

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Give students chance to excel

Change is often difficult, but the Sandy Union High School administration should be praised, not chastised, for considering a plan to send Sandy High School students to Mt. Hood Community College for advanced study.

Four patrons testified Monday at the SUHS board of directors meeting in opposition to changes in the electronics program. Citizens often provide good insight, and the people who asked that the district take a good, hard look at the issue have a right to be concerned.

It will be interesting, however, to hear the administration's proposal in February. Any change, of course, would have to be approved by the board.

What the board is likely to hear is a proposal to send students from Sandy to Mt. Hood Community College for advanced classes in electronics, auto mechanics, metals and other subjects.

As Superintendent Kent Heaton told the patrons Monday evening, "We want to open vistas for students, not close them."

Some of Sandy's brightest students belong on the Mt. Hood Community College campus where they can get a head start on college without missing out on the important things that go with a high school education, including participation in music, sports and other activities. A well-rounded high school experience is important.

There are other changes in education that may be unsettling to some people simply because they are new. One is a potential videotape course offering. The use of videotape for educational purposes is undoubtedly in its infancy, and no one in Sandy is saying it will eliminate the need for teachers.

In February, we anticipate parents will testify that they are concerned about transportation and scheduling problems that could arise if students are sent to a college campus 10 miles away. While concern is warranted, the more important thing to consider is that bright students deserve a chance to excel by taking college-level classes. Most of the students will handle the added responsibility.

The issue is education, and parents have to be opened minded when the administration attempts to investigate new ideas.



Kid and cat: Time to say goodbye

At first, the patch of white crumpled on the path in the woods looked like a wind-blown paper bag. But I knew it was a dead cat and I knew it was our dead cat.

It should have been the wild tom who regularly raids the cat food dishes in the garage, but it was Killer. You don't live with a bundle of fur for 12 years without recognizing it, even when the life and the purr are gone.

It must have happened fast. I don't know if cats can have heart attacks or strokes, but death caught Killer in mid-stride while he was on his regular route through the woods tending to his daily cat business.

Maybe something startled him once too often. He spooked easy. Killer always looked surprised. We said it was because he was No. 2 Kid's cat.

As near as we can figure, No. 2 Kid, now 22, was about 10 when he asked for a cat for his birthday. April is a little early for kittens, but Ron

Clawson, now principal at North Gresham Grade School, had one and we went to his house. Scrawny kid

met scrawny cat. And Clawson, ever since, has called me "Killer's Mom."

The kitten wore a gleaming, black and white tuxedo. He would have looked like Cary Grant except he had

an off-center black spot on his nose that made him look more like Groucho Marx in evening dress. Though No. 2 Kid eventually grew into his legs and feet, Killer never did. His legs were always too long and he was oddly clumsy. Sometimes his back end didn't hear from his front end and he moved like two guys in a horse suit. With his tuxedo and his long legs, he was an awkward Fred Astaire.

No. 2 Kid named him. Except for slaughtering an occasional slow robin, Killer never lived up to his name. Like I said, he spooked easy. When startled, he would panic, putting his back feet into overdrive and loping away. More often than not he skidded on the corners and smashed into walls.

His dignity dented, he would look hurt when you laughed at him. Unlike most cats, Killer looked you right in the eye.

Killer always liked No. 2 Kid best, even when the boy grabbed the cat by his long legs and draped him around

his shoulders like a fur stole. Killer stayed there, limp as a noodle.

When No. 2 Kid came home from school, he and the cat would sit for long time in front of the window getting the kinks out of their day. It was a ritual that continued when the boy grew older and went to high school. He wanted to be an athlete, but he was cursed with late growth and did not attain his full size until after high school. Parents are not much comfort for problems like that. So No. 2 Kid sat quietly at the window, an ungainly boy stroking an ungainly cat, a furry, loving presence.

When he learned Killer was dead, No. 2 Kid didn't say much. He kidded that we had run out of catfood. It had not been a good day. He had to work overtime. His car had been rear ended and his cat had died. All grown-up problems for a kid all grown up.

But I expect in the long run, it will be the clumsy cat with the tuxedo that he will remember most. He was a good cat, the sort that would look you right in the eye.



Sharon Nesbit

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.

Letters to the editor

AEA supports many teachers

This is in response to "Teachers Deserve Decent Benefits" appearing in the Jan. 8 Sandy Post. The writer, who I understand teaches in Gresham, defends the present pay, promotion and fringe benefits of Sandy teachers.

The Affordable Education Association does not constantly attack our teachers. In fact, we support our hard working, dedicated teachers. For example, the article on Mark Smith, Aquatic Center director, tells of Mr. Smith's hard work, long hours and dedication to his job. We believe teachers of this quality should be commended and rewarded whenever possible.

On the other hand, we believe teachers should blend into the economic reality of the community. For example, the average pay for Oregon workers is declining because the \$10 to \$15 per hour sawmill jobs are being replaced by \$5 to \$7 per hour electronics jobs. Why should teachers be immune to the realities of our lives? We understand present fringe benefits on teachers salaries is

now 35 percent and by the year 2000 will be 50 percent. Where will the money come from to pay for these benefits? Are we to believe that teachers, because they consider themselves as being different from other professionals in other fields, are destined to be the sole beneficiaries of economic setbacks that are detrimental to the rest of us. It is this patron's opinion that teacher demands must conform with the taxpayers' ability to fund schools.

Mr. Collins statement that most companies provide the same benefits as teachers is not true. Most companies have a \$200 to \$250 deductible per person and \$600 to \$750 per family. Each reader can check his/her own situation on this point.

Also, Mr. Collins feels teachers should receive extra pay for extra duty. Apparently he is not aware that salaried workers do not receive overtime. I feel teachers should get on one side of the fence or the other. Either get paid as hourly workers and get paid for only the hours they work or draw a monthly salary and work whatever hours are needed to complete the job. You can't have it both ways and those who would have it that way are acting unprofessionally.

In closing, I commend Mr. Collins for a well-written letter listing the specific issues on which he differs. We understand that anyone would be disturbed over the possible reduction in leisure time and super-generous fringe benefits, yet we must remember there must be some relationship between the taxpayer's salary and fringe benefits and the teacher's salary and fringe benefits.

Lloyd A. Cummins, secretary Affordable Education Association (Also part of the 52 percent who voted yes)

Benefit was success

Many thanks to everyone who contributed their energy, donations, time and love to help make the Sue Jones benefit festival a wonderful success.

Special thanks to the Hoodland Women's Club, Cox's Auction, Mick Allen, Eclectic Antiques, John Aldridge, Richard Kennedy, Vicky Njust, Marilyn Giuntini, Beth Wiscavage, Otto's Cross Country Ski Rental, Pam and Steve Nelson, Deb-

bie Boland, Chalet Swiss, Will Frank, Tom Weeks, Dr. Ken Claggett of Beaverbrooke Dental Clinic, Marjory and Nate Wicks, Mountain Sports, Bev Stevens, Mary Anderson, Sue Duling, Louise Hoyt, Maureen Johnson, Patti Kennedy, Julie Gross, Liza Mickle, Timberline Lodge, Cindy Doran, Joann and Dennis Kennedy, Dr. Jim Flerchinger of Cascade Dental Clinic, Sue and Dave Enna, Gene and Cinda Tilgner, Los Amigos Spanish Restaurant, Porter's Nursery, Kitchen's Nursery, Dr. Larry Walsh of Sandy Animal Clinic, the Gallery, the Book Place, One Day at a Time Mountain Bakery, Country Corner, Inn Between Steak House, Kathryn Bliss, Patti Henniger, Kay Gomes, Whistle Stop, Bev Borg, Zig Zag Inn, Barlow Trail Inn, Flower Garden, Sandy Country Florists, Christina Mench, Brightwood Tavern, Chris and Alan L'Hommendieu, Bonnie Stevenson, Sue Allen, Avenetti Painting, John Hamburg, Patti Cook, Rick McAbery, Dr. Maija Katlaps of Mountain Medicine, David Ronan, Phid Simmons, Mark Bowman, Print Right, Cliff Davis, Toney's Farm Marketing, Michael P. Jones, Wy'East Artisans Guild, Tom and Jamie Grandy and all the others that

came and shared with us on Sunday, Dec. 14.

Thank you one and all. Thomas and Marie Teven and friends of Sue Jones Welches

People reach out to help

At times we are all vulnerable. I was silent for a long time concerning my illness. Then a friend said, "Sue, don't burrow in like a rabbit — reach out — people want to help."

I have had to learn to accept help, to learn the blessing of receiving side-by-side with giving.

To feel the support and care of the children, of my friends, of the community, is very healing. We are all connected.

I thank each one of you for your unique and wonderful contributions. You are all great. And I thank God that I get to still be and continue to live in a community of deeply wonderful people.

Sue Jones Cherryville

Sandy Post Letter policy

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 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 it receives from area residents.

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

Bobcats



by Adam Kraft

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
In Northwest and Pacific Coast States Outside Oregon per year	\$14.00
Outside Northwest and Pacific Coast States, per year	\$17.00