

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Youth Center succeeds despite some problems

Few people in Sandy would argue with the concept behind the Sandy Youth Center, which was intended to have volunteers with a Christian point of view provide a drug-free environment for young people between the ages of 13 and 19.

But, recently, the picture has not been all rosy. People from three nearby businesses have complained to the chief of police about problems with loitering and vandalism near the center. One businessman has picked up beer bottles off his roof and swept up broken glass off the parking lot.

Another business person has had to spend hundreds of dollars — maybe thousands — fixing broken windows and repairing other damage.

It was a problem that many people might have predicted. As video-game arcades have moved to various spots throughout Sandy, vandalism, loitering and drugs have followed. The parking area to the north of the Sandy Youth Center, which is at 38707 Pioneer Blvd., has been a recent problem spot.

Sandy police officers patrol the area, also known as Pioneer Square, but they must patrol other parts of town as well.

There is no single solution, but the Sandy Youth Center is moving in the right direction to try to solve the problems.

Bryon Tolle, who first organized the center, hopes to work out problems with the neighbors by having the adults supervise the parking area as well as the activities inside.

Such supervision should go a long way toward preventing more problems, and such action is needed if the efforts of many individuals and organizations are not to go to waste.

The center is funded by local churches, businesses and individuals. Tolle is a member of a three-person board that directs the non-profit organization.

The Youth Center, which has been open since Sept. 29, receives some income from its video machines and snack counter, and volunteer staffing has been steady.

It has been open four nights a week and serves about 150 young people a week. Many of the young people, Tolle believes, would be hanging out on the streets if it weren't for the Youth Center.

What it comes down to is that a handful of people are trying to achieve extremely ambitious, and perhaps even unrealistic, goals.

We should not make the mistake of describing the Sandy Youth Center as another video-game arcade. Something much more important is going on there.



Labor bureau also helps boss

by MARY "WENDY" ROBERTS
Commissioner of Labor

The Bureau of Labor and Industries helps both workers and employers.

In 1985, Oregon boasted 54,309 small businesses employing nearly 1 million workers. Many of these employers provide employment in small towns and feel far from state assistance in running their businesses. The Bureau of Labor and Industries helps business people throughout the state with "Technical Assistance for Employers."

When I was elected Labor and Industries Commissioner in 1978, one of my first requests of the 1979 Legislature was that the name "Bureau of Labor" be changed to "Bureau of Labor and Industries." I wanted employers to understand that the bureau existed to serve all Oregonians — from blue collar workers to top management.

That first year we began to develop the Technical Assistance for Employers unit from a fledgling program to one that could put on a three-day conference for employers as we did recently.

Our goal over the last eight years has been to provide the state's

employers with all the information they might need to stay abreast of the law and avoid liability.

That kind of employer support is economic development in its purest form: we've helped employers save money — money that can be used to nurture and develop their businesses.

And we think we've helped employers build responsible working relationships with their employees. Cooperation between labor and management is the hallmark of a company that can go toe to toe with the competition. We think fair treatment enhances that relationship.

When we began developing the technical assistance unit, we surveyed other states to see how they provided information to employers. We were surprised to find that our program was unique. Today, we have developed a fine model for other states seeking to work positively with employers.

To really find out how best to help employers, several years ago we developed a marketing plan for technical assistance. As part of that plan, we sent a survey to 12,000 businesses statewide.

We learned that employers wanted more information about wage and hour laws, workers' compensation, injured workers, overtime, minors

and part-time employment, and hiring and firing.

We help employers get that information and more through three services:

• The first is a telephone hotline that answers employers' questions on wage and hour matters and civil rights, to the tune of about 1,200 calls a month. Through the telephone service, we are able to give educational tips that help small employers businesses solve their own personnel issues.

• The second is a unit that provides free reports on topics such as overtime. We have more than 20 of these publications available. We also publish wage-and-hour and civil rights handbooks for \$5 each.

• The third program provides seminars on employment laws. The seminars cover a wide range of subjects, such as "Writing a company policy that really works," and "How to hire the right person." We target seminars to special employer groups also, recognizing that different companies have different needs. For example, we've developed seminars for health care professionals and nursing home administrators, restaurants, wholesalers, transportation and communication. Employers who want a custom-

made seminar can hire the services of the technical assistance unit on-site at their business. The unit will provide the employer with a list of topics so the employer can build a program to suit the needs.

Last year, the technical assistance group provided seminars to more than 3,000 Oregon employers — a record for the bureau.

One of the aspects of the unit that I am most proud is our ability to quickly bring changes in the law to the employers' attention, and rapidly provide information on new subjects of concern.

When employers began asking questions on employees and AIDS, the unit was ready with answers. When companies needed to know their rights and liabilities in drug testing, the unit helped them look at the whole picture.

If this kind of service sound attractive, call the bureau at 229-5841. There are other places to call for information: workplace safety, Accident Prevention Division, 378-3272; workers' compensation insurance, Workers' Compensation Department, 378-3302; withholding of state taxes, Oregon Department of Revenue, 1-800-452-2838; unemployment, Employment Division, 378-8420.

Letters to the editor

Teachers deserve decent benefits

This letter is in response to the writer who believes teachers are really part-time workers being paid full-time salaries.

I am continually amazed at the destructive mentality that has engulfed some of Sandy's citizens. I feel it is time to both defend and offer positive ways to strengthen the educational system in Sandy instead on constantly criticizing it.

The quality of our children's education cannot be determined by legislating absolute minimum classroom sizes or undermining a teacher's professional worth.

First of all, many — if not all — the benefits given to teachers are also given to other well-deserved professionals. Almost all companies such as electric companies, telephone companies and manufacturing companies offer the exact same benefits to their employees. Certainly most federal workers receive these benefits, also.

A community owes its teachers, firemen and policemen the best possible financial package with medical and retirement benefits so they can invest their energy, spirit and commitment back into our city.

Why does the AEA constantly attack our teachers rather than go after our state legislators who have the power to raise their own salaries and truly abuse our tax system?

None of my children's teachers have enjoyed a leisurely lifestyle. (Most have had to have a working spouse just to make ends meet.) All of my children's teachers have spent countless hours outside of the classroom grading papers and doing lesson preparations they could not complete during their full day at school. Our children live in a much more complicated society, which teachers are constantly challenged to ease.

I would hate for any of my child's teachers to be docked in pay if one child moved away, causing the classroom size to drop below 25.

Instead, I praise the situation in which my children enjoy a smaller

class size and get a greater portion of the teacher's attention.

How many of the AEA people have ever actually tried to teach 25 students, six periods a day (150 in the high school level), and meet each one of their emotional and educational needs?

Teachers should receive extra pay for extra duty. There are many other areas of employment that do pay overtime.

While I agree that poor teachers should not be teaching I also feel that greater parent support and involvement in a child's educational process can make a fair teacher try harder.

I urge patrons of this district to realize that negative, inaccurate information is tearing our community apart. If we don't block the AEA's bandwagon our children's educational opportunities will be severely diminished.

Carl Collins
(Part of the
52 percent that voted yes)
Sandy

Ridge Riders say thanks

The Sandy Ridge Riders would like to thank the community for its support in our sale of Christmas swags.

The outcome was pretty good and hopefully we will have another fundraiser soon.

Newspaper donors, keep those newspapers coming.

Charlene Kasch
Sandy

Thank you, angels of mercy

To the angels of mercy of Alpine Ambulance: Thank you for saving me and the children from our disaster on the mountain on New Year's Day.

I appreciate your help and kindness more than words can say.
Pat Lucas
and the Corbett Youth Group
Corbett

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. We reserve the right to edit letters to conform to style guidelines, for length or to remove libelous material. Letters should be 300 words long.

Magna Carta has great significance

by SEN. BOB PACKWOOD

Oregon has recently been host to a very special exhibit: the "Magna Carta: Liberty Under the Law," which displayed the original King John Magna Carta and original drafts of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The special emphasis on the Magna Carta is part of the celebration of the bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States. The official bicentennial commemoration will occur on Sept. 17, 1987.

Until the writing of the Magna Carta, there was no control over the English monarchs' power. King John, whose reign began in 1199, was

a tyrannical monarch who demanded increased military service from the feudal class and raised taxes without the consent of the English barons.

Court cases were decided according to his wishes, not according to the law. The rights of individuals were virtually nonexistent. In 1215 the English barons finally forced King John to agree to the 63 articles contained within the Magna Carta.

The Magna Carta made great strides toward establishing a constitutional government in England and emphasized individual rights for all. This document forced the king to adhere to the law, and defined certain individual rights.

Of tremendous relevance to

Americans today is the fact that the concepts of liberty and individual rights in the Magna Carta were the inspiration for our U.S. Constitution.

One example of the influence of the Magna Carta can be seen in our Bill of Rights with regard to individual liberties. Our Bill of Rights states that "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

More than 600 years earlier, the

Magna Carta established this right by saying: "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled or deprived of his standing in any other way... except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land."

There are many more examples from English history that we have adopted and incorporated into our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Where to write

State Representative Bob Shiprack, D-Dist. 23, 22610 Forest Park Rd., Beavercreek, Ore., 97004. 631-3817.

State Senator Bob Kintigh, D-Dist. 14, 38865 E. Cedar Flat Road, Springfield, 97478. 746-1842.

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.

Bobcats



by Adam Kraft

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