

Chatterbox

Editorial

Shame on us?

BY MARY ANN KELLY

A recent commentary printed in the Aug. 17 issue of the Berwick Enterprise takes society to task for the pitiful shape of its public manners and morals. As a reporter and general observer of people, I looked upon the commentary as somewhat harsh on society as a whole. Still, not totally trusting my own judgment in this matter (my own children are too young to come home with shocking vocabularies), I gave the comment to longtime educator and father, Arnie Garinger. Having worked directly with children and youth as a teacher and parent, Garinger has had plenty of opportunity to detect disrespect and has formed a few opinions of his own, as to what blame exists and where it might be placed.

Below is a reprint of the "Enterprise" comment, and a summary of Garinger's feelings on the subject, which happen to be closely aligned with my own).

Shame on us all!

The public manners and morals that typify much of today's society-at-large are a disgrace.

Gutter language, verbal obscenities and disrespect for law, authority and age seem to have mushroomed to outrageous levels. Young children are introduced early in life to harsh vulgarities which they often do not understand but which they pick up on and use as part of their own vocabularies.

It is distasteful, indeed, to hear a first-grader uttering four-letter words. But that state of affairs does exist, however much we abhor the situation.

Too many of our "younger" generation are just as likely to mouth

off to a police officer, judge or teacher as they are to draw a breath. It all seems to come so naturally - and so distastefully.

We're prompted to comment on this facet of life because of a recent incident that took place in a public institution that serves as the epitome of proper decorum and decent manners - the courtroom.

We admire the calm, unruffled demeanor of Judge Jay Myers who handled the deplorable outburst with impeccable judgment and reserve.

Although this particular episode involved no bad language or offensiveness other than perhaps rudeness and impassioned anger of the moment, it still must be viewed as unseemly, considering the time and place.

When a defendant has the effrontery to "lip off" to the bench, whether the language be clean and straightforward or filled with vituperative phrases, it should serve to send shock waves down the spines of all those who believe in respect and tradition.

The entire incident serves to illustrate just how far down the road to verbal deterioration we have gone.

Yes, words are only words. But when they are used, they should be used with care and discretion, especially when they are likely to strike the ears of those who do not deserve to be victimized.

Our language is expressive, flexible and even beautiful. It's a shame that it has to be abused so abominably.

Somewhere along the line, whether it be in the home, in the church, in schools, in our own minds as we perceive the world around us, we have turned a sharp corner.

We need to do some retracing of steps and find that corner where we went wrong.

COUNTERPOINT

Garinger does not believe the disgraceful condition of public manners and morals is a majority problem, but rather one displayed by a minority of today's kids. Still, he looks upon the last 50 years as having wrought tremendous change in our view of the world. He recalls his grandmother, when he was just a boy. When she would get as angry as she could possibly be, she would utter a "my goodness!" In the following generation, he remembers, his father in anger, might holler "damn" or "hell".

Growing up in the third generation, Garinger quickly learned that "golly, gee whiz" was simply not an effective invective after being hit with a ball in the groin, during a game with "the guys".

The change can be seen in the entertainment world when today's soap operas deal with every imaginable topic, and are accepted by the viewing audience (which includes youths, because their parents are watching). In the past generation the entire nation was upset by Clark Gable telling Scarlett O'Hara "Frankly Scarlett, I don't give a damn".

"I guess I see kids generally as carbon copies of their parents with allowances for the new generation in which they are being raised, and the tremendous needs kids have to be "just like everyone else," he explained.

"I do know this. The old days of kids acting a certain way because an adult in authority said so are gone forever. Kids today want to know "why" and it had better make sense. Maybe too many adults don't take the time to explain things. If they do, maybe too few make sense."

Garinger suggests that perhaps the criticism of youth and society is sadly misplaced. "Personally, I think we should all get together and attack gnats. Now there's a real pain in the (expletive deleted)."

Only Yesterday

Drought causes crop shortage

50 Years Ago - Sept. 16, 1932

A late summer drought caused heavy losses to farmers. A shortage of crops was predicted.

Luzerne County Republicans traveled to Fogelsville to participate in the opening of the GOP State campaign. Vice President Curtis would be principal speaker.

Dallas Rotary goes to bat on civic problems. Committees worked on the solution of water, road and taxation conditions in this region.

You could get—10 lb. sugar 43c; pickles 2 qt. jar 25c; eggs 29c doz.; giner ale 4 btls. 25c; butter 2 lb. 49c.

40 Years Ago - Sept. 18, 1942

Santo Ragno, Berwick, was elected music supervisor and director of the Lehman High School Band. Other new faculty members were Mrs. Donald Deans, Joseph Ellsworth and William Crumm.

In line with the national policy to conserve gasoline and rubber, Lehman High School athletic authorities cancelled all fall football games and substituted a schedule of intramural sports.

Engaged—Judith Ann Robertson to Robert J. Parks; Velma Haring to Wilbur H. Davis.

Married—Doris Hess to Charles Claude Warden; Elizabeth Pell to Harry Decker.

You could get—Cauliflower 19c hd.; flour 24 lb. bag 81c; Crisco 3 lb. can 71c; spinach 5c lb.; lettuce 10c head.

30 Years Ago - Sept. 19, 1952

Dallas native John Kirkendall was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. A graduate of West Point, Kirkendall was stationed at Keesler Air Force Base.

Enrollment of students for kindergarten at Dallas reached 101.

Married—Evelyn Ruth Whipp to

Donald Root; Jane Louise Dodson to Thomas Phipps.

Anniversaries—Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Scott, Lehman, 31 years; Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Ikler, 33 years.

You could get—Turkeys 59c lb.; skinless franks 49c lb.; smoked picnic hams 39c lb.; sweet potatoes 4 lb. 29c; cheese 69c lb.

20 Years Ago - Sept. 20, 1962

William Wright was recipient of the 1962 Citizen of the Year Award. Members of the Dallas Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs made the choice. A member of the Kiwanis Club, Wright was a Dallas School

Board member, had served as chairman of the Library Auction and was a faithful donor on Blood-mobile Day.

Engaged—Jane Ann Cooper to Robert A. Smith.

Deaths—Samuel R. Culver, Fairmont Township; Harold C. Giberson, Lehman; Ida Brumfield, Idetown.

You could get—Boiled ham 89c lb.; boneless beef cubes or ground beef 73c lb.; haddock fillet 45c lb.; McIntosh apples 4 lb. 39c; cheddar cheese 79c lb.; bread 2 lvs. 39c.

10 Years Ago - Sept. 21, 1972

John Hibbard, president of the Economic Development Council,

John McGowan, Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs and Andrew Shaw, acting head of Wilkes College's political science department outlined the implications of Home Rule for Back Mountain residents.

Married—Nancy Lee Hall to Howard Bradway Wiggin.

Deaths—Harry Lewis, Dallas; Clarence Coolbaugh, Wyoming; Charles Kupstas, Loyalville; Carl J. Sorber, Sweet Valley; Lulu Spini, Shavertown; Emory Newell, Noxon.

You could get—Whole chickens 29c lb.; honeydews, extra large, 59c ea.; Bartlett pears 5 lb. \$1; salad oil 24 oz. bot. 59c; sugar 5 lb. 38c.

Library News

BY NANCY KOZEMCHAK

We now have 38 owls on display in the library, thanks to Victoria Gonzalez, the coordinator of activities at the Senior Citizen Center in Dallas. She just happens to like owls and began to buy a few about 20 years ago. When friends and family realized her interest in owls, it helped them to know what to get

her for gifts. The owls are made of glass, wood, metal, pottery, ivory, china and a walrus tooth. A two piece green glass is one that holds a candle; an aluminum outdoor candle makes a useful lantern; two ceramic owls on a log have a music box inside; two smaller ones with colored eyes from Italy; a very

large ceramic owl's head which is a candle; and two small ceramic ones from Mexico. Victoria made a tall standing owl and a smaller one which is a bank from ceramics. Her favorite ceramic owl on a branch with its wings spread. Her son, Conrad, is a history teacher in Buckland, 17 miles south of the Arctic Circle and is a member of the Buckland Community in Alaska. He sent her an owl hand carved from a walrus tooth for her 65th birthday on July 2. She received, for other birthdays, hand carved owls from Alaska. Snow owls are rare in this area and are found only in Arctic zones. There is a set of tiny owls, mama, papa and baby. Some she has received as gifts from the ladies

at the senior citizens center and her daughter, Lois, gave her a picture in a frame of a snow owl for Christmas one year. This is now hanging in the library. At home, these are kept on the fireplace, in china closets and book shelves and scattered elsewhere. This is an interesting display and it will be at the library for the next four weeks.

New books at the library: "Marshall: Hero for Our Times" by Leonard Mosley is the first anecdotal, single-volume biography of George C. Marshall, one of the greatest generals in our history. A private, enigmatic man whose life was marked by incredible peaks and awesome depths.

"The Favorite" by L.R. Wright is a novel about a father and a daughter. She had always been his 'best girl' and for 17 years he had been the most important person in his life. Suddenly she stands at his grave trying to come to terms with his death. Devastated feelings!

"The only way to fight a woman is with your hat—grab it and run!" Would you like to know who made that famous quip? That's just one of the many kinds of facts you can get from the fact-finding experts at your Back Mountain Memorial Library. For brief factual information in a hurry, call the 'INFORMATION PLACE'—your local library!

Fall Story Hour at the Back Mountain Memorial Library will begin Wednesday, Sept. 29 and Thursday, Sept. 30. Registration for the fall sessions will be held from Sept. 13 to 18 in the children's an-

nex. Children 3 to 5 years old are eligible. Sessions will run from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday and from 10 to 11 a.m. on Thursday. Story ladies for

the fall will be Jackie Sheehan, Lauren Chimock, Mary Pillarel and Julie Sgarlat.

The library staff is especially grateful for the many volunteer hours given by students Heather Sheehan, Michelle Boback, Holly Gavazzi, and Robert Marchette, Dallas; Meg and Monica Flynn, Bishop O'Reilly; Maria Farris, Gate of Heaven; and Allyson Lukasavage, Lehman.

Stop in to see our owls

Letter to the Editor

Volunteers needed by Girl Scouts

Letter to the Editor:

How many times have we heard, "What's the matter with the youth of today?" Our newspapers are filled with problems of vandalism, underage drinking, drug usage and other anti-social behavior. With the possible exception of sports-related activities, we see very few healthy and productive programs involving the youth of our area. The only evidence of added recreation for our young people in recent years are the arcades with the electronic games.

Experts have pointed to idle time as the major cause of anti-social acts. We believe that the hectic schedule of today's generation of parents causes the idle time of our children. The combination of today's economic climate, which has forced more and more mothers into the work force, along with the leisure industry boom, which has been geared towards and attracted young adults, most of whom are

also young parents, has filled the parents time schedule. The result of this is that our children are not being directed into healthy and productive activities and most particularly in the Dallas area a lack of volunteer leaders for these activities.

Our interest today, and our great concern is in just one such activity, the Girl Scout program. For generations our great-grandmothers, grandmothers, mothers and the childhood of most young girls was enriched by the Girl Scout experience. It is not for the lack of idle girls that severely threatens the existence of the Girl Scout troops in our community but rather a lack of volunteer leaders, willing

and interested in spending quality time with young girls in the Brownie and Girl Scout programs.

Nationwide the Girl Scout organization through its local councils have modernized and revitalized its programs to fit the needs and aspirations of the young girls of the 80's. Leadership training programs, special skills workshops and various program aids are just a few of the many resources that are continually being offered by council to any adult interested in becoming a good troop leader. Traditionally we looked for leaders among the mothers of Girl Scouts who were there because of their daughters involvement. Unfortunately today, many of these mothers are involved in other activities.

We are imploring mothers who have previously considered becoming involved in scouting to reconsider, but beyond that, we feel there are many other exceptionally qualified potential leaders in our Back Mountain community. We invite mothers of sons, grandmothers, grandfathers, college age students, men and women alike to consider volunteering as troop leaders or assistants or in teaching and sharing a special skill or interest to the girls.

Anyone wishing to share a few hours once a week to help sustain and promote the Girl Scout Program, please contact Mary Bevevino of the Penn's Woods Council, 675-3722.

Where has summer gone?

If it appears that summer has shortchanged us, it's true! The month of August, considered by many to be the best time of the year for sunworshippers and summer vacations, proved less than satisfactory. Outdoor swimming and sunbathing became fond memories as temperatures tied the third coldest August on record. The 66.2 degree average equaled that of the summer of 1957, according to the National Weather Service. The two colder Augusts occurred in 1903 when temperatures averaged 65.4 degrees, and 1927, when they plummeted to a 64.4 degree average.

August, 1982, set two cold temperature records and tied another in its final week. The 42 degree low, Aug. 22 beat the previous record of 44 degrees, set in 1956. The 38 degree temperature, Aug. 29, crushed the 44 degree record of 1965. On Aug. 25, 38 degrees tied the record low set in 1940.

National Weather Service reports the high temperature for the month was 85 and the average stands at 3.8 below the normal, which is 70 degrees.

Many summertime activities cease with the opening of school but the season does not end officially until Sept. 23. National Weather Service forecaster, Ed Shellhamer said September is running fairly normal to-date, despite first week temperatures averaging one degree

lower. The normal for September is 62.9 degrees with expected precipitation 2.82 inches. With the coming of the colder weather, Shellhamer said precipitation decreases.

The long range forecast for September has no surprises in temperature variations. Shellhamer said September should be a normal month in terms of both temperature and precipitation. What happens after that is anybody's guess at this time.

Congratulates volunteers

It has been said that you are on the pathway to a successful life when you do more for the community than the community does for you...

That could very well serve as the creed of the 300 some volunteers who make the Luzerne County Fair happen every year. From Chairman Bob Kelley to the service member selling penny candy,

workers gave of themselves to raise funds that will benefit their fellow man.

Albert Schweitzer once said: "Even if it's a little thing, do something for those who have need of help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it. For remember, you don't live in a world all alone. Your brothers are here too."

Askin' & Tellin'

As anyone who was there can testify, the 1982 Luzerne County Fall Fair was a smashing success. People of all ages flocked to the grounds at Lehman to enjoy the food, games, exhibits and the crowds. . . Their reasons for coming varied. Here are a few of the favorite fair features of some neighbors who were there.

Ricky Williams, Plains: "I like the rides!"

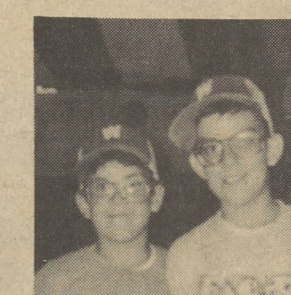


Tracy Cave, Carverton: "The games."

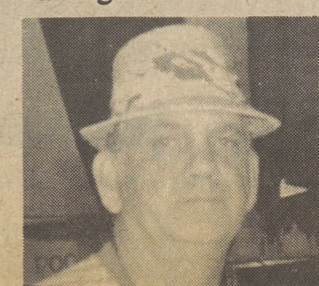
Brian Bayer: "The baby sheep". This information was imparted by Brian's mother, as he was a bit shy.



Fred Helfrich, West Wyoming: "I like it all. I don't know what I like best, I'm just walking around, taking it all in."



Bernard Lavin, Exeter: "The 4-H booth is really interesting."



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