

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Committee should add kindergarten

The Sandy Elementary District's budget committee should add kindergarten to the curriculum. It would be a bold move to add the \$300,000 program, but kindergarten is needed.

We believe that there is a great deal of support throughout the community for adding kindergarten.

Theoretically, the job of a budget committee is to set a dollar amount. It is up to the board to determine policy and approve or disapprove programs. This would not be the first time, however, that such a distinction became fuzzy.

During a presentation by a committee that studied the feasibility of adding the program, first-grade teachers testified that kindergarten would be a more appropriate place to identify children who have learning disabilities. In addition, the teachers testified, students come into the Sandy district at a variety of skill levels. A kindergarten program would help prepare all children for first grade.

Adding kindergarten will not make the proposed June levy any harder to sell. A solid core of people will vote against the levy regardless.

Adding kindergarten should help the district gain support among young parents and even among grandparents. People who feel strongly about education will support the move, and it is those people who are regularly called upon to get out the "yes" vote.

Kindergarten is mandated by the state to begin in 1988-89 anyway. If the area was as impoverished as it was in the early 1980s, we might say the budget committee should hold off.

Acting upon the request of a board member, Superintendent Rex Hunsaker contacted the state Employment Division and was told the "unofficial" unemployment rate for Clackamas County, the Portland area and East Multnomah County was below the national average of 7.5 percent.

Based on an unemployment rate of 5.1 percent in Clackamas County, it is difficult to call the area impoverished.

Without a doubt, the jump in the tax rate per \$1,000 will shock taxpayers if kindergarten is added.

But this is a decision that should be made on the basis of the value of the program. And on that basis, Sandy needs kindergarten. It shouldn't be put off any longer.

Others only dream of life hermit lives

Until I saw him walk into the Dairy Queen in Woodland, Wash., I never realized that Lin was a hermit.

"We know a hermit," I said to Hubs over my cherry milkshake. It was hard to deny the evidence. Lin lurched past the plastic tables in the kind of rolling gait one develops from months of tramping around on uneven turf. He was wearing a pair of high-water pants and an underwear shirt. His runaway hair was smashed to submission under a blue-knit watch cap but his beard spiked out in every direction like an unruly haystack.

And his eyes gleamed with the bright light of a man who has spent many a rainy evening staring into a fire fueled by wood he cut himself.

Hubby says Lin is only a part-time hermit. "How many hermits do you know who fly to Chicago for a week?" he asks.

Well, I answer, Lin is only a beginning hermit. He is still honing the skills of hermitdom or, or is it hermitry?

None of us quite believed Lin when he announced his plans to retire from his high-pressure job at age 50 and open a bait shop.

Had things been different, he might have been a hippie in his youth. But he had two ex-wives to deal with and kids to support and mortgages to pay and obligations to meet. So he dressed in a suit and became the executive director of a professional association keeping minutes, running meetings, arranging conventions, soothing egos.

Privately Lin said his title was that of head dingbat.

A dingbat's job has a lot of strings. Lin, who can't keep track of his own car keys, moved hundreds of people around the world by boat and plane and even horse and buggy, arranged hotels and parties for them, lured them to educational meetings when a swimming pool beckoned outside and remained charming to boot.

He showed up at his retirement party on the eve of his 50th birthday with a tie in the shape of a salmon adorned his dress-for-success suit. His friends gave him a pair of plastic "stud" worms to start his bait shop, a gift certificate to an outdoor shop and a set of carving tools. In exchange, he gladly released his grip on all those



Sharon Nesbitt

strings and fled to the woods.

I know a lot of men who say they would like to do what Lin did, but Lin is the only one I know who did it. He packed away his suits and moved to an isolated cabin on a lake in Washington. His hermit hide-out has no plumbing, electricity or running water. You can reach it only by a foot trail or by boat.

We found him there on a recent weekend. He is an industrious hermit. He has built a two-story log smoker to preserve the trout he catches. Its earth-filled upper decks will be penthouses for his worms. He fashioned the drying racks himself from cedar. He cooks perfect corn bread in a dutch oven on top of his wood stove and carved himself a spice rack. He built a woodshed and put gutters over the door so the rain doesn't run down his neck. He has built a bridge and piled up a bunch of serenity.

We were a noisy intrusion to his privacy, coming laden with brownies and caramel corn and iced champagne. But he was gracious and showed us around as if we were tourists in a foreign land and he the guide.

Lin can't be a hermit full time. The world he left behind keeps making demands and he leaves his seclusion at least once a week to pick up those strings that life would not let him drop.

And he may not be a hermit forever. Someday he may tire of smoked fish and cold baths in the lake and think fondly of the thick towels in all the hotels he has known.

But right now he is living a dream. And I envy him for that. Even if people do gawk at him in Dairy Queens.

Where to write

State Representative Bob Shiprack, D-Dist. 23, 22610 Forest Park Rd., Beavercreek, Ore., 97004. 631-3817. Or: State Capitol, Room H288, Salem, Ore., 97310.

1-800-332-2313.

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



Letters to the editor

Board member ready for work

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the voters who took the time to cast their votes in my direction.

I am hopeful that I will be able to help this community through my service to the Sandy Elementary school board.

My time spent on the superintendent screening committee was a great experience. One never realizes how much is involved until one has a chance to experience something for themselves.

I know my board membership will be a learning experience and I hope to use these experiences in a way that is helpful to our Sandy schools and our Sandy students.

Sharon L. Clarke
Sandy

Contribute to Mountain Festival

Believe it or not, the Sandy Mountain Festival is just around the corner. I know that for some, the thoughts of a summertime festival are a bit hard to comprehend when winter is still hanging on.

In fact, the Sandy Mountain Festival is a year-round endeavor for a dedicated group of volunteers who are responsible for the planning and presentation of all the activities of the festival. We are not only working to make the 1987 festival a success, but are also planning the 1988 festival.

The Mountain Festival is a community affair and needs community involvement. It is operated by a board of directors with each director responsible for a separate function.

Each director has a committee of volunteers to get the job done. They are: Parade, Arnie Becker; queen's court, Kathie Simonsen; Front Stage, Steve Christensen; park operations, Anne Fenwick; Fourth of July/carnival, Herb Fenwick; Birdcage Theater, Bonnie Flatt; transportation/parking, Greg Meier; other events, Martin Montgomery; fund-raising, Kimberly Nelson; publicity, Mary Rutz; treasurer, Eileen Widdison; youth events, Pixie and Trizie Meier.

If you have always wanted to be involved behind the scenes and contribute your efforts to assure a wonderful festival to be enjoyed by all, this is your chance! We are searching for volunteers in all areas. The level of commitment and time is up to you. Please plan on helping the

festival this year. We need your talents.

If you would like to volunteer or know more about the Festival, contact any of the directors or write us at P.O. Box 674, Sandy, 97055.

Jeff Jaqua,
chairman
Sandy

Hire Dietderich at Welches School

The selection of a new superintendent for Welches School is being made by a committee made up of one citizen from each of five community organizations plus one teacher from the school. To allow only one teacher to join the selection committee seems hardly appropriate, let alone fair.

The members from the community will not be working with this new person on a daily basis. Therefore, I suggest that at least three or four more teachers from the school be allowed to sit with the committee in making this important choice.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, the committee members (other than the one teacher) have no direct connection with the school other than having students who attend class there.

The selection committee members will read resumes of interested applicants, interview them and select one. This one should have excellent qualifications, a pleasing personality, be able to work harmoniously with the teaching staff, maintain good discipline and be a part of the community.

The present principal of the upper school, Mr. Gary Dietderich, is such a person and commands the respect of all whom he serves. Let's keep him as the new superintendent.

Remember...some years back a superintendent was chosen who turned out to be "a square peg" and was ultimately fired before his contract had expired, which resulted in having to pay him full salary for his unexpired contract time. Let's not do that again!

We know Mr. Dietderich's capabilities, so why gamble on a new person we really know little about?

Beth Baker
Rhododendron

Superintendent thanks teachers

I would like to express my appreciation to the Bull Run teachers, support staff and parent volunteers

for their energy, effort and enthusiasm in serving the students and parents of our school. Your ability, love and dedication are important ingredients in our students' success.

One of a person's greatest goals is to make a difference in the world. One of a person's greatest realizations is that they make a difference every day. Thank you for your Choice, Challenge and Caring to make a difference every day at Bull Run.

Jerry McGuire,
superintendent/principal
Bull Run School

Rummage sale was a success

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with my fund-raiser. I earned close to \$900 with my rummage sale and raffle.

There still is a lot more money to be earned. While I am a foreign exchange student to Spain, I will think of all the people who have helped me make it.

The winners of the raffle were: Ernest Beasley, one free night at Rippling River Resort; Bonnie and Larry Scheffler, one free night at Timberline Lodge; Debbie Manley, one free night at Cannon Beach; Paul and Louise Spence, a \$25 certificate at the Hearthstone; Karen and Manuel Sylveria, two free dinners at Charbos; Kim Nelson, one free dinner at TJ's; and Ruth Marshall, one free pizza at Paola's.

I would also like to thank everyone else who bought a ticket.

In addition, I would like to the VFW women's auxiliary for the use of the hall, Clackamas County Bank, Jim and Anita Rainier (Real Log Homes), Mountain Video, Rippling River, Paul and Louise Spence, Gerren's Feed Store, Timberline Lodge, Jerry Ashland, Charbos, TJ's, The Movie Place, The Blue Gull Inn and all the girl scout troops in the area that helped.

Thanks to everyone who helped at the rummage sale, including Leona and family, Chris, Charlotte, JR, Pam, Grandma M., Grandpa B., Barb P., Barb G. and the Gresham Nazarene Church. Also Denise Redman for always thinking of me, to all the teachers at Kelson that donated stuff, my teachers who bought tickets, Ellie Metts and to all my friends and family who helped so very much with everything.

If you would like to donate, I have an account at the Ben Franklin Savings and Loan in Sandy.

Kim Marshall
Sandy

Union actions closing schools

It saddens me to read in the April 2 issue of the Post that Ms. York, one of the NEA membership, is growing tired of reading my letters.

I would request that she please check with Mr. Newton and ascertain why two letters appeared in one edition. I assume because election articles filled the editorial page on March 26, my original letter was not printed. Consequently, two letters appeared in the same edition a week later. This has happened previously in other editions without comment.

If Ms. York will kindly take notice, she will be aware that my position in the AEA is one of secretary of the Association. As such, I reflect the views of more than 2,000 of our supporters in the Sandy School District and in order to impart the views of many others, it is necessary for me to use my name as the corporate person required to do so.

Put simply, this should inform you that my signature does not necessarily imply that the subject matter of the article written and signed by me is mine alone. Ms. York and Ms. Whitlock should consider the above facts and conclude that I personally have no goals, but rest assured that AEA does.

One of the goals of AEA is merely to allow the taxpaying public in this area to know that all things considered, education of students is a duty we must wholeheartedly support.

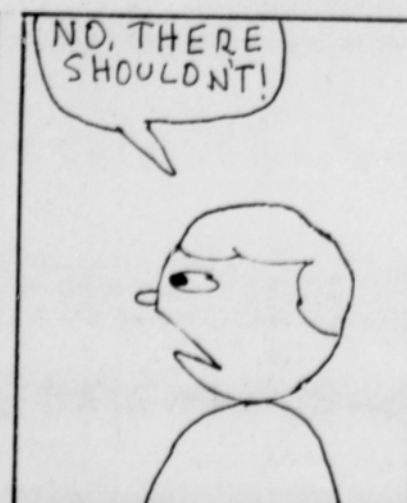
That duty is an obligation citizens have in an effort to mold productive future citizens in America and to do it in such a manner these results are evident, not only to that future citizen, but to his peers as well. I find this evidence to be lacking, especially when compared to its present cost to the taxpayer and test results. Imparting this knowledge to all district patrons is considered to be informative by many.

A matter of significance is the number of failed school measures resulting from the March 31 elections. This is a result of public disagreement with the demands presented to them by teacher unions, of which NEA is one.

These demands can end in a teacher strike and the result is a union decision. If this is not militant, I request a new explanation for it.

Lloyd A. Cummins,
executive secretary
Affordable Education Association
Editor's note: Lloyd Cummins letter on the National Education Association was indeed held a week due to the number of letters received concerning school board elections.

Bobcats



by Adam Kraft