

# The Sandy Post

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Photo by Scott Newton

## Who are those masked men?

Students in an introduction to art class made papier-mache masks recently. Students made the masks out of paste,

newspaper and tempera paints. Most are freshmen and sophomores.

## Top guy on campus

### New principal brings varied experiences to his position

by SCOTT NEWTON  
staff writer

Sandy High School's new principal, Dennis Crow, has kept his career interesting by continuing to move on to new challenges.

Crow, who was a teacher at the school from 1964 to 1979, called that time "one of the most satisfying periods of my life."

He said he enjoyed getting to know students and following their individual growth.

He added that he would match Sandy High School's students against those from any other school. The diversity of students in Sandy makes teaching here interesting, he said.

By the time he finished teaching, he said, he had nearly exhausted his "bag of tricks" and was ready for a new challenge. He had been working as head of the English Department since 1969, and in 1979 began working full time as an administrative assistant.

The Sandy High School board of directors voted last week to make him principal, following the recommendation of Superintendent Kent Heaton. Heaton formerly held both

titles, though he told the board Crow had been doing the work of a principal.

Crow said he enjoys the responsibility of making decisions about curriculum and working to produce an environment in which teachers can be productive.

A school's curriculum must change along with society's needs, though some needs always stay the same, he said.

Students need to know how to read, write and compute, he said, offering a twist to the traditional basics of "reading, writing and arithmetic."

Reading and writing skills are important in teaching students to communicate. Students need computer and mathematics skills to handle life in a computer society, he said.

Crow's play on words comes as no surprise to those who know him. As a teacher he took a special interest in 16th and 17th century English literature.

He has written for educational publications with nationwide circulations, and he wrote a piece for Northwest Magazine on the infamous "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast.

Radio from the 1930s and 1940s is his hobby, and he has about 600 tapes of newscasts, programs, commercials and Big Band music.

He once turned on the broadcast of a 1939 baseball game in a coach's office and had people coming by asking what game was being played.

"It was hilarious to see people's reaction," he said.

The national pastime is not the only thing that has remained constant. Crow once did a study comparing teaching methods in 1911 with teaching methods in 1967. His conclusion was that a dozen practices in teaching English remained the same, such as the teaching of grammar and composition together in the same course.

Crow graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in 1964 from Linfield College, where he was student body president and worked for three years as a disk jockey at radio station KMCB.

He received a master's of science degree from Portland State University in 1966, and received an advanced certificate in education with an emphasis in English from the University of Illinois in Urbana in 1968, where he



Dennis Crow

held a fellowship for a year.

He has completed about 100 hours of post-graduate work from PSU and the University of Oregon.

Since 1968, he has written grants for the district, a responsibility he recently gave up to serve as principal.

## Drug lab found at site of fire

### Police say amateur chemists courting disaster with labs

A fire in Brightwood on Jan. 10 is evidence that amateur chemists are courting disaster when they set up drug labs, a Clackamas County law enforcement official says.

The fire, which destroyed a small mobile home and shed, led police to discover an amphetamine laboratory, the ninth such lab uncovered by county officials in the past 15 months, said Russ Williams, public information officer for the county sheriff's office.

Hot plates, beakers, test tubes, a book on chemicals and containers of chemicals indicate that the home was being used to produce methamphetamines, Williams said.

The cause of the fire has not been determined.

"To be honest, we may not do a complete investigation," said Lane Wintermute, Hoodland fire chief. "I'm still not comfortable about sending people in to investigate."

The area was under 24-hour guard until Thursday when law enforcement officials, after obtaining a search warrant, examined the site.

The lot had been leased out to different people since 1980 by a Portland woman.

The state Department of Environmental Quality has hired Riedel Environmental Services of Portland to clean up the site, Williams said.

Williams said amphetamine labs can cause difficulties for law enforcement officials, firefighters and nearby residents.

The chemicals are "corrosive, toxic and explosive," Williams said.

He said the nine amphetamine labs they have discovered have been in both remote and populous areas. The chemists often use small travel trailers, make a few batches of methamphetamine, and then move on.

"They are dangerous. The guys running these operations are unskilled," he said.

They often read up on how to make the drug, or "learn the recipe from other cooks." Manufacturing the drug is not a difficult process, he

said. People taking the drugs cannot depend upon the chemist to use sterile techniques.

"Every lab we've been in was unsanitary," Williams said.

He said there appears to be a plentiful supply of illegal amphetamines.

People who suspect there is a drug lab in their neighborhood should call the sheriff's office, Williams said. Drug labs often are accompanied by distinct odors, similar to vinegar or animal urine, he said. The chemists usually vent odors outside.

"The smell will definitely travel," Williams said.

The drug labs could be dangerous to neighbors, he said. The operator of one drug lab near Molalla was found unconscious outside a trailer several months ago, he said.

In addition, people making drugs need to dispose of hazardous by-products that are toxic, and they do not seem concerned about dumping the chemicals in landfills, sewers, rivers or forests, Williams said.

The fire in Brightwood destroyed about 550 square feet on East Springbrook Street. Wintermute said the fire did not appear at first to be unusual. Popping noises were heard during the fire, but Wintermute said aerosol cans also explode during house fires.

The Hoodland Fire District has a policy requiring firefighters to wear self-contained breathing apparatus to protect against toxic fumes.

Wintermute said it is "extremely frightening" to think about exposing volunteer firefighters to such hazardous work. He said it is his understanding that drug labs are sometimes booby-trapped.

If the fire was determined to be arson, the Oregon State Police would investigate. Wintermute said it is also possible the fire was caused by an electrical problem.

Due to the hazardous nature of the investigation, he is not sure if the Hoodland Fire District will ever determine a cause. "I don't think there will be any insurance claims," he said.

## Police offer rape prevention training for women in Sandy

The Sandy Police Department and the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office will conduct a rape prevention class for women from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 28, in the Sandy High School commons.

The class will be limited to women of high school age and older. Husbands and boyfriends are asked

not to attend.

Participants are asked to wear loose clothing or warm-ups because moves in self defense will be taught.

For more information, call police officer Mark White at the Sandy Police Department, 668-5566, or sheriff's Deputy Dave Kennell at the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, 655-8218.

## Voters won't face levy until next fall

Patrons in the Sandy Elementary School District will not vote on an operating levy until September. The board of directors voted 3-1 last Thursday to accept Superintendent Rex Hunsaker's recommendation that the first levy election be held in September.

"It's my opinion that it's costly to begin voting in May, June and August," Hunsaker said.

He said the district is called upon to provide figures on basic school support, cash carryover and timber receipts before they are available. As a result, the public only receives estimates and people are critical if the estimates are incorrect.

The district has suffered four election defeats in May since 1982. The district passed an "A" levy in June 1982, but lost elections in 1983 and 1986. The district also has lost two August levy elections.

The district has passed levies three times in September.

In 1985, September and November

levies failed, and the district finally passed a levy in December after schools were closed for three weeks.

This September, there will be a new superintendent in the district, and a new school year will be starting, Hunsaker said.

Art Lowery said he was "uncomfortable" with waiting until September. If the levy fails in September, the board will be "up against the wall" with a short time to prepare for the November election.

Lowery voted against the measure. Dorothy Mills, Barbara Herget and Sharron Cox voted in favor of it.

Mills said the audit is completed by September and voters would have accurate figures. Patrons want specifics on the budget, which is their right, she said. Patrons' questions can be answered more accurately in September, she said.

Herget said she believes the district loses both dollars and credibility by continuing to submit levies at times when people won't approve them.

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• Music teachers in the Sandy Elementary District told about their programs recently. See Page 4.

### School closure may be factor

## 'Grassroots' approach used for search

The Sandy Elementary School District's past school closure could hurt its search to find a new superintendent, but the group looking for a superintendent is combating that problem by seeking the advice of citizens.

The search for a superintendent has featured more of a "grassroots approach" than is usual for the Oregon School Boards Association, which provides assistance on about half the superintendent searches in the state, said Robert Burns, director of management services for the association.

"The grassroots approach is new to an extent," Burns said. "It's certainly more extensive than the law requires." He added that the association is making an extra effort in part because of the Sandy district's problem with school closure in 1985.

Burns and Jeanne Magmer, public information director for the association, already have talked with representatives of the Sandy Ministerial Association, Parent-Teacher Clubs, Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce, representatives of the Cedar Ridge student government, teachers, administrators and classified

employees.

A final meeting, open to the public, is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. in the Cedar Ridge School library.

"We want to help the (Sandy) board take a step back and see what people want, what their concerns are," Burns said.

"We're finding people have been very open with us so far," Magmer said.

**'People have been very open with us so far.'**

The current superintendent is Rex Hunsaker, who took the job for one year. Sandy is the seventh district in which he has served as an interim superintendent. He replaced Clark Lund, who took a job as superintendent in Reedsport.

Burns and Magmer will prepare a report for the Sandy board based on the information gathered at the

meeting Thursday along with other information gathered. The board will receive a report in advance of its special meeting Jan. 29.

The school boards association will receive from \$1,200 to \$1,400 plus expenses for conducting the superintendent search.

The closing date for applying for the job is March 13. Then a committee, made up of citizens and representatives from several community groups, will screen the applicants, selecting six to 10 to be considered by the board.

The board then will decide how many candidates it wishes to interview, and will begin the interview process.

While the school-closure issue could hurt Sandy, Burns said the district has some pluses in its favor. It is a good time of year to hire a superintendent, he said.

Oregon has 305 school districts, of which over 200 have fewer than 1,000 students, according to Magmer. That places Sandy, with over 1,400 students, in a position to land a good administrator who is moving up the job ladder, Burns said.

Sandy also will benefit from its "terrific location," he said.

The number of qualified candidates also depends upon how much movement there is in the field and how many other good jobs are available.

"I'm an eternal optimist," Burns said. "There will be some good candidates for sure."

### Citizens sought for committee

Three community members are needed to serve on a committee to help the Sandy Elementary School District board select a superintendent.

People who apply should be free to attend evening meetings on March 18, 19 and 20.

Interested people should apply at the district office, 39065 Pleasant St., by 4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29. Or, they should call 668-5541. There will be 11 people on the screening committee.

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• Positions are open on school, fire and water district boards. See story