

## The Sandy Post

## Editorial &amp; Opinion

Scott Newton, editor  
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

## Independence will cost the taxpayer

The Sandy Busing Cooperative has saved local taxpayers thousands of dollars. It is a shame, then, that with one vote the Sandy Elementary District has erased much of that goodwill.

Adopting a school calendar is such a minor thing, too. But in this case being independent will cost taxpayers.

The Sandy High School board voted earlier this month to begin school Sept. 1. The Sandy Elementary District board voted Thursday to wait until Sept. 8.

Because their calendars do not coincide, it is estimated each district will have to pick up three days of bus service.

Sandy Elementary District officials could not give us an estimate on the cost because the person who could have figured it was on vacation. However, district officials say it will definitely cost more to run the buses independently.

The Sandy Busing Cooperative charges \$26 an hour for the use of a bus, and it takes 77 hours a day to pick up and deliver students in the Sandy High School, Sandy Elementary and Bull Run districts. Sandy High and Sandy Elementary come close to splitting the bill (Bull Run pays 3.5 percent of the total).

It costs about \$2,000 a day to run the buses. For the sake of argument, let's estimate it costs \$1,500 for a district to complete a bus run by itself. If that were the case, taxpayers would be out \$3,000 for the 1987-88 school year.

What if it is only \$1,000? That is still too much.

Sandy Elementary District board members might argue that they simply voted last and were not being uncooperative. However, Sandy High School has a good reason for starting school early. It is fair that high school students get out at the same time as students from neighboring high schools so that they can compete for summer jobs.

The Sandy Elementary board might justify starting school later on the basis it would be a more effective use of teachers' time. Some people say the district would suffer absenteeism rates of 25 to 33 percent if school started on Sept. 1. We don't buy that.

It is not unreasonable to expect teachers to do a good job regardless of the number of students who make it to class. Most parents will make an effort to get back from vacation in time for their children to start school.

Members of boards always struggle for ways to prove that their district is frugal when asking for financial support at the polls. Forcing taxpayers in Sandy to spend even an extra \$1,000 does not convey the correct message.

We wish the board had listened to Dorothy Mills, who urged her fellow board members to go along with the high school district "in the spirit of cooperation."

That is what the Sandy Busing Cooperative was all about at one time.

## Personally speaking

## RV owners speak different language

by SHARON NESBIT  
Staff writer

It says something about Americans that they can take a vehicle the size of a semi-truck that comes with its own blender, microwave oven, generator, dual air conditioners, flush toilet, beds enough for two barbershop quartets, television, tape deck, taco chips and velvet upholstery — all costing more than Hubby and I paid for our house — and look it squarely in the headlights and call it a "rig."

Rig is one of the new words I learned recently during my first weekend in a recreational vehicle park — that's "RV" to those of you who don't know a Winnebago from a bagel. I also learned words such as gray water, full hook-up, self-contained, holding tank and fifth wheel.

Up until now I've always called the folks who tote their homes down the freeway "turtle people." They carry their homes on their backs and they don't exactly hurtle down road. I've fumed my way along many winding roads following lumbering pickup campers with bumper stickers that read, "We're spending our children's inheritance," and I mostly wished that they had chosen to spend it somewhere else.

But my friend, Jack, doesn't let any dust collect under his rig. Jack is the fellow who wanted to retire at 55 and become a crop duster. Sadly, crop dusters can't be color blind, so he and his wife, Nedra, fly closer to the ground these days in a motor home so wide you can take a nap on the dashboard and so long that you get your exercise by walking from one end to the other.

The first thing you need to know about RVs has to do with hook-ups and being self-contained. Hook-ups are when you link your motor home to all the stuff you left behind when you left home to get away from it all. Self-contained is when you live for a weekend without sewer, water or electricity in a Safeway parking lot with your generator running so you can watch "Sixty Minutes."

"Why doesn't our rig have a little iron rod running down its sewer pipe like that rig over there does?" I asked Nedra.

"Oh, that," she said airily. "That's just something else you can drive off and leave behind." Considering how much gas their rigs use, RV owners spend a lot of time driving back to the last place they were to get the stuff they forgot.

There are other things RV people do, Nedra says. About the middle of the day all of them leave their rigs and walk around looking at other people's rigs. This is humbling because everybody else's rig costs more than your rig.

But all is not materialism among RV owners. Either morbid curiosity or compassion makes them stand around and watch other RV owners back up.

Anyone who has trouble with parallel parking understands how hard it is to back up a trailer. I expect having to back a 30-foot trailer into a 32-foot slot with six inches to spare on either side and doing it by looking through a pickup's rear-view mirrors while 27 other people who are already safely parked watch can be very harrowing indeed.

The male usually does the backing and the cussing. The female stands out behind and yells directions that he can't hear because he is cussing.

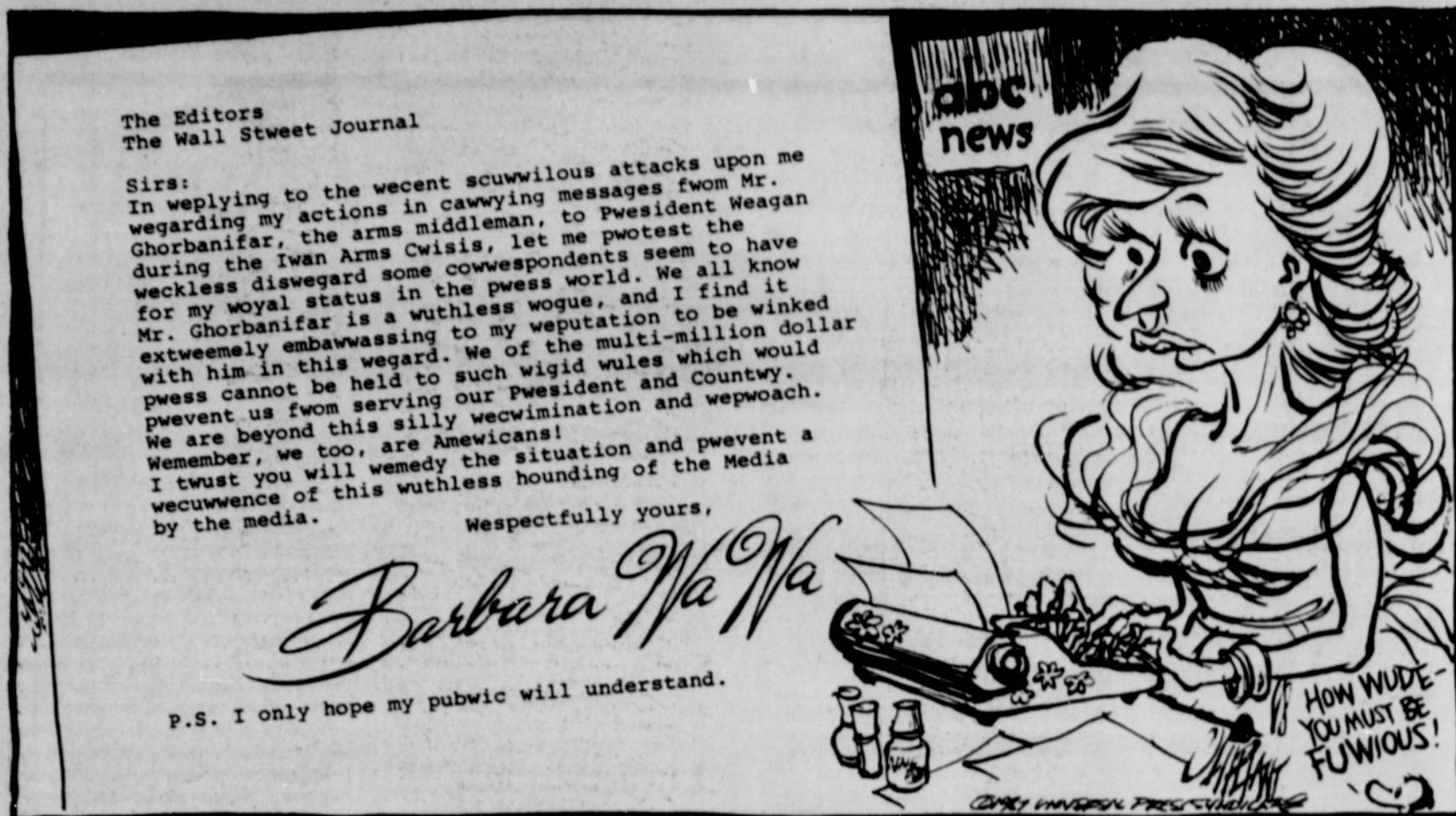
"Ned, Ned," she will scream, "You're running over the picnic table."

And, though it may not be relevant at all, he will tell her she doesn't know her right from her left.

A good parking spectacle can occupy the folks in an RV park for an hour or so.

After that, they talk in subdued tones about gas mileage and wonder a lot what the Arabs in the petroleum-rich countries are up to.

They sell a bumper sticker at the RV store that you can put up along with the other one about your kid's inheritance. It says: "It may not be good gas mileage for a car, but it's very good for a house."



## Letters to the editor

## Writer defends cost estimates

I would like to respond to the letter in the Sandy Post on March 12, "A.E.A. inflates cost of schools." The writer sounds like a representative of the administration and/or teachers union.

Yes, the cost of educating a student varies depending on the source. We feel dividing the total cost by number of students is the correct method because it reflects what the taxpayer pays.

The other method, which the writer apparently supports, does not include money from federal grants, timber tax, state and federal contributions, etc. Proponents of the method that excludes these contributions seem to think that this is money from heaven, when in the real world, it is the return of our state and federal tax dollars.

If the school is spending approximately \$6 million (tax dollars), the cost per student is determined by dividing the number of students by the total amount of the budget.

It is interesting to note the writer makes an issue of the cost per student (previously debated in this paper), yet makes no mention of the poor test results. Granted, the A.E.A. is interested in costs, but when there is an indication that basic education is substandard, the cost is secondary. What we want to know is why the test scores dropped 13 percent on seventh grade students and 2 percent more on eighth grade students, leaving our students only seven-tenths of a percent above the national average?

Why have the test scores dropped from 66.7 percent in the second grade to 50 percent in the eighth grade? An explanation would be appreciated.

Lloyd A. Cummins, executive secretary  
Affordable Education Association  
Sandy

## Locals contribute to scholarships

The Sandy Junior Miss Scholarship committee wishes to express its sincere thanks to all the people who donated their time and expertise in running the game tables at our casino night on Saturday, March 7.

They include Kimberly Nelson, Roger and Denise Redman, Tom Reber, John and Babe Dodson, Bill Wardy, Dennis Brown, Ken and Pearl Crain and Arnie Becker.

Many thanks also go to all the

following businesses and organizations for their contributions to the auction. Their donations made the evening a huge success for the scholarship fund. They are:

Sandy Travel Service, KKRZ (Z-100) radio, KEX radio, KXL radio, KYTE radio, Portland Trail Blazers, Florida Tan, Geren's Farm Supply, Mount View Golf Course, Joe Berger Co., Clackamas County Bank, P & W Products, the Sandy Post, Sprouse Reitz, Monster Lunger, Portland General Electric Co., city of Sandy, Taco Time, McDonald's, Kentucky Fried, Chicken, Jazzercise, Wasson Brothers Winery, Timberline Lodge, Mount Hood Cleaners, Taco Bell, Sandy Fire District volunteers, Clackamas County Youth Livestock Auction, Boring Fire District volunteers, Sandy Secretarial Service, Leo Gentry Nursery, Sandy Sentry, Don Schmidt Nursery, The Flower Garden, Atkins Insurance, Pet 'n Pond, The Photory, St. Paul's Press, Andano's Pizza, Charbos, Elusive Trout Pub, Our Gang Hair Design, Sandy Union High School, Mountain Video, Mr. D's Pizza, Radio Shack, Calamity Jane's Restaurant, Country Donut House, Sandy 7-Eleven, Buckeye Gas Products and the Kiwanis Club of Sandy.

Last, but not least, a special thanks to our auctioneer, Paul Spence, for running the auction.  
Joan Miller  
and the Junior Miss committee  
Sandy

## Vote no on Doty because of book

Never, never, never would I vote for a person that would consider the book, "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives," as a book for high schools.

I have obtained a copy to show people what garbage a small community was willing to place on its shelves.

We don't need Doty; skip her! Let's show these elected people our memories do not stop at election time.

P.S. Come on MaryAnn!  
Cindy Grenvik  
Brightwood

## Toll charges called unfair

On March 3, I read in The Oregonian that toll free calling has been approved between Forest Grove and Beaverton. I know of another situation that is every bit as unfair and

should be rectified.

I live in the north Eagle Creek area, only five miles from Sandy and seven and a half miles from Estacada. Estacada is toll free and Sandy is "toll." Most of the people in the north Eagle Creek area consider Sandy to be their trade area and are handicapped by toll charges.

Milwaukie and Portland are toll free and many of us who do business or consult a professional person will travel up to 30 miles rather than make a toll call to Sandy or Gresham. This is an unfair situation to the residents of Eagle Creek and the business and professional people of Sandy deserve better.

If this situation could be changed, we should work together to do so. After all, why should one little stream (Deep Creek) stand in the way?

Al Harper  
Eagle Creek

## Incumbent criticized

A great deal has been said and implied in the hotly contested race for position 5 on the Welches School board. It is encouraging to see people in our community participating in such an unusually active manner.

I, for one, hope that this lively debate and interest continues after the election is finished. Welches School has only to benefit from the input of interested and concerned citizens willing to publicly voice their opinions, ask questions, suggest solutions and seek to successfully resolve problems while actively moving in new directions.

Jeri McMahan and MaryAnn Burke both have shown the courage of their convictions, the wit to defend their beliefs under pressure and a sincere desire to do what they feel is good for students and Welches School.

However, I am concerned about the current, obvious efforts by MaryAnn Burke and other board members to cut back and undo existing board policies regarding student discipline, academic standards and educational programs. At a time when the public is demanding higher, stricter standards in a movement toward academic excellence, our district cannot afford to regress.

Fortunately, the efforts have not been successful, but the threat remains constant as long as MaryAnn Burke continues in her current direction on the board. Until she stops relying upon hearsay and second-hand impressions and takes the time

to find out what the actual current practices are and how they function, our system is in jeopardy of mediocrity or worse.

I would encourage the people in our community to find out for themselves what is going on with the Welches School board by attending the monthly board meetings.

It is important that positive directions be set at Welches School, that the present undermining of outstanding policies, programs and personnel be halted and that forthright and objective leaders be elected to our board.

Jeanine Boldt  
Welches

## NEA doesn't benefit education

The National Education Association has been in existence for over 125 years. It was originally an association with one goal in mind — to improve the educational system in America.

Today, having been reorganized into the largest labor force in America with a dues paying force of over 1.7 million teachers, its goals are somewhat different than what they were originally.

Their admitted achievements are toward the complete control of our educational system including students, curricula, teachers and administrators. This is in addition to their design to become a powerful political force.

Perhaps the aims of this liberal union of teachers can best be summed up in the words of the late Rep. John Ashbrook (R-Ohio), who said, "An integral part of the NEA design is to siphon off even more control of public education from the grass roots to Washington, closer to its own powerful lobbying influence (and) farther from the taxpayers and parents who elect school boards and pay the bills."

Too many people in this USA have a tendency to equate NEA as an organization of professional educators, not the ultra liberal militant labor force it actually is.

Lloyd A. Cummins, secretary  
Affordable Educational Association  
Sandy

## Letter policy

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced and signed. An address and telephone number should also be provided.

by Adam Kraft

## Bobcats

