and South Dakota and Iowa. A two-week stay at a resort in Arkansas turned out to be their downfall. "We had extensive bookings we were committed to, but the resort owner wanted us to stay all summer. The guys in the band were fascinated by a large and lovely contingent of unmarried young ladies who were spending the summer at the resort. The co-leaders let the sidemen prevail, and we stayed at the resort. Predictably, when the summer ended, the band had no place to go."

The start of the really good

times began when Nicholls, his wife and two daughters drove a 1930 Model A Ford to California.

Nicholls and his wife went to see the popular Harry James Orchestra at the "World Famous" Hollywood Palladium. During the course of the evening, a musician he had been acquainted with and who had heard him play, suggested he audition for the band. Their first trombonist was

Nicholls hopped on a bus in Nebraska and rode for two days, arriving a block away Times Square.

Upon arrival, Nicholls — who was broke — discovered there were no bookings for 30 days. "This is what we call a panic situation," he said.

Friends provided food and lodging, and while he was waiting he received a pass to see Kate Smith at Radio Ci-

'It's hard to imagine now, but here is how the job was: The band started at 9 o'clock at night, finished at 6:30 a.m., worked seven nights per week. The wages amounted to \$3 per night, \$21 per week.'

leaving to enlist in the Santa Ana Air Force Band. Nicholls, who was working for the gas company, "read the meters at long distance" that day, and received a traffic ticket on the way to the audition.

He beat out eight other trombonists for the job. "I couldn't hardly believe it, but here I was, playing first chair trombone in the fabulous Harry James Band."

It didn't last long. The man he replaced flunked his physical and rejoined the band. But that was a turning point. Dale Nicholls was on his way.

Nicholls has been everywhere, it seems: north, east, south and west. But what about the Big Apple?

Well, yes, he has been to New York City. He got a call in 1939 from Little Joe Hart, who had a "minor" band with the same agent, and playing the same circuit, as Lawrence Welk.

(Smith died a few weeks ago.)

The band went on to play a lucrative 11-month engagement, traveling around in the back of a semi-trailer that had been made into a travel trailer. Nicholls said he spent a lot of time hoping the driver didn't sideswipe anyone.

There is a small-world story set in Sandy. Nicholls, who moved to Sandy in 1967, met George Bruns here. Bruns, a Sandy native, was head conductor at Walt Disney Studios for 15 years. The two had many mutual acquaintances.

Brun's theme from "Davy Crockett" was played so much in the Nicholls household that it "drove me crazy." According to an obituary in a 1983 Sandy Post, 8 million copies of the album were sold.

Brun's, a "fantastic talent," took piano lessons from Kate Schmitz of Sandy. She must have been a "great teacher," Nicholls said.

Letter to the editor

Nation shouldn't lose sight of ideals

We are celebrating the Fourth of July in Sandy but really are not doing much recalling of that 4th of July in 1776 when we declared to the world what our new nation was to stand for.

The essence of the Declaration of Independence — the statement of our ideals as a nation — covers only a few lines but they are deeply significant. Here they are:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new

government, laying its foundations on such principles and organizing its power in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

In past years the program for Sandy's Fourth of July celebration included the above immortal words but not this year's.

Perhaps in coming years we might celebrate the Fourth of July with some review and discussion of our precious heritage. Perhaps we might include a bit of study of our Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to our United States Constitution.

The American Civil Liberties Union says that we are entering a dark period at this time when there is more mixing of religion with government, more censorship of information flowing to citizens, more restrictions on the right to know, less enforcement of civil rights, more

hostility to women's rights to equality, and certainly less right to life if one thinks of the threat of nuclear war.

W. Pete Sulzbach
Sandy

The Sandy Post

(USPS 481-180)

MEMBER Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, National Newspaper Association and U.S. Suburban Press

Published weekly Thursdays by the Outlook Publishing Co. Box 68, Sandy, Oregon 97055. Second class postage paid at Sandy, Oregon.

668-5548

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Clackamas County per year \$9.00
Multnomah County \$10.00
Elsewhere in Oregon \$11.50

Sandy Post, Sandy, Oregon 97055

No. 25

July 3, 1986