

World

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"My son, Alan Lord, owns the company, Alan, my wife, and I drive the cars and Alan's wife is the dispatcher. We're here 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the handicapped, elderly, or anyone who needs us, for that matter. We care."

The Back Mountain Taxi Company isn't the only form of transportation open to the handicapped public.

The Luzerne County Transportation Authority has a unique program for their physically and mentally handicapped customers. It's called the Step Program, and Joe Mainwaring, Administrator for the Authority, explained what it's about.

"The Step Program is for those who can't board the buses. These can be what we call ambulatory, mentally handicapped, or perhaps blind individuals. After conducting a brief phone interview and having a doctor fill out an eligibility application, the board meets to determine if the individual is in fact eligible. If the person is accepted into the program, he or she is issued a script card. With this card, they can purchase tickets for 75 cents each. We then usually send out vans to pick them up and take them to their destination. We do ask however, that the trips be planned in advance, and that they let us know by noon the day before the trip."

According to Mainwaring, there is also discount rates for those handicapped and elderly who can board the buses. Once again, an eligibility application must be accepted.

"If they are in this program they can get half price fare on certain runs," he said. "That is on the inbound runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and anytime after 6:30 p.m. on weekdays, and all day Saturday. On the out bound runs it's 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and anytime after 6:30 p.m. on weekdays, and all day Saturday."

One thing a parent wants to know before moving to a community is how well the schools and colleges are in the area. A parent of a handicapped child must take other things about the school into consideration.

Joseph Rogan, chairman of the 504 committee at College Misericordia, which investigated these problems, claimed that the college is well equipped for this type of students.

"First there are architectural barriers to be overcome," he said. "Several of the campus buildings have been remodeled for this. Ramps have been installed in the science and administration buildings, and there are now elevators for those students in wheel chairs. Doorknobs and light switches have been lowered, and the offices and lavs have been totally done over."

"Attitudinal barriers however, are more difficult to overcome," he continued. "We've begun a major effort to convince both faculty and students not to be afraid of handicapped students. Brochures that list dozens of handicapped conditions have been given to the faculty. The brochure explains the conditions in laymen's terms so as to make the faculty feel at ease with these students, and it's worked. We're awfully proud of the people here. We feel we have broken the barriers."

A program at College Misericordia entitled the Alternative Learner's Program (ALP) allows various types of handicapped individuals, including the learning disabled, to have individual programs that help them bypass obstacles.

All of this may seem small and unimportant to us, but as Rogan put it, "one small step for a person in a wheelchair is like climbing Mt. Everest."

Gina

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ness," she told the students.

"Be proud of your high school and its achievements. What is special about Lake-Lehman are the teachers. How many teachers and how many school board members would send their school band to Atlantic City to parade down the boardwalk behind a former graduate? How many school teachers would walk alongside of the car I was riding in? Lake-Lehman did."

She described how rigorous competition is, but told the students not to let the first defeat stop them. She explained that when she was defeated the first time, she pulled herself together and worked harder to succeed.

Following her 40-minute talk to the student body, high school principal John Zaleskas excused the boys from the assembly while the female members of the student body were allowed to remain to participate in a question and answer period.

The majority of the questions asked pertained to Miss Major's life as Miss Pennsylvania. What was it like to compete for Miss America? What does she do now? Where does she live? Why did she select Drexel?

Miss Major answered the questions very candidly, explaining that to compete for Miss America meant a lot of training and a lot of traveling to obtain the correct clothes. She told them that, as Miss Pennsylvania, she appears before high school and college students, in fashion shows, speaks or sings, sometimes dances, and also appears in parades or at other events as requested and scheduled.

She also told them that she doesn't live in one particular place, but actually "out of a suitcase."

Miss Major reminded them that she was just an average person and, not too many years ago, was a high school student just as they are today.

"The difference," Miss Major said, "is that I took advantage of everything I could get out of high school. Remember, the teachers are doing it all for you so take advantage of every opportunity offered. You will be happy that you did in the future."



Yearbook staff

Shown here are members of the 1984 yearbook staff at Dallas High School who were recently honored for their work. From left, first row, Sheri Ciccarella, Karen Banks, Patty Allen, Don Dickson, Laurie Coyle, Kim Dougherty, Dave Schroeders, Simon Russin, Ed Wilson, Matt Medura. Second row, Maria Ziolkowski, Chris Infantino, Leslie Meyers, Mark Drasnin, Lisa Sigman, Debi Jones, Sharon Eustice, Shelley Grandsen, Laura Hrabowchak, Debbie Good, Lori Castellani, Renee Navola, Beth Karnsofsky, Sam Barbose, Kerry Roushey, Pam Lundberg, Chris Pannuccio, Robin Karnofsky. Third row, Honor Gless, Didi Havey, Mark Rosing, Jim O'Connell, Rob Coscia, Steve Strazdus, Ernie Barber, Mike Chismer, Geoff Stephenson, MaryEllen Nagy, Kristi Boudreaux, John Murray, Jean Marie Wisneski, Trudy Cevasco.

Dallas yearbook ranked second

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

William Wagner, Dallas Senior High School yearbook advisor, was informed last week that the high school's 1984 yearbook has placed second in a national critique and review conducted by the American Scholastic Press Association.

The Dallas High School was one of 1300 schools which submitted their publication to the contest.

The 200-page yearbook was cited for excellence in the five major categories of content, presentation, page design and layout, photography, publication structure and creativity.

One of the most striking features of the book's construction is its use of color photographs. Of more than 1,000 pictures in this year's book, 16 pages are highlighted by full color prints and enlargements. Since the reproduction of the color photos was one of the books' greatest expenses, this brought the total production cost to \$11,000.

It was about a year ago that the 1984 yearbook staff headed by William Wagner, advisor, and Mark Rosing, editor-in-chief, set their goal to produce a yearbook which would be different than all others Dallas had seen.

The production staff was divided into layout design and literary people, who spent countless hours in school, after school and weekends, sifting through thousands of photographs to find and arrange those which would tell the best story of the year.

"It was a wonderful year — a vintage year! We had everything going for us," said Wagner. "From the moment the students raised an incredible \$4,000 in advertisements, I knew we could produce a hit. In addition, we had a particularly gifted and dedicated editorial staff led by Mark Rosing, an exemplary editor in chief."

"The yearbook is unlike any other sport or activity," Wagner added. "It's tough to work behind the scenes with no incentive, but to capture all the memories you can in photographs and print. Anyone can put pictures in a scrapbook but it takes talent, determination and enthusiasm to create what the 1984 staff did."

Rosing, who is now a student at Cornell University said, "We are very proud of our accomplishments."

We knew we had all of the necessary ingredients, a dedicated advisor, an excellent staff, an activity program that worked and the money to produce a book of this magnitude. Our high marks, our picture clarity, is a credit to our professional photographer, Bert Husband Studio. I have seen other yearbooks at college and they don't compare to ours."

Perhaps the busiest and most important time of year for the yearbook staff is during the advertising campaign which runs from October to December. Staff members visit local businesses for ads to help pay the cost of production.

Prices for the ads range from \$80 for a full page to \$20 for a 1/16 page ad. The staff members value their advertisers for without them the yearbook staff couldn't produce a top quality book.

Advertising and patrons, however, cover only about 36 percent of the book's cost. The remaining 64 percent of the cost comes from the sale of the book itself. No money is allocated from the school district's budget.

The Dallas yearbook, at \$17, is still the least expensive in the Valley considering what the publication contains. Wagner said he does not believe that the quality of the book or anything should be sacrificed for money.

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