

Letters, cont.

From page 3

Beyond the look of the building, I would ask what are we really gaining from a \$1,600,000 building? Four classrooms and a cafeteria is what I see on the building plans. Yes, our cafeteria at WGS is inadequate; I will not argue that. But have we forgotten that we have 6 empty classrooms up on the hill at a great place called Lincoln Grade School? As I understand it, if Lincoln sits empty for two consecutive years it will no longer be usable as a public school — 1 year is already gone. If my math is correct, the plan for a new building will cost us \$1,600,000, 2 classrooms, and a perfectly good functional school called Lincoln Elementary. I am only seeing loss so far. What about the cafeteria? Perhaps convert the current WGS gymnasium into a multi-use room and put the cafeteria in the multi-use room. Then there would be a cafeteria and a gym in one room. When I was in grade school we ate in our classrooms and class monitors went to the kitchen to pick up the hot lunches.

I also ask where does the \$1,600,000 come from and, more significantly, how does it get repaid? The district is already overburdened with money shortages that have forced some questionable changes to our curriculum, i.e. 90 minute class blocks and fewer course choices. Is the decision to borrow \$1,600,000 going to help the current financial situation? I don't see how. Perhaps seeing one new building will excite people into approving a bond to build new schools and we could use that bond to pay off the existing loan for the previously constructed new building; just like in the story about Peter and Paul. We have a temporary administrator making some very big financial choices for our district.

In conclusion, I would ask why the school administration and school board are choosing this route as opposed to putting together a solid plan for getting a school bond approved and get the new schools built through proper channels? I would also ask is it too much to ask the people of our community to forego one personal pleasure per week (eating out, a pack of smokes, can of chew, 6 pack of beer, or movie rental) to

help pay the taxes required to build new schools? If the new building does get built, we still have the "rat-hole" — as our school board called it — called Washington Grade School where all of our children still go to school and will continue to go to school regardless of the fact that we spent \$1,600,000, lost 2 classrooms, and permanently closed down a great school called Lincoln Elementary.

With Great Respect to
Vernonia,
Chris Barnes
Vernonia

Why do we need war? What good does it do?

To the Editor:

I would like to note March 19th. It was 2 years ago, on the eve of Spring that a terrible storm occurred in our hearts and minds. War, once again, strode forcibly into our lives.

So, as this second year closed, the call went out around the world and across this nation to mark this painful event. Three of us gathered at the bridge in Vernonia and lit candles for those who have sacrificed their well-being, peace-of-mind and lives. A short speech was read and I would like to share it with you along with a poem:

"Senseless War"

*Gone are your missing troubles
Gone are your fallen joys
Gone is the sound of your name
Slipping away into time
Goodbye my love
Goodbye my daughter
Goodbye my son
I loved you so.*

Well, here we all are, tonight, at this bridge. How, in the world did we get here? We came here because of a sense of Social Consciousness which oc-

curs when surrounding circumstances demand that we drop what we are doing and put energy into something more important than ourselves or our daily tasks. This can happen to just one person, like Patrick Henry. Or it can happen to a group of folks, like us. In either situation, it is a time to tell the world it must change its course. War needs to stop being the center piece of dealing with others. War only destroys, maims, disables and kills.

Do we need war to influence

others? Do we need war to enhance our lives?

Do we need war to bring us more oil? Do we need war to be proud of our kids? Do we need war to deliver freedom to other nations? Do we need war to reach out and touch other families in other countries? Do we need war to advance medical technology? Do we need war to advance education?

Do we need war to assure Social Security? Do we need war to bring us income? Do we need war to increase national

See page 22

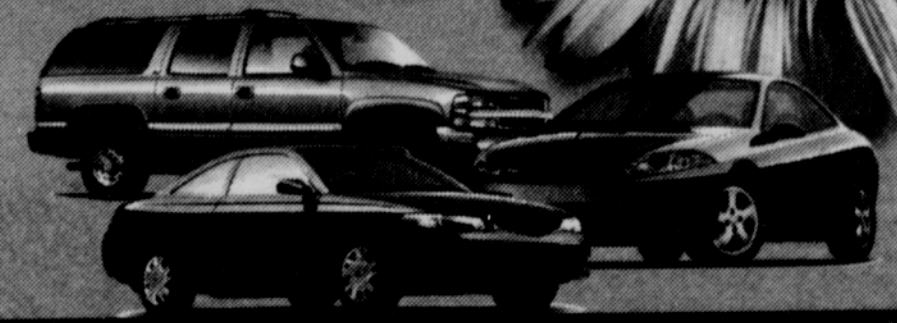
ONE DAY ONLY

SPRING AUTO SALE

Saturday, April 16, 2005 • 9am-2pm
Sale location: Industry Street and Basin
Astoria, OR 97103

 Rates as low as **3.90%** APR

-  **Get Pre-Approved!**
and test-drive a vehicle the day of the sale and receive a **\$30 Gas Card**
-  **100% Financing!**
-  **Not a member? You may qualify!**



WAUNA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Your hometown financial solution

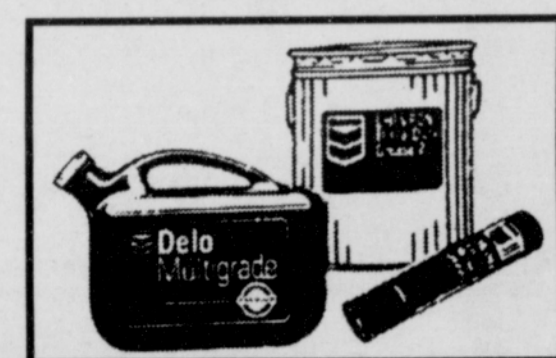
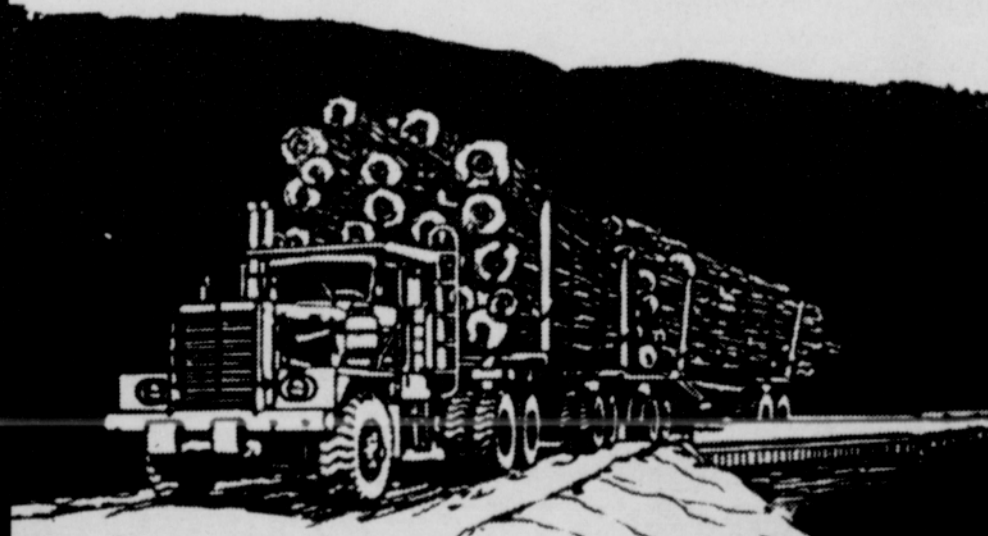
Astoria Clatskanie St. Helens Vernonia Warrenton
Toll-free 1-800-773-3236 • www.waunafcu.org

Run with Extra Confidence
with Chevron

DELO 400™ PLUS MOTOR OIL

The name you trust for:

- Gasoline
- Diesel Fuel
- Oils • Solvents
- Additives • Greases

SEE US FOR

HEATING OIL DECK & SHINGLE OIL ANTI FREEZE

 **CALL** 
(503) 429-6606

WILCOX & FLEGEL

720 Rose Avenue • Vernonia