

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor

Karinda Hedlund, advertising representative

Veterans memorial worthy of praise

Sandy's veterans memorial has been in the news since the summer of 1985, when the Sandy Veterans of Foreign Wars announced its plan to erect the \$32,000 statue.

Sometimes it seems there is nothing as controversial as public art, and the veterans memorial was no exception.

At one point, two people were circulating petitions demanding that the gun be removed from the proposed statue.

Later there was a dispute about the location of the statue. That dispute pitted the chairman of the VFW veterans memorial committee against a city councilor. The city councilor was opposed to locating the memorial in the "triangle" on the west end of Sandy.

After two years of pondering the necessity of having the soldier carry an M-16, we have come to the conclusion that both members of the VFW and the artist view the rifle as a part of the war.

The artist, Roger McGee, said: "You slept with them (the M-16s). You took them everywhere. I'm comfortable with the way it looks. I don't think it is aggressive or offensive."

We do not believe it was the VFW's intent to build a memorial to war, but a memorial to the people who served. In our opinion, the artist accomplished that goal.

In the end, the bitter dispute over the location of the statue was resolved easily and to the apparent satisfaction of all involved.

Its location at the intersection of Highway 26 and Highway 211 meets all objectives. It is easily viewed by people driving by on the highway. And for those who wish to stop, it is easily accessible.

As an added bonus, the statue and landscaped setting — which is not yet complete — will be an attractive addition to Sandy's downtown.

There are a couple of other positive notes. The statue was cast locally at Maiden Bronze. And the statue was sculpted by a Vietnam veteran.

The artist's story is heartening in itself. Roger McGee is a realist. Despite the fact that thousands were killed and the U.S. did not accomplish its goal of stopping the spread of communism, he does not seem bitter.

Through his art, he has found an outlet to test the limits of his creativity. But he has humility.

"The art business is kind of like show business," he joked. It's not easy to break in to."

Making the Sandy memorial was a dream come true for McGee. We think the memorial has the potential to touch the hearts of others as well.

Hubs is down over football, coupons

Things haven't been going too well for Hubby lately.

Not that he complains, but he is riding the downhill side of life's rollercoaster right now. And he is low, lower than a snake's belly, closer to the ground than a cigarette paper.

Take television. He watched tennis all summer, just waiting for football season to come along. He was crushed but he kept his chin up when the football players went out on strike.

For one thing, he still had his moles. One of Hubs' chief sports is the snaring of moles. Like a Rocky Mountain fur trapper, he makes daily rounds of his trap lines in the summer, ridding lawns of burrowing beasts. Except that the mountaineers go on foot in moccasins and he goes in his Thunderbird, the trunk all loaded with trowels and buckets and traps.

He sets a trap here and digs a hole there. There is thought in some circles that Hubby may do more damage to a lawn than the mole does. But periodically throughout the summer — 54 times this year — he trapped a mole, raised its little pink-pawed corpse aloft and issued harsh, guttural cries of victory, just like the ancient cave man.

Hubby has never hunted. Moles are his sport. Unlike bullets, you can use traps over and over again. And it's always open season on moles.

And then the drought came and the moles went underground.

That's all right, Hubby said bravely, putting his traps away for the winter. "I still have the World Series and the Giants are in the playoffs."

"I thought those guys were on strike," I said. He just looked at me. He knows I'm never serious when he talks about the World Series.

The last I heard the Giants didn't make it, but Hubs went off to his friend's house in a small coastal town in California to watch the series anyway. I know they don't play the



series in small coastal towns. But Hubs and his friend sit in front of the television and lie to each other and make \$1 bets and it's more fun than being in the Kingdom or wherever it is that the Serious takes place.

"It's OK," he said, being very brave about the Giants, "and they have cable television there so I can still keep an eye on the stock market."

That was on Oct. 18. On Oct. 19 the stockmarket, emulating Hubby's life, rollercoasted down to an all time low. Lower than a snake's belly. Lower than a cigarette paper.

"Are we poor?" I asked Hubs over the phone.

"Let me put it this way," he answered bravely. "It's a good thing I'm in a one-story town."

I missed Hubby while he was gone. He does all the grocery shopping, and a thriftier shopper you have never seen. By the time he got home from the watching his teams in the National League and the New York Stock Exchange lose, I knew he would need cheering up.

"You are needed here," I said. "We are all out of groceries."

"Good," he said bravely. "I'll just get out my double coupons and go to the store."

And you know what happened to double coupons.

Fortunately, the football players are back in uniform. His team is losing. But I guess you already figured that out.



Letters to the editor

SAT results are worthless

I would like to comment on the recent statements made by Verne Duncan, superintendent of public instruction for the state of Oregon.

In his efforts to show Oregon's success in the field of education and laud our students' outstanding performance as confirmed by the results of testing students, we are made aware of a few oversights on his part.

Let me quote, verbatim, from Educational Research Associates, Vol. 7, No. 7, 1987, publication in Portland:

"For example, when Mr. Duncan talks about:

"1. Oregon's class of 1986 ranking No. 2 in the U.S., he forgets to mention that: a. Oregon is No. 2 among the 22 states using the SAT; b. A greater number of states (28) use the ACT; c. None of the states' scores are as significant today as they were prior to 1966, when the scores for all candidates were reflected (sophomores, juniors and seniors). Since 1966, only the scores for seniors have been included — for either the SAT or ACT.

"2. New Hampshire being ahead of Oregon (in SAT scores) by only five points (935 to 930) he forgets to mention that: a. Even New Hampshire and Oregon, at 45 and 50 points, (were) below the national SAT average in 1963; b. 56.4 percent of New Hampshire's graduating seniors took the 1986 test, while a mere 46 percent of Oregon's seniors did so; c. New Hampshire spends only \$3,115 per year (per student) compared to Oregon's \$4,123; and d. New Hampshire pays its teachers a modest \$20,263 (plus approximately 20 percent in fringe benefits); Oregon, \$25,788 (plus approximately 40 percent in fringe benefits)."

Perhaps you readers will share my belief that the SAT and CAT message we are presented with annually are totally worthless and not symbolic of a student body's measure of intelligence or abilities.

Bill Clink
Sandy

Corrective action is needed now

I would like to comment on your recent editorial concerning CAT test results at Sandy Elementary School. Your writing implies that the district is doing an exceptional job. However,

the record does not seem to support that position.

Sandy Elementary began testing five or more years ago, approximately 1982. The low scores and specifically low scores in math and spelling have been evident for some time, yet no corrective action was taken.

In 1986, the Affordable Education Association called test results to everyone's attention and again nothing was done.

Now, in 1987, Affordable Education called test results to everyone's attention and finally a corrective program has begun. In view of the above we see only foot dragging, procrastination and lack of concern for our children's education.

Specific mention has been made concerning the quality of education. Yet the 1986 CAT report indicated the total figure for Sandy Elementary was only 51 or 1 point above the national average and in 1987 the results were 49 or 1 point below the national average, allegedly because of a short school year.

What is so great about testing out at the national average, considered by many to be low? We suggest a more meaningful comparison would be the national average plus figures from Lake Oswego, McMinnville, Redmond and others.

Now that a committee has been established to study the test results and Sandy teaching procedures, we assume the problem will be corrected, but no one has set a date.

We also assume you know that approximately 30 percent of the eighth grade students entering high school are not prepared for ninth grade studies. We also assume you know that poor students are most likely to drop out, and that Sandy High School has a drop-out rate of almost 30 percent.

Excuse me if I get emotional but lives are at stake here and we need immediate corrective action.

In other words, this committee should begin taking corrective action now, and the new program should be in full force by Jan. 1, 1988. Our children can't wait!

Lloyd Cummins,
executive secretary
Affordable Education Association

VFW Auxiliary says thanks

As cancer chairman for the Sandy VFW Ladies Auxiliary, I wish to thank the following businesses for making our rummage sale a big success this year.

The Ladies Auxiliary greatly appreciates your help and advertising for this great cause.

Our thanks to Brad Paluck and Mount Hood Cleaners; Dennis Snyder and Sandy Safeway; Jim Fisher and Sandy Thriftway; Tom Farrell and Sandy Sentry; Denise Redman and Mountain Video; Paul Buss and G and L Video; Darlene Cannon, Judy Boyko and The Movie Place; Taco Time; Cheryl Vaeretti and Luigi's; the Sandy Post and Gresham Outlook; and Radio Station KWJJ.

With the support of these businesses, and the people of Sandy, we made \$750 for cancer aid and research.

Fran Taylor and
VFW Ladies Auxiliary No. 4273

Fenwick family says thank you

The Fenwick family wishes to thank the community of Sandy and every individual that gave of his or her time and money to help relieve us of the financial pressures of overwhelming doctor and hospital bills.

From the time we moved to Sandy, about 18 years ago, we have enjoyed taking part in, and being a part of, a community of such wonderful people.

People here are more like family than friends. I am pleased that my children had the opportunity to grow up here and I know that wherever any of us go in our lives, we will always think of Sandy as our home.

Again, with much love and appreciation, we thank you, one and all.

Herb and Ann Fenwick
and family
Sandy

Blue Marlins say thank you

The Blue Marlin Aquatic Club would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for donating food for our all-night party and swim-a-thon on Oct. 17 and 18.

They include: Continental Food Co. for the hot dogs, with the donation arranged by Louise Spence; Sandy Safeway, for the hot dog buns; and Janz Berryland, for the box of apples.

Crosswalks aren't safe

Perhaps a clearly marked crossroads lane for pedestrians and an overhead sign announcing "Crossroads" can be a real hazard to people on foot in Sandy.

A very few people stop for the crosswalk in front of the old post office building (now the Sandy Community Action Center) or the corresponding location on Proctor Boulevard.

Hearsay reported to me was that even a patrolman did not stop for a person who was waiting to cross.

A child, taught that crosswalks are the only safe place to cross, might attempt to cross and be hit, not realizing that this law is not enforced in Sandy at these spots.

Either people should be stopped for violating the law, or the sign removed, in my opinion.

Joyce Marcy
Sandy

The Sandy Post

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by Adam Kraft

Bobcats

