

The Sandy Post

# Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor  
Karinda Hedlund, advertising representative

## Volunteers earned community thanks

Members of the Living Way Fellowship Church and the Sunnyside Foursquare Church deserve praise for the great effort they made in Sandy this weekend.

The group landscaped around the veterans memorial, made improvements to the gazebo and playground in Meinig Park, painted the downstairs rooms in the Sandy Senior Center and cut down blackberries.

Associate Pastor Lowell Weare of the Living Way Fellowship said the church has an active youth group, with adult leaders who are trying to get young people in the habit of volunteering.

In our opinion the adults are setting a great example. The church has worked on other projects in Oregon the past few years, including doing some landscaping at City Hall. But perhaps even more exciting for church members are regular trips to Mexico to help impoverished parishioners build schools, churches and residences.

On its most recent trip, Sandy's church and four others raised \$30,000 for building materials and other expenses.

Weare said the trips to Mexico give Sandy youngsters an appreciation for the people of Mexico, as well as an appreciation for how well we have it in the United States.

Weare said that church members get a great deal of satisfaction from its service projects. That may be true, but residents of the Sandy area are beneficiaries as well.

## Old stuff makes for big business

Scarlett O'Hara didn't like Charleston, S.C.

Rhett Butler did. In the movie version of "Gone With the Wind," Rhett/Clark Gable (they are all mixed up in my mind) stood in the doorway and said he didn't give a damn. He did give a damn about Charleston and he told Scarlett he was headed "where there's a little bit of grace and charm left in the world."

Rhett was right. Charleston charmed me last week. It lured me down its cobblestone streets. It beckoned me into hidden gardens. And it told me things about the South that I had never known — that grits taste like "warm sand." That the dance, "The Charleston," originated there as did "Porgy and Bess" and the country's first jockey club. That the start of the Civil War at Fort Sumter was really a very organized affair with courteous notes passed back and forth between the Union and Confederate commanders.

I went to Charleston with a friend who likes me so much that she once gave up chocolate for me. And I met a new friend, Price Robinson, whose great-granddaddy fought in Confederate gray at the same time that my great-great granddaddy wore the Union blue. We got along just fine.

Price showed us a little pink house where pirates once drank. He led us down brick alleys where tiny, shuttered houses sit next to bowers of Lady Banksia roses. We visited a plantation house that was built when George Washington was 6 years old. It has been painted only twice in 200 years and there is a pile of stuff in the basement that has been there a century. "Sounds like my house," mumbled one of the tourists.

He showed us a church spire knocked cockeyed in the last great earthquake and introduced us to a pair of mules that had done a "Hi-Lo, Silver" and plunged through the back window of a new Thunderbird.

We saw spiked iron work bristling at the top of wrought iron walls, a precaution taken after a threatened slave revolt in 1822. And we walked down an alley where it is still legal to have a duel.

Price laughed when I told him that Troutdale's museum is 88 years old. "We've got dirt in the corners older than that," he hooted.

"Well," I bristled. "Everybody has to start somewhere."

Charleston exists with so much of its history intact because it was too



Sharon Nesbit

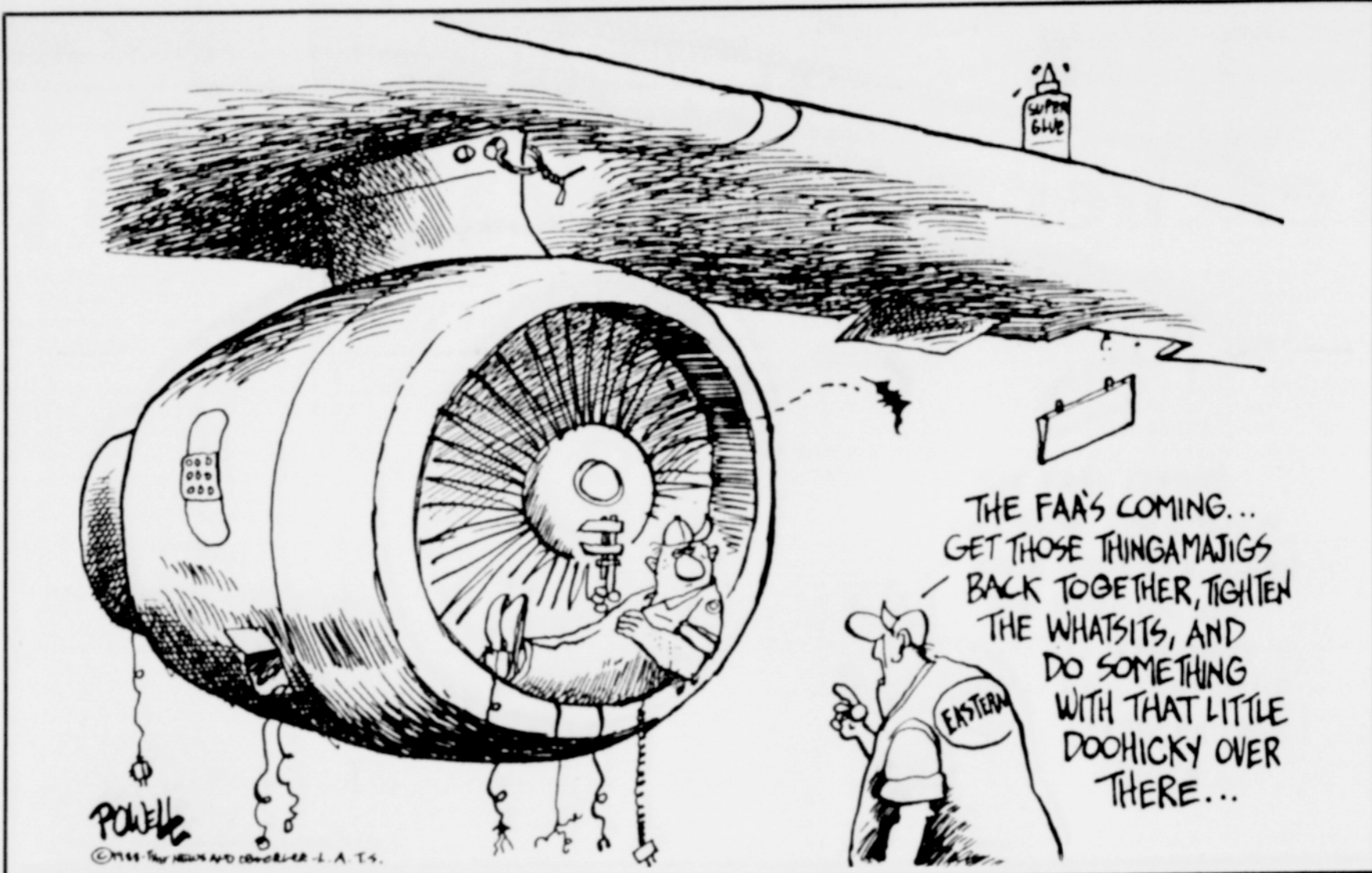
darned poor to do anything else. Built on a peninsula, it was invaded twice by foreign armies (the British and the Union). But everything else, highways, railroads and progress passed it by. When the Civil War ended and the slave-driven economy of the South collapsed, the wealthy residents of Charleston found themselves "too poor to paint, too proud to whitewash." Not wanting to be caught at the task, they sneaked outside at night to polish the brass on their doors.

Much of the lovely city became a slum. Not until World War II did the city's economy begin to turn around and by then Charlestonians realized they were living in a treasure. According to a history written by Robert Rosen, when Standard Oil planned to put gas stations all over the city in 1929, Charleston established zoning laws to protect its historic district. Charleston adopted the first historic district zoning ordinance in America in 1931.

Old stuff is good business on the East Coast. Charleston is full of visitors. But preservation is pretty new to us. The ink is still wet on lists of historic buildings and sites in Troutdale and Gresham. We will be zoning historic sites in coming months. Such decisions may not be popular because Westerners tend to chafe at another level of government.

But it's worth remembering, as freeways and franchises homogenize our country, that nobody goes to Charleston to see suburbs or Burnside Roads lined with fast-food places, gas stations and quickie markets.

Rhett Butler could get a Big Gulp and chicken nuggets anywhere.



## LETTERS

### Hospice services free of charge

Thank you so much for the article about Mount Hood Hospice and the new board members.

We would like the community to be aware that Mount Hood Hospice is a most unique program because we do not bill our patients and families for services.

Insurance companies are billed and no one is ever denied assistance because of lack of insurance coverage.

Therefore, the majority of patient care costs must be raised through memorials, donations, fund-raising and community support.

Without the generous financial support of the community, Mount Hood Hospice could not remain open.

Thank you again for your continuous support.

Maryl Perrin  
Chairwoman  
Mount Hood Hospice

### Leaders were a 'disgrace'

The April 11 high school board meeting turned into a wild melee.

The so-called commons auditorium was flooded with striking teachers carrying picket banners and there was standing room only for patrons and students.

Board Chairperson Doty attempted to proceed with a previously announced agenda, but was interrupted by four anti-board members demanding that the teacher wage issue be taken up immediately in place of what was on the agenda, for many people pro and con had signed up to speak their views.

Chairperson Doty refused to recognize the intruders, ordering them to their seats or she would close down the meeting.

Board member Bob Boring attempted to make a motion to stay with the pre-arranged agenda, but the confusion generated by the audience drowned out any hopes of conducting business so the board chair, on consulting with other members, ordered the meeting closed and left the platform.

This was clear thinking by the due process of elected officials and they are to be applauded for efforts to maintain civil order.

We now know something of the

caliber of the supposedly respected characters who are leading our youth in the paths of civil strife. The scene was a disgrace for Sandy High.

Cliff Koenig  
Sandy

### Letter writers best ignored

SUHS patrons would do well to ignore the hopelessly nearsighted blusterings of Cliff Koenig and Roland Cartisser.

Neither of these gentlemen seems genuinely concerned with quality education. Mr. Koenig admitted in his last letter to The Post that he thought a strike would improve SUHS's situation. This is an absurdity.

A strike harms everyone in the community, and I know that it was only with great reluctance that the teachers voted to strike.

Mr. Koenig's swagger suggest that it is he, not the teachers, who is unconcerned with the quality of education at SUHS.

In his last letter to The Post, Mr. Cartisser raised the bogie of teachers somehow indoctrinating students with the "politics of negotiation."

I frankly find this statement insulting because it impugns the credibility of the teachers and the intelligence of the students.

In general, I have been pleased with the education I have received at SUHS. Over the past year, however, many of the school's finest teachers have left for better-paying jobs at other schools.

Sixteen teachers left last year alone and I suspect at least as many will be leaving this year. Money is a major concern; one teacher left Sandy and took an immediate \$5,000 raise at a neighboring school.

There is no question that the quality of education could be improved. If we are to compete as a nation, we must have adequately funded and staffed schools.

What our schools need, however, is constructive action, not anti-teacher/taxes naysaying from the community.

Arne Baker  
Brightwood

### Trilliums: Best if left alone

Miles Aubin is right, there are few flowers more beautiful than Oregon's

native Trillium ovatum (Sandy Post, April 7), but I would like to add a couple of footnotes.

Please don't pick trilliums and, as he explained, deprive the plant of a year's food from its leaves. It's true it may not die, but repeated picking will finish that trillium.

Our woods are full of trilliums, but they would not be if we picked bouquets each year, or dug them all. Do as I did: pick one, stake the point where it grew, see what happens next spring. Small leaves, no flower.

If you wish to dig a trillium, please have the permission of the landowner or, if it's at the roadside, have some regard for others who may want to see it there.

Louise Godfrey  
Portland

### Teachers union now in control

It is a relief to the community that the threat of a teachers strike was resolved at the last minute.

It is sad that our students had to witness the insubordination and disrespect shown by certain teachers and their followers toward the school board and the administration prior to the strike deadline.

During the latter stage of negotiations, the teachers union picketed businesses where board members worked. A board member is an unpaid volunteer. They work many hours and try to do what's best for the taxpayers. They can't always please everyone.

I consider picketing by the union at board members' places of employment pure harassment! This type of picketing is illegal in almost all states. The state of Oregon is an exception.

At the last two school board meetings, the teachers union made every attempt possible to encourage citizens and students who would support their cause to attend the meetings.

Although there was a large number of people at these meetings, the majority of them were not voters or taxpayers from the Sandy High School District.

At the last board meeting, the teachers union demanded that the board change its agenda. The teachers and the board have traditionally held negotiations in closed meetings, but the teachers union wanted to change these rules. The board refused because they would be

open to unfair labor practice lawsuits.

The mob violence that was displayed after the meeting was adjourned was a disgrace to the community. The teachers who participated should be dismissed.

I feel sorry for the teachers, board members and students who will suffer from this last episode at Sandy High School. The small increase in salaries and benefits may cause the district to lay off staff next year if the district does not win its tax base election in May.

The class load will increase and students will suffer. The district taxpayers have observed that the school board is not in control. Under pressure from a few agitators, the board caved in.

Our students have learned that mob violence, disrespect for authority and insubordination pays off. They will be sadly disappointed when they graduate and get into the real job world.

Roland Cartisser  
Sandy

### Tail wags dog at Sandy High

At the Sandy Union High School board meeting Monday, April 11, the Sandy Education Association exposed its true nature.

Almost immediately after the meeting was called to order SEA members interrupted the chairwoman and requested the agenda be changed.

This request was denied and the meeting proceeded for four or five minutes, and then a group of SEA representatives approached the podium and requested they be heard out of order. When the chairwoman denied the request, SEA representatives then demanded they be heard and would not sit down.

I may be old-fashioned, but where I come from you don't demand anything of your boss, the school board. This is just one of many examples as to who SEA members think they are.

I believe SEA needs to re-evaluate its position and approach. SEA members are employees of the school board and the people. SEA does not own or run the school. The school board and the people do.

SEA members are employer's employees. The tail doesn't wag the dog.

John King  
Sandy

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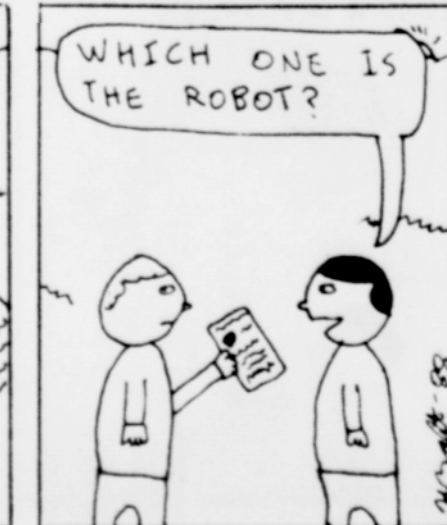
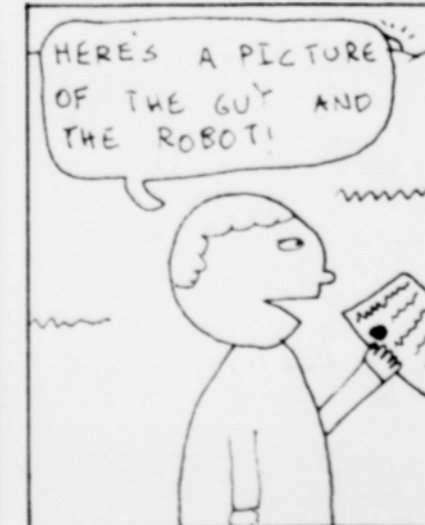
(USPS 481-180)

MEMBER Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, National Newspaper Association and U.S. Suburban Press. Published weekly Thursdays by the Outlook Publishing Co., Box 88, Sandy, Oregon 97055. Second class postage paid at Sandy, Oregon.

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by ADAM KRAFT