

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Karinda Hedlund, advertising representative

Good library to improve with grant

Supporters of the Sandy Public Library have a reason to be excited. The library recently received a \$95,500 federal grant. Librarian Sue Newlands, City Manager Tom Reber and City Councilor Mort Spence are among the people who helped work for the grant. They are to be congratulated.

The city of Sandy must match the grant, and it will be able to do that comfortably thanks to about a \$60,000 donation by the Sandy Women's Club a few years ago.

The ball is now in the City Council's court. In the past year, the City Council has discussed every option from building a new building to cutting back on senior center and recreation programs.

While a lively debate over the direction of the city may be to the public's benefit, the library grant is going to force some decision-making with long-range implications.

For now, fans of the Sandy Public Library can enjoy the victory Newlands has won in lobbying people within the Oregon State Library system, which administers the federal grants.

The Sandy Public Library has 13,000 to 14,000 books listed in its card catalog. If patrons checked in their books at the same time, the shelves wouldn't hold them all.

The library turns over about half the books on its shelves each month, which is nothing short of phenomenal.

The library has about 5,000 books stored in closets and corners of City Hall, books that should be on the shelves.

Floor space will be expanded from 1,794 to about 6,000 square feet. The additional space will be used in a number of ways, including the addition of books in Spanish.

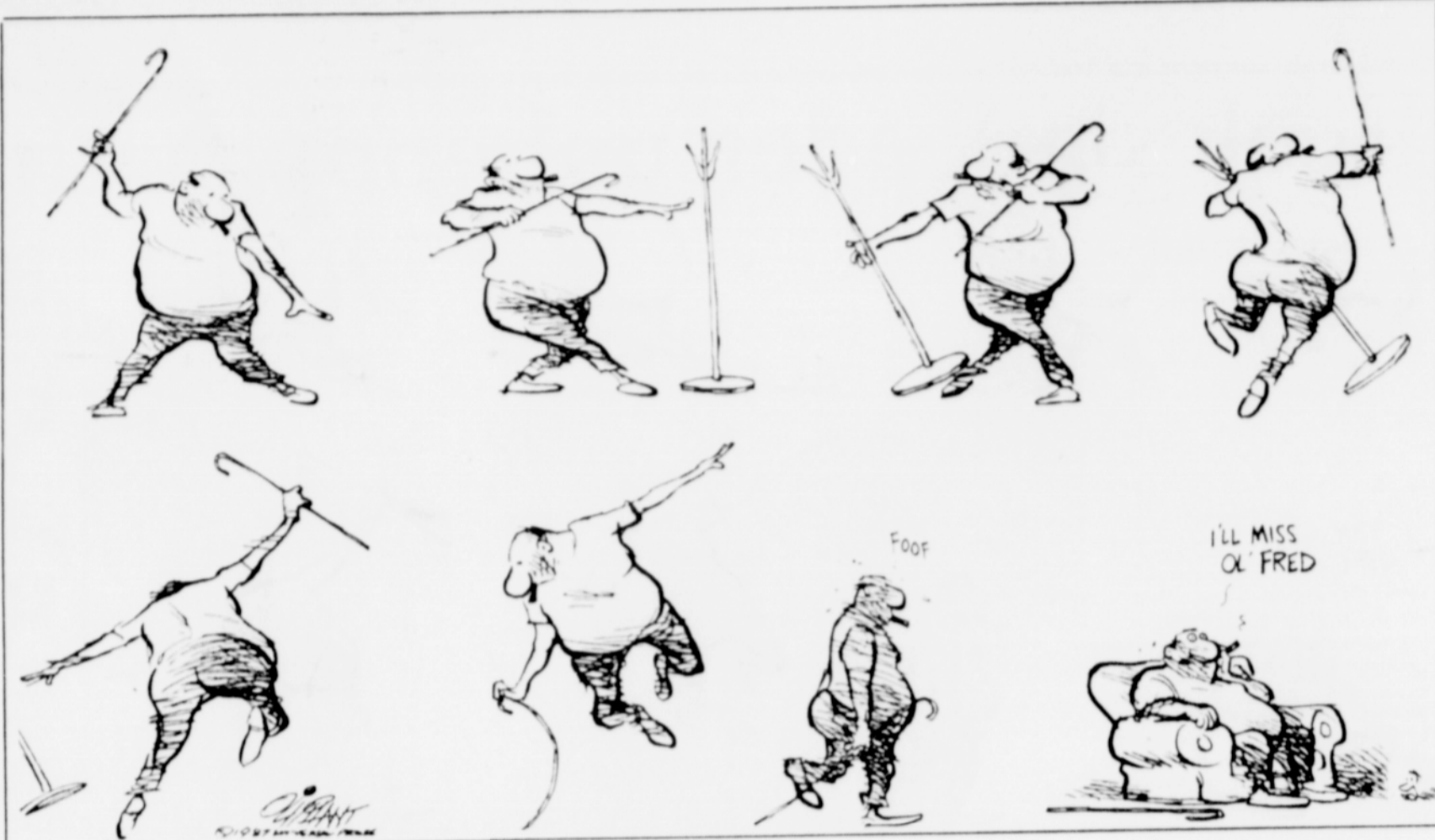
The expansion will also allow the library to add another computer terminal for access to its card catalog, and it will allow the library access to the state's "research" library.

The Sandy library already does a good job of providing new fiction. Access to additional research materials will add another dimension to the library.

Although elbow room will be the most significant addition to the library, there are numerous other services the library will be able to provide, including access to a copying machine, typewriter and audio room.

The library has 6,100 card holders a primary service area with a population of about 8,500. There is a secondary service area with a population of about 7,500. The additional services should help meet the variety of needs the public has.

Newlands and the library staff have offered a good service despite the limited facilities. We have no reason to believe the expanded library won't be better yet.



Guest opinion

Early intervention may curb drug use

by LILLIAS CRANE
Special to The Post

The Sandy Elementary District board is deliberating the addition of a drug program into next year's curriculum. To further support the need and desirability of implementing this program, a recent study should be taken into consideration.

The study is "Drug Use Among Oregon Public School Students," 1985, which was conducted by the Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, Department of Human Resources.

This study looks specifically at eighth and 11th graders in a carefully chosen sample of students throughout Oregon. (Not included in the survey were "school dropouts" or students in alternative schools.)

Five geographic regions were designated, with Sandy being included in the Portland Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area; ie, counties of Clackamas, Multnomah (minus the city of Portland) and Washington.

This article covers only the Portland SMSA. For a complete report, call 1-378-2163.

To quote the study: "Alcohol and drug use and abuse is recognized widely as a major and growing problem among high school students.



Less acknowledged is the extent of involvement of our youth with these drugs at ages earlier than high school entrance."

Alcohol (81.3 percent) and cigarettes (45.6 percent) are the most frequently reported drugs every used by eighth graders. Marijuana (22.8 percent) and inhalants (23.5 percent) are the most frequently reported illicit drugs. One in eight eighth graders have used cocaine and amphetamines (7.4 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively).

Non-prescription diet and pep pills

were reported used in significant amounts (13.7 percent and 6.6 percent).

"Experimentation" can be a reason for some of the percentages at the eighth grade level but one must examine closely the information reported in the "monthly prevalence of use."

Alcohol (33.5 percent) and cigarettes (22.2 percent) again are the most frequently reported illicit drugs, followed by cocaine (2.1 percent) and amphetamines (2.5 percent).

Consistent, continual usage at this age is the beginning of habit formation and possible addiction.

The use of alcohol and drugs increases between the eighth and 11th grade. Alcohol (92.4 percent) and cigarettes (63.1 percent) are reported most frequently as having been used by 11th graders. Marijuana use is reported by 48.7 percent; cocaine by 19.9 percent; amphetamines by 19.7 percent; and inhalants by 24.2 percent of students surveyed.

"Monthly prevalence" of use also increases significantly at the 11th grade level: Alcohol, 59.1 percent; cigarettes, 33.8 percent; marijuana, 23.5 percent; cocaine, 6.7 percent; amphetamines, 8.6 percent; and inhalants, 5.4 percent.

To further quote the study: "The

correlates of drug use with the behavior of students is now a prime concern to educators, parents, law enforcement officials and those who are responsible for programs of prevention, intervention and treatment.

"Low academic performance, aberrant and disruptive behavior, and school dropouts are among the more visible negative behaviors.

"Sensitivity by public officials to these issues and the demonstrable futility of law enforcement as a primary defense against drug use have led to great concern for user-oriented and demand-oriented programs of public education stressing awareness and prevention in addition to more public treatment programs."

There is mounting evidence that prevention and early intervention are effective in reducing problems associated with alcohol and drug abuse. The best of all strategies is to prevent it from occurring in the first place.

For those who choose to experiment with alcohol and other drugs, intervention is critical to halt usage patterns before they become "habit forming" and addiction occurs.

Lillias Crane is a counselor at Cedar Ridge School.

Letters to the editor

Tank thanked for support

Sandy VFW Post No. 4273 and Auxiliary would like to apologize to Quality Tank and Co. Inc. for omitting their name in our letter of thanks for everyone's support in our Buddy Poppy program. It was unintentionally omitted.

Virgil Polk
Dennis Ellis
Barbara Ellis
Buddy Poppy chairpeople

be racing a Junior car.

My Dad is out of town in the National Guard and could not help me build my car.

I would like to thank the people who took my Dad's place and helped me build my car. They are Kent Cox, Barry Fretz and Les Groombridge. I would also like to thank my sponsor, the Sandy VFW Post No. 4273 Ladies Auxiliary.

Kelly Key
Sandy

Correction

The person at the Sandy Elementary District board meeting who suggested the district conduct a comprehensive drug use survey was Mike Gregus. The Post incorrectly listed his name in an editorial on June 25. We regret the error.

Racer says thanks for help

This weekend is the Soap Box Derby races. I am 10-years-old and will

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 receives from area residents.

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

Writer's top prize comes from readers

They gave me a nice writing award Saturday night in Williamsburg, Va. It made me think of Bobbie McInturf and Betty Peterson.

As I told the National Federation of Press Women, I learned to read when I was in the first grade. By the time I got to the second grade, I figured anybody could write something better than "See Jane run." So I sat down with a blue-lined tablet and a No. 2 pencil and discovered the incredible magic of stringing my own words together.

Not having much to compare with, I didn't know whether they were any good or not until I went to the front of the room and read them to my class. Bobbie McInturf went nuts. He groaned in ecstasy, kicked his legs out into the aisle, dragged his hands through the bristles of his crew cut and said, "Gee, that's good."

Now I don't know where Bobbie is today. I'm pretty sure he is not working as a literary critic anywhere. And he may not have cracked a book since high school. But his words then were the encouragement I needed and I'll never forget them.

Nor will I soon forget the awards I



received Saturday night in Virginia and Friday night from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association in Newport. The fact that they come from other writers make them special because they know how hard it is sometimes, this putting words to paper.

I have never actually had beads of blood break out on my forehead when I was staring at a blank sheet of paper, but writing often is like pushing a rock uphill. Or tailoring a suit. You add a bit here. Take a tuck

there. Move a pocket from one place to another. Adjust a button. Until you get the whole works to fit.

And sometimes it never does. And that's where Betty Peterson comes in.

We knew when we met that we liked each other and humor and nostalgia and her fat, old dog.

I will never know how I came to make the awful mistake of calling her "Betty Robertson" in a story I wrote about her. It must have been some kind of brain spasm that reduced my cerebral matter to jelly. At least I was consistent. I called her Robertson a dozen times.

The miracle is that she forgave me and even suggested that I interview her husband, Pete.

The best part of this job is sitting around on somebody's patio listening to stories and petting the fat, old dog as I did that day. Pete Peterson was a pioneer plumber who gave many Gresham folks their first indoor bathroom and he had a fund of stories to tell.

You people continue to astonish me. You sit me down, pour me coffee, and let me ask nosy and intimate and

hard questions. I have watched and waited with you when you met new babies at the airport, buried your grandchildren, had a heart transplanted, celebrated a marriage, rode in a parade, pounded a gavel or just lived long and well.

I keep two files. One is for insults and complaints. The other is for praise. No note anyone ever sends to me is thrown away. The trick is to keep the praise file thicker than the complaint file. You may never know how much a hastily-scribbled note has meant to me on a day when it was harder than usual to shove the rock uphill.

At the same time I learned of my other awards, Betty Peterson sent me such a note.

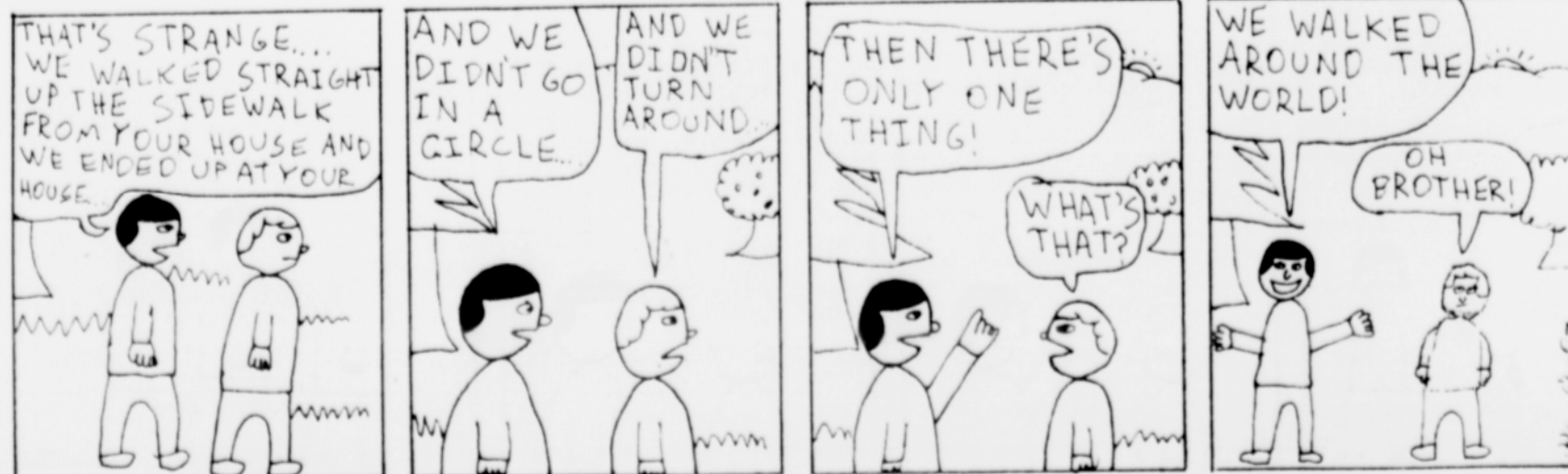
Written only a week after her beloved husband had died, she told me that much of the article I wrote about Pete in 1985 was used in his obituary.

They say that we journalists always want the last word, and that may be true because I was touched and pleased.

For a writer, the best prizes always come from the readers.

by Adam Kraft

Bobcats



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