

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Karinda Hedlund, advertising representative

Drug education program needed

The Sandy Elementary District has thoroughly aired the proposal for a drug education program. There is not much need to mull the issue over any longer.

The board should add the \$12,000 program to the curriculum at its next meeting, which is July 2.

For starters, it is hard to imagine people arguing that the \$12,000 program is too costly. Compared to the cost of treatment, a \$12,000 drug program is nothing.

And that doesn't take in the potential an alcoholic or drug addict has for causing damage and emotional suffering.

A school committee studied the issue for a year, considering at least seven different drug education programs.

The "Here's Looking at You 2000" program was endorsed by the district's four principals, two counselors and the four presidents of the parent-teacher clubs. It would be hard to get a much more resounding endorsement.

Adoption of the program does not rule out bringing in guest speakers and involving parents. Community forums have been held in the past, and they should be an ongoing part of the drug education program.

The many elements of this program speak well for it. Teaching refusal skills and factual information is necessary.

On face value, the idea of teaching factual information about drug use might seem ill conceived. But children won't be bullied by scare tactics for long, and the damage caused by long-term drug abuse speaks for itself.

The board should follow up on a suggestion by a parent, Greg Gregus, who said the district should do a study to determine the amount of drug use in the school. In the future, the study could serve as a basis to measure the success of the drug education program.

The results of such a study should be open for examination by the public.

The commitment shown by the committee studying the issue was admirable. The committee does not consider its work done but instead plans to monitor the effectiveness of the program.

There is more to winning the war on drug abuse than a drug education program, and members of the committee are well aware of that. It would be hard to put it more succinctly than Jackie Key, a parent. "To make the program work, we must have the support of the home and the community," she said. "We want the involvement of both."

We have regularly heard people at Sandy High School say, "By the time we get kids with drug problems, it's too late . . ."

This drug education program addresses that complaint. The committee did a good job. The program should be implemented.



'MOVE YOUR DOG!'

Don't drink the water

Funky footwear defines Ashland

A local dentist has good instincts. Though it was his first time at Ashland's Shakespearean Festival, he showed up at the outdoor theater wearing a pair of Birkenstock sandals. If you've ever been to Ashland, you'll know that the funky footwear is almost required apparel there.

Part of the fun of going to the theater in Ashland is sitting there in the soft summer night, anticipating the play and gawking at other playgoers. You get extra points if you run into somebody you know. And double points for a dentist.

In addition to being in the right sandals, the dentist's timing was impeccable. He caught the best play of the new season.

Shakespeare got his act together in "Midsummer Night's Dream." I wonder if he knew it back in the 16th century. I wonder if he called up his wife and said, "Methinks I have a hit."

And I wonder what he would have thought of the way the folks in Ashland staged the play. It was a flash of color, a jewel gleaming against the setting of a somber brown stage. So beautiful it made your eyes hurt.

I like to send postcards from my travels but I rarely do from Ashland, though I have been there every summer for nine years. Ashland is not so much a picture as it is a feeling.

Californians are always surprised by Ashland. They think we rustics in Oregon are too countrified to produce a town so charming and so pleasantly offbeat.

A perfect postcard of Ashland should include the town's famous Lithia water fountain (the water still tastes like something you washed your socks in) and a hippie or two. The flower children live there as though the 1970s had never given way to the yuppies of the 1980s. They slop around town in their Birkenstocks wearing tattered jeans and gauze skirts from India and calling to children named Star and Shasta.

You can sit in Lithia Park and watch the punks in leather and chains gawking at the hippies in their tie-dyed gear.

One night while sipping a steamed milk drink in a vine-covered restaurant my friend Helen looked around and said, "I may be the only one here in polyester."

You can spot everything from camouflage gear to Harris Tweed in Ashland. Shakespeare fans are a



Sharon Nesbit

diverse lot and many dedicate themselves to two plays a day while they are there.

But that doesn't leave time to spend a lazy afternoon in Jacksonville. You can wander into the Beekman Bank there and find a clerk with a garter on his arm making out checks with a scratchy pen and ink dipped from a bottle. Or you can go to the Beekman House where a member of the family tells you about life there. The bank and house are museums and the people in them are living history actors portraying the past. It is eerie. You can almost hear the gunshots fired by rowdy miners tomfooling in the street.

In both Jacksonville and Ashland, there are cute shops with enough ceramic geese in them to populate France. And antique shops, gift shops, candy shops and art galleries.

The trip home is not bad, either. You can gain five pounds on Interstate 5 if you do it right.

Just north of Roseburg is the little brick town of Oakland. Tolly's restaurant there is worth a stop. Or pull off at Canyon Creek and follow the frontage road south to Mexia's. You'll find a dusty Studebaker in the garage and a rusting gas pump with a glass globe. And in the tiny restaurant straight out of the 1930s is Mexia making her pies. Don't look for dainty crust. Mexia's pie is the kind you sink your teeth into.

Or stop at Rice Hill and turn off to the motley collection of trailer houses on the west side of the freeway for the best and biggest ice cream cone you'll ever drip down your front.

Once you're home and full of ice cream and pie and fudge, go see your dentist. And ask him how he liked the play.

Addresses of state, national legislators

State Representative Bob Shprack, 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 Flat Road, Springfield, 97478. 746-1842. Or: State Capitol, Room S310, Salem, Ore., 97310. 1-800-327-7389.

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) 1-800-452-7889.

Legislative access in Oregon: 1-800-327-7389. One may call this number and ask to be connected to any state legislator's office.

Oregon Legislative status number: 1-800-332-2313. One may call this number to learn the status of bills pending in the Oregon Legislature.

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 receive it receives from area residents.

We reserve the right to edit letters to conform to style guidelines for length. Letters should be 300 w.o. long.

Congress must provide solution

Resolution of the farm labor shortage is going to require less talk and more agreement on an immediate plan of action if anyone hopes to avoid crops rotting in the fields, subsequent food price increases and severely depressed economies in local farm communities.

The shortage has been prompted by new national legislation regarding illegal immigrant labor.

A good dose of understanding from officials in the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service would help. Several of these officials can't see the forest for the trees. They acknowledge that the new law, which was initiated to control the flow of illegal immigrants into the United States, is working. But at the same time, they refuse to admit that the law's effectiveness has resulted in a shortage of immigrant labor that American farmers have learned to rely on.

"The good news is the law works," said Gregory Leo, the immigration service's congressional affairs director. "The bad news is those people who rely on illegal aliens are going to have to find a new way to do business."

Meanwhile, Deputy INS Director Joseph Greene said in Portland this week, "How many farms are we going to lose in Oregon because of a worker shortage? I don't think we are going to lose any, and that's the bottom line."

Those who are more sensitive to the plight of American agriculture and more aware of the laws of physics — for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction — would disagree with both INS officials.

We certainly do.

For one, the federal government cannot assume that U.S. farmers alone must shoulder the burden of finding replacement labor in time for this year's harvests. The INS has known for years that hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants have worked each year on American farms. It should be obvious that if that number of migrant workers have not been granted citizenship under the new law, there would be a resulting labor shortage.

For another, it is inconsistent for one federal agency to risk the health of the national economy, higher food prices nationwide and the viability of individual businesses while other federal agencies are spending billions each year to stimulate the economy, subsidize food costs and lend money to farmers.

It is time for the INS and farmers to agree on how to provide an immediate solution to this labor shortage. The answer may be short-lived. It does not need to be permanent. Crops left in the fields certainly aren't.

It is obvious by comments made by INS officials — and farmers' general uneasiness over accepting bureaucratic solutions — that the answer will have to come from Congress.

And Congress must not act slowly. It is almost the Fourth of July and the corn in the fields is almost knee-high.

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 Clatsop 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. 22 June 25 1987