

The *DALLAS POST*

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Off the top

BY DEBBY HIGGINS
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There are few places left in these United States where a traveler can experience the noticeably absent presence of humans. Even the seemingly remote, inhospitable Grand Canyon feels the thrust of civilization by becoming visually obscured by airborne pollutants for 100 days out of every 365.

The delicate ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay has deteriorated through pollution, overuse, and unconcern. The Arizona desert, gila monsters notwithstanding, is being stripped of cacti and other native vegetation by landscape contractors who covet the unusual flora for the lawns of new homes.

The Allegheny National Forest, in northwestern Pennsylvania, has ten percent of the forest covered with an oil well every 500 feet. Uncapped, played-out wells seep oil and gas into the subterranean water supply.

In our own backyards, the lady slipper, a beautiful, springtime flower of the deciduous woodlands, has become extinct in many areas of the state.

So what?, many undoubtedly will say. These situations are not life-threatening to humans. No one is going to miss the lady slipper or the barrel cactus or the magnificence of the Grand Canyon. These things are unimportant compared to the threat of nuclear war, world hunger, or a stock market crash. Besides, what can we do about it, anyway?

For years, Americans have used the ostrich approach in dealing with ecological and environmental issues. If something was happening somewhere with our air, water, land, and wildlife, and it didn't affect a large enough number of people, or it wasn't happening in our own area, no one seemed to care. Yes, we felt sorry for those living near Love Canal or in Centralia, but that was their problem.

The ironic part of the picture is that complacency and apathy have a way of breeding more problems. If we keep our heads buried long enough, a Love Canal or a West Side Landfill will eventually bury the rest of us. By then, the problem will be big and complicated enough to affect us all but it will be too late to do anything about it.

The wanton disregard for life and the world around us has cost more than we realize. We complain about high water, sewer, and garbage rates. We complain because acid rain is ruining the finishes on our cars. We're afraid to drink our water and we're concerned about asbestos in our school buildings. Aren't these reasons enough to start doing something about the problems Americans are facing in contemporary society?

No one said the issues were clearly defined or the solutions would be easily found. What is certain is that more of us have taken our heads out of the sand to realize we can do something about this country's environmental problems. We can unify our voices and support in an all-out effort to protect the planet we all share. We can rally and together we can change much of the damage that has been done and we can stop more damage from being done.

Our children and our children's children deserve to wonder in the grandeur of the Grand Canyon. They need to marvel at the delicate beauty of the lady slipper and the prickly pear cactus. They have a right to drink clear, pure water and to breathe clean air. We owe it to them, and we owe it to ourselves.

Creativity is a learned skill

The widespread belief that creativity is something "some people have, some people don't," is a myth, claims Fred Pryor, author of *The Energetic Manager* (Prentice-Hall, November 1987).

"Creativity is more a skill than an inborn gift," says Pryor. "It can be defined simply as doing ordinary things in extraordinary ways."

Pryor, whose company, Fred Pryor Seminars, conducts 2,500 business seminars per year, says that most people he has talked with say that they are "not creative."

To develop creativity, Pryor suggests examining how you develop solutions and take action.

"We're too eager to follow other people's leads without asking ourselves if there is a better way," says Pryor. "The true opposite of creativity is conformity. By handling a matter in a way different from the norm, we're exercising creativity."

Pryor urges a change in personal habits to open up the mind to creativity. "Think of how often we get ready by rote," he says. "We have our particular chair at the table, our 'side' of the bed. When we forego the habit and try new things, we're being creative."

Creativity can improve your personal life and job, Pryor states, making its development worth the extra effort.



Misericordia holds fair

College Misericordia will participate in a guidance fair to be held on February 5 and 6 at the Wyoming Valley Mall. The fair is sponsored by the Luzerne County Guidance Counselors in celebration of National Guidance Counselors' Week. School and agency representatives from throughout Luzerne County will participate to emphasize the importance of counseling to the lives of students. Shown above, from left, is Mary Siegel, assistant dean of admissions for College Misericordia, counseling student Lisa Suchajda on college choices.

Fiegelman says...thanks to an anonymous friend

BY RICHARD FIEGELMAN
Special to The Post

Some observations:

In October, my wife and I moved to Dallas to escape the traffic, noise, and general disruption of city life. This week we enjoyed another benefit of country life: neighborliness. We were on our way to our respective jobs early in the morning, when our car decided to stall at the corner of Huntsville Rd. and Pioneer Ave. After several attempts at restarting, I got out of the car in disgust, pondering my next move. My knowledge of cars extends to knowing how to pump gas and change a tire. Within two minutes of getting out of the car, a fellow came out of one of the nearby stores to determine whether or not he could be of assistance. After explaining the problem to him, he grinned at me, opened the hood, found that the choke was frozen, and within another two minutes my wife and I were on our way to work again. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him publicly (though anonymously). Selfless acts such as this one in sub-zero weather certainly reaffirm faith in mankind, and compliment country living.

Hopefully no one took my Super Bowl suggestion seriously and "put the house on it". In college, I did weekly football predictions with some success, but this Super Bowl wiped that out. Washington's second quarter comeback was the greatest offensive quarter I have seen in twenty years of watching and playing football. Williams and Co. deserve all of the respect and accolades which will be heaped on them. By the way, in next year's Super Bowl XXIII: New York Giants 30, Cleveland Browns 21.

I'm glad to see that the Joseph Castellino cocaine case has been resolved. Mr. Castellino was sentenced to one year in prison and assessed a \$10,000 fine. Some in the local media were on the verge of hysteria due to this case. It was a shame to see Mr. Castellino's father, Frank, dragged through the mud along with him. He has been a straight-shooter for many years in the Pittston area. Some writers will go to great

lengths to muckrake.

The Middle East powderkeg shows a distinct lack of reason on both sides. Barbarism is the norm, and violence the form in what is an exercise in futility. Israel, though at times having no choice, seems to have forgotten the reasons for its establishment forty years ago. After centuries of being on the receiving end of oppression, the powers that be have turned the tables. The Palestinians should also realize that rocks and fire-bombs will serve no purpose other than murder.

Media-bashing is a popular pastime in the U.S. these days. This country should not forget that in many cases the media is the buffer zone between it and rampant abuse by politicians on all levels. Most of us are serious guardians of the First Amendment. Without free speech and free thought, democracy would become a fleeting dogma of history.

ABC looks like it may have a winner in "The Wonder Years" which premiered after the Super Bowl on Sunday night. It is the story of a group of adolescents who spend their innocent years in suburbia during the turmoil of the Sixties. I grew up in a small town during that era and found myself transported back in time. In the opening program, the twelve-year-old main character and a girl with whom he grew up, share their first kiss at a secret tree after finding out that her older brother had been killed in Vietnam. This bittersweet irony was a party of growing up in those times, but the show is done in such a way that all age groups will find something from their own childhoods. In breaking away from the traditional adolescent pap, hopefully "The Wonder Years" will last more than a few weeks.

It is pleasing to see that a survey is being done to determine the number of homeless people out there suffering on the streets. The homeless are an embarrassment to a country which prides itself on morality and great wealth. If nothing is done, this problem will spiral into one of the worst tragedies of our time. With action and compassion, maybe more of us will be able to rest easy by next winter. See you next week...

Regionalism is good

BY HOWARD J. GROSSMAN
Special to the Post

I heard a speech the other day and guess what, the topic was regionalism. The speech went something like this. "In 1854 the structure of our government was established and it has not changed basically since then. Our problems today are not the problems of 1854."

Think of what it would mean to our children and grandchildren if our region were to be coalesced in a fashion which would allow counties and cities to be unified to carry out services which truly are regional in scope and should be planned, developed and managed accordingly. By one stroke of action, this region could be placed on a map and be positively recognized and not ignored as a major center of growth, action and economic activity."

These paraphrases of a major speech surprisingly are not about Northeastern Pennsylvania. They represent our sister region of greater Philadelphia, better known as the Delaware Valley. And the speech was not given by a political scientist nor was it given by a great governmental leader. Instead, it was given by one of the most active private developers in the Delaware Valley. Bill Rouse is a man whose vision has meant much to greater Philadelphia, both within the inner city, the central city, the waterfront, and the suburbs. Much of his vision is attached to the Route 202 Technology corridor in Montgomery County which has sprung up in a surprisingly rapid fashion within the last three years.

1854, by the way, was a time when the city of Philadelphia was formed from a fragmented system of towns, villages, and neighborhoods. What Rouse was saying was that no longer is 1854 applicable, and we should not use today the boundary lines which were drawn 130 years ago in a quite different era with different problems and different conditions.

Does this have applicability to Northeastern Pennsylvania? The answer is a resounding yes. The region has a metropolitan area in name, but not in fact. Waste disposal, water management, economic development, comprehensive planning and many other functions are no respecter of boundary lines. These and many other issues need a regional setting by which logical decisions can be reached to have the most positive impact possible on a given area or region of a state or the nation. As belt tightening occurs through federal cutbacks and elimination or abolishment of programs, it is more likely that regionalism will become more critical to local governments.

In point of fact, regionalism has been successfully concluded even in the most controversial terms such as tax collection. In the twin cities Minneapolis, St. Paul metropolitan area, a unique system of regional taxation has been implemented and in effect close to 10 years. In places such as Indianapolis, Dade County, Florida, Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, Portland, Oregon, and other places in the United States, regionalism has not only been heard, but implemented through regional planning, regional development, regional service delivery, and a variety of regional governmental forms either at the county level or multi-county level.

Will regionalism strike Northeastern Pennsylvania to help mobilize economic and service delivery needs as the 21st century rapidly approaches? No clear and present answer is available, however, regionalism has occurred in such diverse services as aviation through the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton International Airport, which is managed by the Luzerne-Lackawanna County Commissioners, the Philharmonic Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, one of the truly fine regional symphony orchestras in the United States, the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, which serves to promote economic growth at a regional level, Emergency Medical Services of Northeastern Pennsylvania, which provides the framework for one of the best emergency medical systems in the State, the Health Systems Planning Agency of Northeastern Pennsylvania, which serves to promote health planning at a regional level, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, which serves a wide variety of counties throughout the Northeastern part of the State, and much more.

Thus, the lessons and evidence seem to reflect a growing commitment to consider, if not act upon, regional processes to help create and improve a framework for growth and development. The future should hold a great promise if regionalism is carried steps forward to increase the likelihood of economic development and a quality of life which our citizens need, both present and future.

C.T. Co. offers new options

Commonwealth Telephone Company has begun preparations for a \$1.2 million capital investment project affecting customers in the Trucksville area whose telephone numbers begin with 696.

In May, Commonwealth plans to replace the existing electro-mechanical equipment in the Trucksville central office with a new computerized switching system.

Once the new technology is installed, customers in the Trucksville area will have the

option to choose custom calling features such as call waiting, call forwarding, remote call forwarding, 3-way calling, and speed calling.

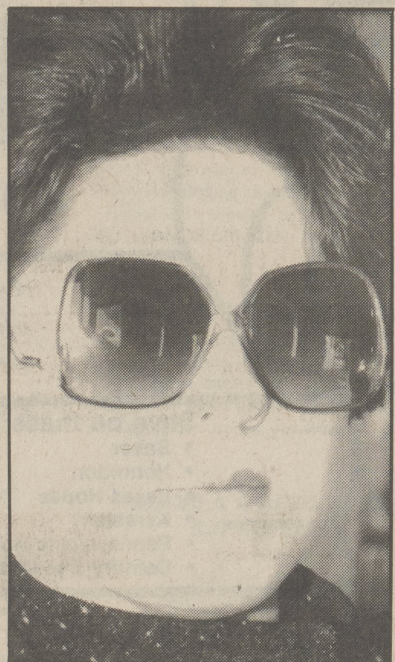
After the May cutover, business customers in the Trucksville exchange will also have the option of selecting Commonwealth's PASSKEY Services. This means that PASSKEY customers need only the phones on their desks to benefit from enhanced business calling features.

The Post asks: "What's your favorite wintertime sport?"



ANTHONY J. HANDO

Anthony J. Hando, 42
Brewery worker
Wilkes-Barre
"Ice fishing - on all the lakes."



ANN JENKINS

Ann Jennings, 30
Homemaker
Shavertown
"Reading."



DOUGLAS JENNINGS

Douglas Jennings, 3
Shavertown
"Watching Ghostbusters."



CARYN GRAMLEY

Caryn Gramley, 13
Student
Harveys Lake
"Sleigh riding."



KEITH HILLARD

Keith Hillard, 20
Laborer for PG&W
Dallas
"Skiing."



LARISA HILLARD

Larisa Hillard, 19
Housewife
Dallas
"Skiing and ice skating."