

# Editorial/opinion

*The* DALLAS POST

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## Off the top

### This is what a newspaper is

BY DEBBY HIGGINS  
Post Editor

There has been a lot of publicity surrounding the existence of satanic cults in the Back Mountain. Some of that publicly announced information has been sketchy, third-hand, and inconclusive.

But plenty of rumors are based on facts and even though the idea of devil worship may seem alien to many, the practice is as old as time itself. This type of activity has been on the increase, nationwide, for the last several years.

In light of this factual data, and based on requests by our readers, The Dallas Post's editorial staff decided to thoroughly investigate the situation and to report the findings to our readers.

After two weeks of intensive investigation, The Dallas Post has compiled a two-part series on the matter. The data that has been uncovered may not be a revelation; but it was acquired through the most professionally journalistic methods available.

Hours of interviews, phone calls, and personal tours, have formed the basis on which a competent, experienced, and unbiased staff writer has built an accurate, informative series of articles that present the issues without editorial opinion. Whether or not the Back Mountain has a potentially uncomfortable situation on its hands, is up to the reader to decide.

Many issues that find their way to an editor's desk or into the editor's mind are controversial and potentially hazardous to the reputation of a newspaper.

The newsworthiness or saleability of the issue is oftentimes a catalyst that may spur the person in charge to say "go get it" to a reporter.

But plenty of ideas are explored and investigated by the editorial staff simply because what may be uncovered will be of immense value to the community at large. And the bottom line for this newspaper is to be a community resource that can be counted on to report the facts and nothing but the facts. Once all the cards are on the table, the readership can decide the pros and cons of the issues for itself.

We, at The Dallas Post, take our jobs very seriously. We weigh the value of each news story by many criteria, not the least of which is the ability to get down to "the nitty gritty" and find out and report the facts as we have uncovered them. This concept is paramount at this newspaper.

It's quite true that newspapers report the news to sell papers but the people who make up the staff at The Dallas Post have more at stake.

The entire staff of The Dallas Post each lives in one of the many communities that make up the coverage territory of the publication. We have more than a journalistic interest in what goes in the Back Mountain. This is our home, too, and we care.

We pledge ourselves to accurate, unbiased reporting that presents the issues in the true style of professionally ethical journalism. There are no followers of the "new journalism" style here. It's "just the facts" and nothing more, with good, straight news reporting making up the keystone of The Dallas Post.

Old-fashioned values-integrity, fairness, and accuracy-are the watchwords by which we write. Our readers can take that promise to the bank.

## It happened in Harrisburg

### Get out there and vote!

BY REP. CARMEL SIRIANNI  
Special to The Post

The March winds brought the April showers and now some spring reminders from your state representative.

Registered voters who will be unable to vote at their regular polling place on Primary Election Day, April 26, should pick up an application for an absentee ballot either at the county courthouse or at my district office at 28 Maple Street, Montrose. The telephone number is 278-3374.

It's important to act promptly since April 19 is the last day that applications may be received by the courthouse. The deadline for submitting the completed ballot to the appropriate county election board is April 22.

If you haven't already, it's time to remove your studded snow tires. It's illegal to drive with studded snow tires in Pennsylvania between April 16 and October 31.

Motorists found guilty of driving with the tires are subject to fines which vary according to the date of the violation. The fines are: April 16 to May 31, \$35; June 1-30, \$45; and July 1 to October 31, \$55.

April 19 is the date and Wilkes-Barre the place for one of six meetings of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) has slated to inform the public about the recently enacted Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Act.

The meetings, to be conducted throughout the state, are designed to inform citizens, local governments and others about the operator selection process and facility siting process and how they can be involved. They are part of the plan for siting a low-level radioactive waste disposal in Pennsylvania as required by federal law.

The Wilkes-Barre session will begin at 7 p.m. in the Wilkes-Barre Sheraton Crossgates, 20 Public Square.

## Post letters

DEAR EDITOR:

As a former editor of The Dallas Post, I find myself still interested in Back Mountain residents and what they're doing. It's for that reason my attention was turned last week to a porcelain-poured Parisian doll that has been donated to the Wyoming Valley Unit of the American Cancer Society.

The fact that this particular donation has been made is especially noteworthy since the doll was donated by former Back Mountain resident Veronica Farinola. Also noteworthy is the doll's name - Allison Patricia - for the late Allison Jones and her mother Patricia.

To people who do not know Veronica or Pat and who never had the opportunity to have known Allison, such a donation may be seen as a nice gesture but perhaps is not looked upon as significant as it should be.

Allison Jones passed away recently - a victim of the disease we all dread so. Veronica Farinola has a daughter who has been battling cancer for a few years. And Pat Jones will tell you how much strength and hope Veronica gave her on Allison's bleakest days.

Allison Jones was a spunky little red-headed girl - a young lady who

always had a smile on her face. She beamed at the opportunity to see Disneyworld and wouldn't wash the hand that held the telephone when her idol Kirk Cameron from television's "Growing Pains" called her. Allison wouldn't give up - and neither would her parents, Pat and Rich.

But Allison was called away from her parents, leaving a void in their lives - a void that will never, ever be filled. Veronica Farinola knows this and, because of her determination to find a cure for cancer, the porcelain Allison Patricia has been donated to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Because I have had the privilege of knowing Veronica, Pat and Allison, I urge residents of the Back Mountain to make it a point to visit the doll on display at the Wyoming Valley Mall between April 15 and 17. I also urge them to take a \$1 chance on the doll so that all of us may be brought just one step closer to stopping the dreaded disease.

Dotty Martin  
Editor and Publisher

West Side Weekly

Kingston

## Fiegelman says...

### Jackson's not the one

Before America trips over its own feet for tickets to Jesse Jackson's inauguration, we should really consider who this man is, where he has been, and where he would take us as a nation. Jesse is without a doubt dynamic individual who seems to take an idealistic view of our nation. That in itself could be dangerous when you're running for the highest office in the land. He has ties to questionable personalities, who given a chance at his ear might not have the United States best interest at heart. In fact, several are open hate mongers. Jesse has never held public office. No matter how strong a man he is, never having been thrown to the political wolves will certainly affect his presidential clout. Jesse reminds me in some ways of Ronald Reagan, a flag waver who hopes to stir the frustrations of the common man to his advantage. Whose flag Jesse waves is also in question.

2000 people waited outside a meeting hall in Sheboygan, Wisconsin to hear Jesse speak. 20 years ago many would have had George Wallace bumper stickers. Something good and enlightening seems afoot in America. We may finally be ready to put aside our racial and religious fears and pull together for the common good. Eight years of Reagan and his pals may have stirred the drink. Without question I think it would be a triumph for democracy and for all walks of life to have a black in the White House. Unfortunately, Jesse's not the right man.

Let's start with Farrakhan and the "Hymie" remark. Not very long ago, Jesse Jackson embraced Louis Farrakhan, noted racist, and called him a great man. This is something like George McGovern embracing George Wallace and singing his praises. Unfortunately for Louis, Hitler would have graciously escorted him to the gallows had he lived in Nazi Germany. It seems such hypocrisy for a black man to use racism to achieve his goals. Jesse, in the meantime, called New York City, "Hymietown". One wonders if there is hidden racism in Jesse just waiting to rear its ugly head should he attain the White House. This is something America should consider while they're singing, "Jesse, Jesse".

The only position as an administrator that Jesse ever held was as head of the Chicago-based civil rights organization Operation Push. He was there for 12 years, in which time PUSH went heavily into debt, and has yet to explain what happened to \$1.2 million in federal grants. Is it possible that Mr. Jackson, so wrapped up in his own rhetoric, would allow his administration to become rife with cabinet corruption?

Jesse also says that it's time for the poor man to share in this nation's great wealth. Where have I heard that before? Well, there are two possibilities. Either the very rich are suddenly going to open their wallets for Jesse, or the guy working for 8.00 an hour with three kids is going to foot the bill. Jesse doesn't tell you that. With Pat Robertson as vice-president maybe he could open a few more wallets. Could you see that, Jesse and Pat running the show...?

Jesse seems to be an opportunist, although what politician isn't? The day after Martin Luther King was shot he went on television wearing a blood-stained shirt claiming that he held the dying King in his arms. Witnesses said that he was nowhere near the scene of the fatal shooting. Is he just another image-making pretender to the White House throne?

Jesse has also expressed an affinity with Third World terrorism, which for any leader of the "most powerful nation on Earth" could be a fatal mistake. His sympathy for the likes of Castro and the PLO weave a dangerous tapestry for the future of democracy as we know it.

What this boils down to is that before we go off on some Kennedyesque fantasy, we should consider the facts along with the image and populist theories. Jesse Jackson is potentially a dangerous man in America. What he says and what he does are often at odds with each other. This is not and should not be a racial issue. I would like to think that America is finally graduating from its petty hates and lynch mob days. What is at issue is that Jesse Jackson does not have the qualifications to be the next president of the United States. I hope that voters in this country will not be fooled by appearances again. See you next week...

## Inside Pennsylvania

### Rural PA facing tough issues

BY HOWARD J. GROSSMAN  
Special to The Post

In recent years, much attention has been placed nationally on the plight of the American farming community. This has been translated into issues relating to the farm belt, the farm credit system, agricultural subsidies, and a variety of other words and phrases which are meant to describe rural problems and issues in the United States.

While rural America is under great strain, it by no means describes the troubled nature of rural and small town America. The latter is much more than agricultural America. It consists of many small towns and villages in Appalachia, the textile mills of North Carolina, the coal mines of West Virginia, the iron range of Minnesota, the timberland of Oregon, and the thousands and millions of Americans who face hard times in many parts of the United States. In point of fact, agricultural jobs represent only about 10 percent of all jobs in the rural part of the United States.

In a recent report issued by the states' office of the Appalachian Regional Commission titled "Rural America; Current Realities, Issues for the Future" the situation in rural America was characterized as follows: "it is a picture of severe economic decline brought about by international competition, lack of inadequately educated and trained work force, the inadequacy of the physical infrastructure and other quality of life amenities, and government policies which, often ignore the interest of rural America and, at times, are adverse to the interest of rural America".

A major conclusion may be reached concerning rural America. There is growing evidence that no rural development policy of any substance exists in the United States. While the same characterization may be true for other parts of the nation, it is probably more so for rural America since the absence of policy and even more importantly, the absence of significant programs of assistance has been with the nation for a long time.

While various studies have been made and suggestions offered in various years, they have become a meaningless set of words which dot the landscape of the rural parts of the United States.

In the Back Mountain, changes have taken place to make this once rural area become increasingly suburbanized. On the other hand, the extent to which this trend continues depends upon the longevity of the current development boom which is taking place across Northeastern Pennsylvania. Much of the land area between Dallas and Tunkhannock is still basically rural, yet there is a tendency for some of this area to be categorized as rural non-farm rather than pure agricultural lands. As the development pressure mount, the Lehman or Sweet Valley Area will experience new growth, thus decreasing the rural nature of this part of Luzerne County. The need for a rural development policy within Northeastern Pennsylvania and Luzerne County is as severe as it is in the nation as a whole.

The issue is most dramatically drawn when seen from the context of where people live or where people would like to live. More and more, there is a growing shift in American lifestyle so as to limit the opportunities for young people to remain in rural America, and to encourage the migration of these people to more urban settlements in the nation. In the absence of a positive policy, this shift will cause a continuing draft in the lifestyle habits of rural Americans. What are the characteristics of American life? Some of these characteristics include the following:

1. Of the 3100 counties in the nation, 78 percent are rural.
2. While 25 percent of the nation's population lives in rural America, only 20 percent of the jobs are there.
3. The economy of rural America is based primarily on non-agricultural employment. For example, more than 60 percent of farm families' income comes from non-agricultural sources.
4. More rural counties are manufacturing dependent than are agricultural dependent.
5. In the most recent year, more than 1,000 of the 2,400 rural counties reported unemployment in excess of 9 percent, while the national rate was 7 percent.
6. About 10 percent of all rural counties have had per capita incomes in the lowest fifth of the income distribution continuously since 1950.
7. People are leaving rural areas at a rate of about 600,000 a year, a rate that exceeds that of the high migration decades of the 1950's and the 1960's.

In a variety of categories such as education and training, healthcare, distribution of earned income, physical infrastructure, (including transportation, water and sewer, and housing) rural America in this age of competitiveness is not meeting the challenge to compete with urban and suburban America. Most importantly, rural governments have seen their tax base erode as their agricultural, mining, and manufacturing sectors have gone into relative decline. It is these factors and others which have dictated the malaise which has settled over the rural sectors of the United States.

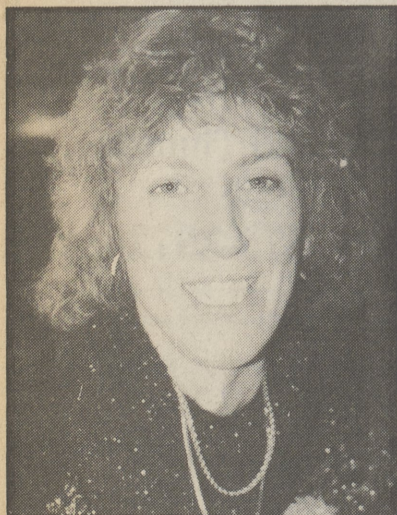
The problem is such to demand amidecy of recognition and action. The above mentioned report is being circulated to key public and private sectors leaders throughout the nation. It requires the interest and involvement of persons of all walks of life to cope with this dilemma. It also involves a need to not forget the other kinds of pressures and problems facing the nation such as the fiscal constraints in urban cities and the growing awareness that suburban America may face conditions which currently exist in urban America unless management strategies and governmental policies are adjusted to enable all parts of the nation to effectively relate to the problems of the 1990's and the rapidly approaching 21st Century. It is this element which needs to be examined in the Back Mountain and other areas of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

### A note from the editor

The Dallas Post, your community newspaper, looks forward to all those very important activities that make up a vital part of where we live. But The Dallas Post asks that requests for photo coverage and the submission of articles for publication be submitted to our offices at least 24 hours in advance for photos

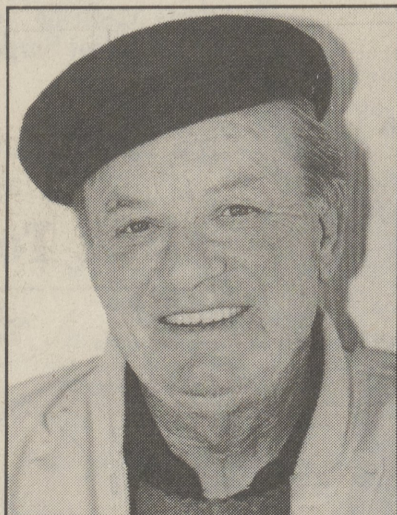
and before 12 noon, Monday, for articles, in order that we can give our utmost in preparing The Dallas Post. Space and time are ingredients that make up a newspaper and we do our best. Your cooperation will help us serve our communities better.

## The Post asks: "What do you plan to do the 1st day of Trout Season?"



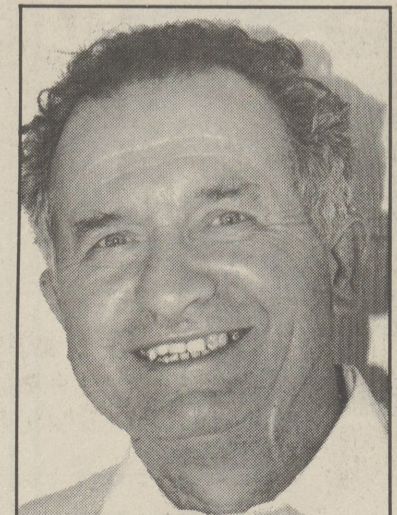
BETTY WALLACE

Betty Wallace  
Waitress  
Harveys Lake  
"I'm gonna go shopping and spend my husband's pay check."



FRANK KASTREVA

Frank Kastreva  
Retired  
Ashley  
"I'm going to be fishing at Harveys lake, I'm only gonna catch small trout cause my wife's only got a small frying pan."



JOE YEAGER

Joe Yeager  
Chimney contractor  
Larksville  
"I'm taking my granddaughter, Jacqueline Yeager, fishing for the 1st time, she's 3 years old."



BETTY GREY

Betty Grey  
Housewife  
Harveys Lake  
"I'm going down to Warden Place to watch Jackie fish."



LORAIN YEAGER

Loraine Yeager  
Homemaker  
Larksville  
"Sitting at home waiting for the guys to bring home the fish so I can cook them."



GINNY KASTREVA

Ginny Kastreva  
Homemaker  
Ashley  
"We're having our nephew and his 7 year old son and my son and granddaughter come over to fish with Eddie's boat. Then we'll have a fish fry."