

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representativeCurriculum issue
needs more study

The Sandy High School board should take another look at its decision to eliminate an electronics program in favor of a building construction program.

In this highly technical age, students need exposure to such fields as fiber optics, robotics, computers and lasers. Skills in the building trades should be incorporated into other vocational areas.

Instead, the board — as a compromise — has incorporated electronics into vocational areas such as auto mechanics, agriculture and drafting.

There obviously has been a problem with the electronics program at Sandy High School. The present administration is at least the second to take a good, hard look at the program.

In addition, Superintendent Kent Heaton is correct when he says the district cannot afford to offer classes in which only seven students participate. That is the case with the advanced electronics class.

Part of the problem, in our opinion, is that Heaton did not look far enough for a solution.

Board member Bob Boring, at one point in the discussion, said "I would like to hear more possibilities." We also would like to see the district consider other options.

There was a lot of talk Monday night about options. Heaton suggested the district might send students to Mt. Hood Community College, Clackamas Community College or Gresham or Barlow high schools.

Everyone was impressed with the potential of computer-aided video programs, which would allow students to proceed with course study at an individual level.

But Heaton did not have a concrete suggestion for helping students who want to study electronics.

It seemed that the board was getting its information for the first time Monday evening. There is nothing wrong with Heaton preparing materials for the board to consider in advance. Of course, the same information should be available to patrons.

The issue was discussed a month ago, and the district administration knew the public would closely scrutinize the board's decision.

Bob Boring's quick thinking saved what is left of the study of electronics at Sandy High School.

But, in this case, we have to agree with Jerry Swails. There should be some kind of cost-effective solution that would retain electronics as part of the curriculum.

The school district has not looked far enough for a solution to the problem.

Love and nausea
on Valentine's Day

Every Valentine's Day I think of Jimmy Livingston.

Jimmy Livingston was the cutest little boy in the third grade, the kind they use to advertise peanut butter on television. Freckles and slicked-back brown hair and a nice, toothy grin. And he gave me his heart.

When I was a kid, Valentine's Day ranked right up there with Christmas and Halloween. Every grade school has stashed somewhere a flimsy cardboard post office that was used (and perhaps still is) to distribute Valentines. I don't know who first conceived the idea of combining Valentine's Day with a little hidden instruction on "How Our Post Office Works" but it was a master stroke.

Everybody wanted to be the postmaster and put the Valentines in their proper boxes. And everybody peeked in the little pigeonholes to see who got the most.

Of course, the teacher had announced up front that in order to avoid hurt feelings, you had to give a Valentine to everyone in the room. But kids found ways around that. They passed out the penny cards to the masses and then blew a whole quarter on an extra card with satin ribbons and velvet hearts for someone special.

Or they would sign all the other cards routinely, and inscribe "LOVE" on only one. I believe that the word "love" in No. 2 pencil has caused more hearts to flutter than red roses ever did.

If you were a true romantic, you would do what Jimmy Livingston did. In my card — and only in mine — he enclosed a small plastic charm of two entwined hearts. There was an audible gasp from the other third graders when it fell out of the envelope and clunked on to my wood-topped desk. An avowal of love, right there in front of Mrs. Gordon and everybody.

Or the gasp may have been one of surprise. I was skinny and freckled with a mop of out-of-control hair and a scab on my knee that was darned near permanent. It is possible that I did not look like an object of romance. Instead of Jane Seymour I more likely resembled MAD Magazine's non-hero Alfred E. Newman.

But Jimmy Livingston saw



Sharon Nesbit

something there and I shall never forget him. He was the first to cause my heart to pound in my chest like a basketball on the gym floor. I was so excited I almost threw up. To this day I have a tough time distinguishing between true love and nausea.

Of course, my romance with Jimmy never progressed beyond Valentine's Day. We exchanged shy looks and punched each other in the arms, but that was about it.

A few years later another Valentine came my way, my first heart-shaped box of chocolates. By then I was in the eighth grade and word had been circulating for weeks that Bill Ferguson had bought chocolates for me.

These were the big leagues of romance, I told myself, and waited smugly for the day I would open my desk to find the tiny box, four chocolates in all, and a smudged note that said, "Love, Bill."

It all turned out just as I dreamed, except for one major flaw. I got my chocolates and I was still searching for the right words of acceptance, when Bill fell in love with someone else on Valentine's Day afternoon. By nightfall he was holding hands at the basketball game with Janet who had straight hair and a pep club sweater.

He was the first to make my heart feel like a deflated basketball thudding on the gym floor. I was so grief-stricken I almost threw up. To this day I have a tough time distinguishing between heartbreak and nausea.

But I know one thing, I have always liked Jimmy Livingston better than Bill Ferguson.



Letters to the editor

Pay raise
poorly handled

Below is my letter to U.S. Representative Denny Smith. It is submitted as an open letter to those in political office at all levels, and to encourage others to write their congressmen and express their opinions.

I don't know where you stand on the issue of Congressional pay raises, but as my representative, I'm expressing my views to you.

I am not so much opposed to the idea of the pay raises nearly as much as I am the way it was handled.

This is one item of business that seems to always bring out the worst of the political system. It is one thing to cast a vote for an issue and take responsibility for that vote, and quite another to say one thing and do another. I find the use of voice votes, parliamentary procedures and political maneuvering repulsive to the level of leadership you have attained. These political devices, honed to a razor sharpness in Washington, D.C., enable our country's leaders to distort their stand on an issue.

As for the raises themselves, I find it hard to justify raises of that proportion when your salaries are already two or three times what your constituents get. That doesn't consider the expense allowances, outside income and other benefits.

How many people in Oregon do you know who have the option to vote themselves a big pay raise and make it look like they were against it all along?

I am in favor of annual raises tied to the Consumer Price Index. Any other merit raises would be voted on in a national election and be directly tied to how good a job the people felt you were doing. With that policy, in light of our current national debt and other issues and needs, I can assure you the current pay raises would not pass.

I do not find it surprising that the credibility of those in government continues on a downward spiral.

Jerry Opp
Boring

Oregon's beauty
now appreciated

Although I am a native Oregonian and I have been a resident of this grand state all of my life (a whopping 22½ years), I have spent the past three years living in Fort Worth, Texas, attending Texas Christian University. I will be graduating in May and I am happy to say that I will be returning to the great Northwest shortly thereafter.

The experiences I have gained while attending college have been both rewarding and mind-enriching, but the one thing that I have learned to appreciate more than anything else is Oregon's natural beauty.

Every summer, while I am home in

the Sandy area, I find myself admiring the mountains, the greenery and the clean, fresh scenery — things I used to take for granted.

But now that I am older, wiser and more traveled, I realize I have been brought up in one of this country's most beautiful areas.

I wanted to take this time to write home and show my appreciation and admiration for the great state of Oregon. Hopefully others in the Sandy area also realize how fortunate they are to be living in such splendor.

Texas may be warm, sunny and blessed with spectacular sunsets (not to mention sunbathing in January), but never will it match the natural radiance and grandeur of Oregon. What a wonderful state!

Gayle Roth
T.C.U. senior

Board's decision
predetermined

I feel the elimination of electronics, to be replaced with building construction, was predetermined before the Sandy High School board meeting Monday night.

I base this on the forecaster being sent to the upper grade students, which was printed before the board meeting. It does not show electronics. Instead, it shows building construction.

Last week, Principal Dennis Crow asked students interested in building construction to see so and so teacher (I do not know the teacher's name).

In all fairness, he should have also asked all students interested in taking electronics I and II to sign up with so and so teacher. All of this data should have been presented at the school board meeting.

If the cost per student taking electronics is tied mostly to the teacher's salary, we must remember the electronics teacher also teaches two periods of math. So, to clarify this, I feel that the public has a right to a breakdown of the figure given, which was 40 students at a cost of \$732 per student.

The period the electronics instructor teaches the freshman electronic students, who are taking their nine weeks in the vocational education cluster, are apparently not being counted either as there are 15 of them.

This means there are now three periods the electronics teacher is not teaching electronics I and II.

Theodore R. Armstrong
Sandy

Sandy board
unresponsive

Now that the Sandy Elementary District's negotiations with the teachers have been concluded, let's check the results.

Under the new contract, teachers will receive a 10 percent pay increase (or more if the Consumer Price In-

dex increases) over the next three years, and continuation of full (100 percent) health benefits.

In my opinion, the taxpayers have been sold "down the river" again and we have our school board to thank. Recently, a friend asked, "Does the school board represent the taxpayer or the teachers and school administration?" Of course, I responded, "The board is supposed to represent the taxpayers, but I'm not sure it works that way."

Recently, I received a newsletter from Mr. Rex Hunsaker, superintendent, stating "Sandy Elementary is an excellent school system that is doing a better than average job in the teaching of reading, writing, mathematics, etc." Now, if the school is above average and the teachers receive at or above average pay, it's about time we see the results.

Our information indicates approximately 15 percent of the elementary

students arrive at high school with less than an eighth grade education. In other words, incoming students to the high school do not test high enough to begin ninth grade studies.

To bridge this gap, the high school has special classes to assist these students learn the basic skills needed to survive the next four years.

As for me, I don't want to hear any more hype from the elementary school. Recently, the elementary school board approved additional money to enlarge its computer program, another example of poor management. Why are they teaching computers when they can't teach the basics?

I think elementary school students should test beyond the eighth grade level before graduation. We pay for a quality education, now let's see that we get our money's worth.

Lloyd A. Cummins
secretary,
Affordable Education Association

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.

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 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 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.

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

Sandy Post, Sandy, Oregon 97055

No. 6

Feb. 12, 1987

by Adam Kraft

Bobcats

