

Chatterbox

Letters to the Editor

Something's wrong with our schools

Dear Editor:

Something's wrong with our public schools!

Whenever you get a handful of people together, the conversation seems always to get around to education.

And it's usually only a matter of time until some wise person in the group will make the grand pronouncement: "Something's wrong with our public schools!"

Unfortunately, the indictment is a sound one - that there is indeed a great deal wrong with public education.

Something is wrong when:

-in troubled economic times we

allow our logic to be twisted to say that spending less for education will force an improvement in quality.

-we're willing to spend more for our own adult toys than for our child's education.

-we protest that the classroom is the single most important station in education and then make our classroom teachers the lowest paid professionals in the system.

-we pay the workers who lay the foundation for our school building more than we pay the teachers who lay the foundation for our children's futures.

-we expect our teachers to succeed with all children, whose

parents frequently cannot accomplish the same with only one or two of their own.

-we join our children in condemning the school or an individual teacher rather than working together with the school and the teacher for the good of the kid.

-teachers are expected to maintain classroom discipline but are threatened with lawsuits if they take strong disciplinary action, especially against the wrong kid.

-children needing extra and very special attention are placed in an already crowded regular class.

-The list could go on - probably forever.

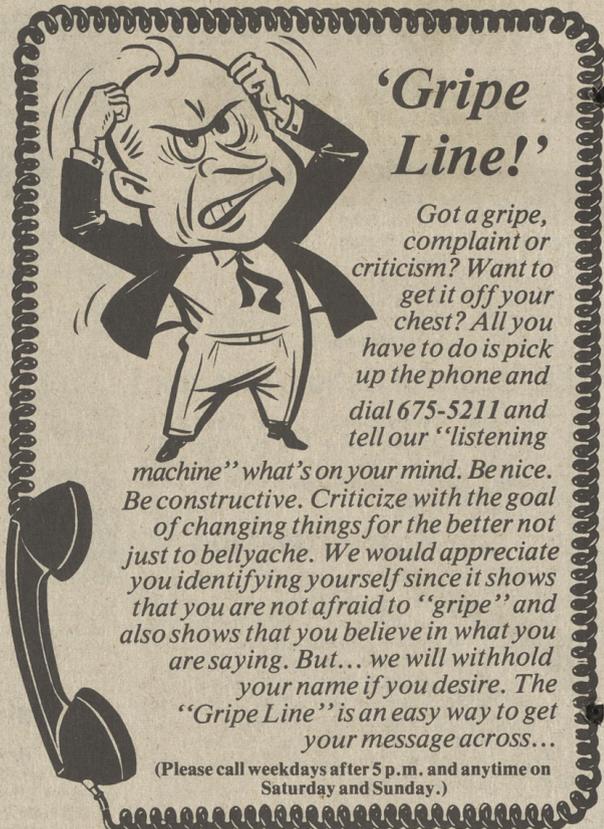
But the point has been made.

And the point - as we in the Teacher's Association see it - is this:

SOMETHING WILL CONTINUE TO BE WRONG WITH OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNTIL TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND SCHOOL DIRECTORS ARE WILLING TO ENTER INTO A REAL COMMITMENT TO FACE UP TO OUR EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS AND FIND SOLUTIONS FOR THEM.

If we do anything less than that, we have only ourselves to blame if - perhaps we should better say 'when' - the system crumbles.

Name withheld by request



'Gripe Line!'

Got a gripe, complaint or criticism? Want to get it off your chest? All you have to do is pick up the phone and dial 675-5211 and tell our "listening

machine" what's on your mind. Be nice. Be constructive. Criticize with the goal of changing things for the better not just to bellyache. We would appreciate you identifying yourself since it shows that you are not afraid to "gripe" and also shows that you believe in what you are saying. But... we will withhold your name if you desire. The "Gripe Line" is an easy way to get your message across...

(Please call weekdays after 5 p.m. and anytime on Saturday and Sunday.)

Why don't police enforce it?

As long as the Dallas-Luzerne Highway is posted 35 miles per hour from Shavertown to Dallas, why don't the police enforce it? I believe it is ridiculous to have such a low speed limit on a state highway but as long as it is posted it should be observed.

I travel the highway just about every day and while I am going 35 miles per hour motorists pass me as

though I'm standing still. The police may have had good intentions but it's not working. The only place I've seen it enforced is in Shavertown.

"Take care of our own"

If Dallas High School needs someone to teach photography why did they have to employ some outsider from a newspaper such as the Times Leader, or from any paper. That's conflict of interest I believe.

I live in the Dallas School District and I know several students who graduated from Dallas High Schools are good photographers. Why don't you employ one of these students. Just because Ellman is living in Dallas now doesn't mean he is a longtime resident. And what about Mr. Templin who used to teach photography to the students.

I think it's about time Dallas School District took care of their own-not outsiders.

Back Mountain resident and taxpayer

Mother

To watch over you when a baby
To sing you to sleep with her song
To try to be near you
To comfort and cheer you
To teach you the right from wrong

To do all she can
To make you a man
And over a million things more
To sigh for you, cry for you
Yes, even die for you,
That's what God made Mother for.

Chief Fire Ball,
Preslopsky

Where do you put all that waste

BY HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

In Northeastern Pennsylvania as well as many other parts of the country, one of the newest legitimate concerns expressed by many persons is the securing of sites for the disposal of non-hazardous industrial wastes. While the attention has been placed on hazardous waste management as a result of headline stories concerning the Love Canal and other similar incidents, the legitimate concern of industries who require sites for the disposal of non-hazardous wastes is of growing concern to public and private sector leaders. Jobs are at stake. The decision to find a solution to the needs of private industry must be reached in many parts of the country within a short period of time. If this is not accomplished, private industry has little choice but to consider relocation to areas which can handle the situation or to terminate employment opportunities in the location in which the problem exists.

In Northeastern Pennsylvania, the situation has become dramatic. The best estimates are that industrial waste disposal sites, either those which are currently in use or those which are contemplated for use, will be at full capacity within three years. This forecast is not based on scare tactics nor is it based on poor evidence. Data has been accumulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources and by organizations such as the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania as well as representatives of industries in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

In a recent meeting at which the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources was present in the region, it was pointed out by him as well as others that Northeastern Pennsylvania has the most serious problem of shortages of industrial waste

disposal sites of any other region in the Commonwealth. Thus, the actions are clear. Full attention should be given to this growing problem in order for the region to help stabilize its economic base and to encourage industrial expansion as a result of handling the region's own industrial waste problems.

Great confusion runs amidst the general public as to types of wastes which are required for disposal. Municipal wastes are those which are generated for the most part from residential structures and which require a solution in terms of the growing numbers of pounds per person generated each year.

Industrial wastes of a non-hazardous variety are those wastes generated by industry in the normal production of products or manufacturing operations which are an important element in any region's economy, including Northeastern Pennsylvania. It is these wastes which require immediate attention to reach a local decision and actions to resolve a local problem.

Hazardous wastes are those which are featured in areas such as the Love Canal, the Butler Tunnel in the Greater Pittston Area and other places similar to these examples. Pennsylvania's Act 97 which was enacted into law two years ago has now established a cradle to grave permit system by which these kinds of wastes can be tracked. We are in much better shape today than ever before to cope with this kind of problem.

It is important, however, that the general public not be confused about legitimate needs for waste disposal. Industrial wastes are a natural by-product of our society, and Northeastern Pennsylvania should take all appropriate steps to find the resources and sites which will allow our own industries to dispose of these by-products in a normal, effective and controlled environment.

How to spell success -H-O-M-E-M-A-K-E-R-S

BY P.T. AM

Well, it was another success! This year's homemakers show, as usual was out of this world. There were tons of prizes and things to see. It was just great. If you missed this year's show, all I can tell you is that you'll have to wait another year to get in on the biggest event of all times.

What do you think about Lake-Lehman's graduation date being changed. Taking a look at the cards announcing the change one may believe that whoever conjured up the announcement may need to go back to school for a little English grammar lessons. The announcement reads as follows: Lake-Lehman High School Commencement Exercises has been changed to Friday evening, June 11. I guess everyone slips now and then.

I think it's about time I give a person I know some credit. Rich Mekeel, you're in the spotlight. Every week, I talk with Rich sooner

or later, and he always clues me in on what he's been reading in the paper. (Rich has good choice in reading material-he reads the Post). If you're ever at the bowling alley (Bonomo's) Rich is the distinguished gentleman with the beard and mustache who looks like he'd make a terrific wrestling coach. He plays a little softball and from what I understand is good enough to be an ASA coach. And I can't forget Rich's good looking wife, Jeannie, who bowls for Jean Shop. So next time you want to shoot some pool, roll some bowling balls or check the latest in video games stop in and say "hi" to Rich Mekeel.

The Dallas High School Band just got back from a band competition in the south. It's refreshing to see that there is another band, locally, that enjoys a little competition and is willing to sponsor an out-of-state competition for its members. Nice going Dallas!

Some birthdays, past and near future, include Sheila Hodges, Nancy Miliauskus, and Marian

Zurinski. Salute to our birthday people.

There is a second Girl Scout cookie sale in progress, and if anyone is interested in obtaining any Girl Scout cookies in the Back Mountain, please call your local girl scout or neighborhood chairman-Mary Lou Swingle or Debbie Zurinski. No need to worry about ordering how many because this sale is direct-so when you place your call the cookies can be delivered immediately. All varieties are available.

The annual library kick off dinner will be held May 7 at the "barn". Before you know it we'll be sitting in the crowd on a hot summer's day or night bidding some wonderful items helping our library keep up its good work. I can't wait.

On May 10, during the afternoon, if you're a small business person you may be interested in the following. There will be a "Can Small Business Survive the 80's?" seminar at Sheraton Crossgates in Wilkes-Barre sponsored by the

Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce. It is designed at helping small businesses look at what's happening and what they can do about survival. There will be some terrific guest speakers and the cost is minimal (to pay for lunch). If you're interested call Judy Barnick at the Chamber, 823-2101.

I've been feeling guilty about eating habits lately. Why just looking at the terrific job some people I know are doing by losing weight makes me feel terrible just mentioning hot fudge sundae. If you see Peter Steve or Rick Shannon just a glance will tell it all. Good going guys!

I was going to complain this week to people with finger nail polish on their finger nails. My philosophy was that if you had time to paint your nails, you had too much free time on your hands. But, after staying up late the other night I fell victim to nail polish in order to stay away from the refrigerator. I guess your saying I should eat my words...but I'm on a diet!!!

Only Yesterday

Lazarus celebrates 38th Anniversary

50 Years Ago - April 29, 1932

Lazarus Store, Wilkes-Barre celebrated its 38th anniversary with a store-wide sale. Its modern, new three-story building was considered one of the most complete and ideally laid out stores to be found anywhere in the region.

William R. Reese, director of the Kingston High School Band, left with 45 band members to broadcast from Station WJZ, New York City. This was the band's second broadcast from New York City.

Deaths--D.F. Westover, Dallas banker.

You could get-Bisque 33c pkg.; vinegar, big bottle 10c.

40 Years Ago - May 1, 1942

Rev. Francis Freeman, pastor of Dallas Methodist Church and Rev. Harry Savacool, Trucksfillle Methodist Church pastor were transferred from the area. Rev. Freeman assumed the pulpit of Firwood Methodist Church, Wilkes-Barre while Rev. Savacool was assigned to Owego, N.Y.

Herbert Lundy, Dallas Township Tax Collector and partner in Lundy Electric Company, Wilkes-Barre, purchased a Main Street building owned by John L. Sullivan for \$10,000. The two-story stucco and concrete building, was renovated to house three modern stores, a tavern and three second floor apartments.

Married--Miss Frances Sayre to Stacey M. Schoonover.

Engaged--Florence Ritter and Russell Parsons.

Anniversaries--Mr. and Mrs. John Mericle, Lake Street, Dallas, 65 years.

Deaths--Frank Swanson, Harveys Lake; Mrs. August Wardell, Hazleton.

You could get--Fresh strawberries, qt. basket 25c; fresh asparagus, lg. bunch 29c; fresh peas 3 lb. 25c; leg o lamb 27c lb.; lobster tails 39c lb.; Crisco 3 lb. can 73c.

30 Years Ago - May 2, 1952

T-Sgt. Herbert R. Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Williams, Trucksfillle was appointed instructor in ROTC at Williams College, Mass. Williams saw active service with Chenault's Flying Tigers in China and India.

Three Back Mountain Fire Companies, Shavertown, Dallas and Trucksfillle worked together Wednesday night for two hours to hold a serious fire in the Burton Roberts home on Roushey Street, from spreading to the entire building. The entire rear of the house was gutted with an estimated damage of \$5,000.

Engaged--Florence Yockavitch to Ziba Smith Jr.

Marries--Shirley Britt to Burl

Updyke; Sally Marie Roberts to Samuel Brown.

Deaths--Mary Root, Dallas; Mae Husted, oldest Back Mountain teacher.

You could get--Wisconsin sharp cheese 65c lb.; rib roast 75c lb.; haddock 48c lb.; Kool Aid 2 for 9c.

20 Years Ago - May 3, 1962

Stephen R. Pavlick, Dallas, was appointed Red Cross Field Director for Athens, Greece. Pavlick was assigned to Augsburg, Germany before accepting the Athens assignment.

Ted Poad, known as "Mr. Republican" in Kingston Township retired after serving 12 years as tax collector.

Pennsylvania Game Commission distributed approximately 5 million seedlings throughout the state. The seedlings were distributed free of charge to sportsmen's organizations, Boy and Girl Scout Troops and Soil Conservation groups.

Engaged--Patricia Ide to Jerry Minnis.

Married--Elizabeth Ann Mulcey to Gerald S. French; Janice Morris to Thomas Siley.

Anniversaries--Attorney and Mrs. Burt B. Lewis, 50 years; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gay, 55 years; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Burkhardt, 40 years.

Deaths--Lohman H. Hawk, Broadway; Maude Lord, Kingston;

The Summons of Motherhood

BY REV. DANNY WHITE

The role of women has changed in the past 30 years, but the role of motherhood remains the same.

As I sat in the Lowell State Prison for women near Gainesville, Fla., my eyes moistened in reaction to

the sordid story falling from the lips of the lady inmate.

The small visitor's room was transformed into a confessional booth. Between sobs, the mother of two children related the reason for her imprisonment. The youngest child was dead. The other had been severely beaten. Both were the offspring of her flesh and blood. Both suffered child abuse. The younger was gone forever. The older was taken from her never to be seen again.

Controlling herself somewhat, she moved back in time to her own childhood. Beaten unmercifully by her step-father and abused disgracefully, she was threatened with her life if she ever told anyone.

At the end of her wits, she confided in her mother. The bruises and emotional trauma had etched their cruel marks of evidence into her body. Something was wrong. "It's your fault," the mother accused. "You provoke him to do those things to you. Stop irritating him, and he will leave you alone. There's nothing I can do for you."

Rejected and alone, she left home with the first man who gave her affection. After the two children were born, he walked away never to be heard from again.

No work, no one to love her, no home, and desolate, she in turn rejected her children even as she had been discarded by others.

The principles that are alive in this mother are too often prevalent in our homes today. The principles are neglect and rejection by mother to child.

We are in danger of having a generation of mothers imparting to their children support without substance and money without mommy. Neglect and rejection come in many packages.

Do you remember how it was with your mother? As you honor her this Sunday, more likely than not your esteem will include fond memories. She was there to nurse your wounded feathers when the cowboys shot you down. She always had a hot breakfast to send you on your way to school on those frosty mornings. The living room became

a playhouse for your dolls. Sunday dinner covered the table making even a king envious. Care was given that Sunday's religious lesson for church was well prepared.

The world is hard-pressed to find a word so meaningful as mother. May it always be that way.

True, we can never turn back the hands of the clock when mother meant time, home, and house-keeper. Somehow though, we must communicate to the children that mother means more than a paycheck and a babysitter. Somehow, the role of motherhood remains the same even in the midst of women's changing role.

We bestow great honor this Sunday upon our mother's motherhood. Let's hope that in the year 2012 that our children will not look back upon this second Sunday in May as ancient history but rather as a day to honor and remember a mother that not only helped by the home but brought about a home as well. The call is difficult. The consequences are frightening, but the rewards will be worth it.

THE DALLAS POST
An independent newspaper published each Wednesday by Pennaprint Inc., from 61 Gerald Ave., Dallas, Pa. 18612. Entered as second class matter at the post office in Dallas, Pa. under the act of March 3, 1889.

J. Stephen Buckley, Publisher
Rick Shannon, Assoc. Publisher & Editor
Charles Danman, News Editor & Circulation
Mary Ann Kelly, Staff Writer
Sheila Hodges, Production Manager
Mark Moran, Photography
Mike Danowski, Advertising Rep.

Subscription \$12 per year in Pa., \$14 out of state. Telephone (717) 675-5211 or 825-6868.

POSTMASTER: If undeliverable, send form 3579 to P.O. Box 366, Dallas, Pa. 18612.