

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Peer helpers offer help and inspiration

In addition to helping troubled students, the Peer Helper program at Dallas High School is an example and inspiration for students and adults alike.

The program's premise is simply an extension of the healthy relationships with friends and family that we wish all young persons enjoyed. Unfortunately, those nurturing relationships don't exist for everyone, and that's where the peer helpers come in.

There are many occasions in a teenager's life when no adult seems able to understand their pain and confusion. Somehow, on the way to adulthood, too many of us have forgotten the path that led there. We too often trivialize important events in our children's lives and that's probably the worst response we could offer.

But an equal - another person who has recently been through a similar experience or who knows a different way to act - can have enormous influence. The peer helper program strives to see that those influences are available and positive.

We expect that the student volunteers who give of their time and energy have had help in their lives when they needed it, and wish to give back some of what they have received. But, of course, they don't have to. They could simply carry on their own lives as so many do. And there would be no wrong in that.

We salute the student volunteers without whom a program like this couldn't function. Their concern for others only multiplies the qualities that drew them to become peer helpers in the first place.

A timid response to Rushdie affair

We haven't read the subject of so much recent controversy, Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses". But we have read much of what has been said and written about the Ayatollah Khomeini's threats on the author's life, and we are disturbed by some of it.

All western commentators have offered a defense of Rushdie's right to have written the book, but many have of them have been tepid at best. The most amazing responses have come from conservatives like Patrick Buchanan, who have provided more excuses for the Ayatollah than defenses for the author. Such a state of affairs would have been inconceivable to us, had we not witnessed it.

There have been many offensive books and articles written through the ages and most have been properly condemned as trash, or worse. "The Satanic Verses" may or may not fit that description. But we certainly must defend an author's right to express his views - and a publisher's right to distribute them. If we fail to do so, we have voluntarily given up a bit of our own right to free expression and replaced it with either fear or apathy.

We don't wish to do that.

Letters invited

The Dallas Post encourages readers to share their opinions with the community by writing a letter to the editor. All letters for publication must be signed and include a telephone number so that we may verify authenticity. We will not publish anonymous letters. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612. Letters received by Noon on Monday may be included in that week's issue.

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Meetings

The following is a list of monthly Back Mountain meetings including township supervisors, borough councils and others of interest.

BACK MOUNTAIN WATER COMMISSION: 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 8 p.m. Kingston Township Municipal Building
DALLAS BOROUGH COUNCIL: 3rd Tuesday of every month, 8 p.m. Borough Building, Main Street, Dallas.
DALLAS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month, 8 p.m. Dallas Township Building, Rte. 309, Dallas.
DALLAS SCHOOL BOARD: 2nd Monday of every month, 8 p.m. Administration Building, Church St., Dallas.
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION: 6:30 p.m., First Monday of every month.
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS: 8 p.m. First Monday of every month.
HARVEYS LAKE COUNCIL: 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m.

HARVEYS LAKE PLANNING COMMISSION: 3rd Monday of every month, 7 p.m.
HARVEYS LAKE ZONING BOARD: 4th Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. All held at Harveys Lake Municipal Building, Rte. 415, Harveys Lake.
JACKSON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY: 2nd Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m.
JACKSON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS: 1st Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Both held at Jackson Township Fire Hall, Jackson Township.
KINGSTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS: 2nd Wednesday of every month, 8 p.m. Kingston Township Municipal Building, Rte. 309, Kingston Township.
LAKE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS: 2nd Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. Lake Township Municipal Building, North 29, Lake Township.
LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL BOARD: 2nd Tuesday of every month, 8 p.m.
LEHMAN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS: 2nd Monday of every month, 8 p.m. Lehman Township Municipal Building, Lehman Township.



The violin soloist

Tiffany Klamovich, 13, Hunlock Creek, is violin soloist for the Cadet Band at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School. March is Music in Our Schools Month. (Photo by Charlotte Bartzek)

Only yesterday

50 Years Ago - March 10, 1939 Wilkes-Barre newspaper strike deadlocked

Grand Jury hears witnesses to expose election graft in Luzerne County.

Traffic in Luzerne will be detoured because of new bypass construction.

Deadlock is reached in the strike of the three Wilkes-Barre daily newspapers.

Dallas School directors authorized secretary Daniel Waters to advertise for bids to repair heating systems in the high school and grade school.

Wed - Elizabeth Honeywell and Andrew Race; Beth Love and Charles Richard Jones.

Tom Dropchinski of Lehman High School wins his second prize fight.

40 Years Ago - March 17, 1949 John Hewitt fights for soil conservation

Trucksville Volunteer Firemen voted to sponsor the Boy Scout troop in the community.

Arthur Nuss and Thomas Elston will be the end men in Lehman High School Class of 1950 minstrel show "Gentlemen Be Seated".

John Hewitt, Idetown farmer, leads fight on federal soil conservation project.

30 Years Ago - March 5, 1959 Sordoni receives community service award

Back Mountain Protective Association presented its community service award to Andrew J. Sordoni, state senator.

Charles Long of Sweet Valley to hold his 13th Annual Farm Machinery Auction.

Westmoreland captures North League title with 64-63 overtime win over Ashley.

St. Joe's downs Lake-Lehman in Bloomsburg Tournament.
Irem Temple's Shrine Circus opens March 16.

Wed - Lionda Jenkins and John R. Bestwick; Dorothy Marie Parsons and Robert G. Elpper.

Engaged - Myrna T. Meacham and 2nd Lt. Paul Nichols.

20 Years Ago - March 6, 1969
New water commission asks patience

William Long, member of the Kingston Township Water Commission has urged residents to have patience for the water commission.

Dallas Rotary plans District meeting to be held at Pocono Manor Inn.

Sunday, Feb. 2, was a thrilling day for Mrs. Sandy Slimak Barber and Mrs. Karen Mooney, who finally met after being pen pals for 15 years.

Engaged - Kathleen Carol Haviland and Henry Edward Hess, Jr.
Dallas Senior High School cagers defeat Hanover Area 86-63.

Linda Woolbert sent report of her experiences as as school teacher in Alaska.

Dr. Eugene Hammer, Wilkes College, will again offer Upward Bound for six weeks beginning July 21. The course will be limited to 15 10th graders from Luzerne County.

10 Years Ago - March 8, 1979 Gas supplies getting short

Local dealers report gas supply tight.

The Russian wrestling team is coming to Wyoming Valley to participate in a wrestling exhibition with an American All Star team.

Dr. Mahmoud Fahmy to seek election as school director.

Engaged - Susan Jane Gramley and Richard Harris; Karen Sue Earl and Jack Winterstein.

Soviet wrestling team to visit Dallas.

Lake-Lehman wrestlers win districts and six of the Knights will advance to regionals including Rocky and Ricky Bonomo and Mike Leskowsky.

County conservation district asked to join Chesapeake Bay cleanup program

The Luzerne County Conservation District has been invited to participate in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Clean Up Program.

Under the Chesapeake Bay Financial Assistance Funding Program (FAFP), selected Luzerne County farmers will receive up to \$30,000 each to help fund agricultural management practices designed to improve local water quality and protect the Bay.

Since beginning in 1984, the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) Bay Program has contracted over 5.9 million dollars in projects designed to protect the Bay from further pollution. To date, 20 counties extending from the Maryland to the New York border have enrolled in the program.

Some of the counties enrolled in this program have already received requests from area farmers

for a portion of the funds allocated to their county. Other counties will need to advertise the availability of the funds, urging area farmers to take advantage of the program. The county conservation district will decide how to appropriate the funds.

The goal of the FAFP is to accelerate the implementation of best management practices on agricultural land. It focuses on animal waste management and demonstrating that a reduction in the amount of nutrients applied through excess fertilization will benefit the environment and also save money. Less nutrients entering local water supplies will in turn improve the water quality of the Susquehanna River and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

The program consists of grants to conservation districts, state and federal agencies, cooperating organizations and landowners to encourage farmers to properly

Letters

Writer suggests pay for performance plan for Congress

Editor,

The recent attempt by Congress to raise their salaries by 50% without having to go on the record with a vote is simply disgusting. It demonstrates the spineless behavior that led us into the current budget deficit. Congressmen do not have the backbone required to vote against pork-barrel projects that they know do not benefit the nation. The private sector uses incentive plans to encourage employees to act in the best interest of the company. Isn't it time we used the same system for Congress?

Suggest that Congressional pay raises be based on performance. Four measures (i.e., Real GNP Growth Rate, Unemployment Rate, Inflation Rate, and a Balanced Budget) could be linked to pay raises. Congressmen would get good raises for keeping the economy growing, providing jobs (nationwide, not from local pork-barrel projects), fighting inflation and keeping the budget balanced. I believe all voters, Ralph Nader, the

National Taxpayer's Union, and every other lobbyist in America could support a pay raise based upon the performance measures outlined above.

If the Congress fails to deal with the important national issues that most Americans care about, they don't deserve a raise. When a company in the private sector is going bankrupt, they don't give their manager or employees a 50% raise. The managers have to focus on getting the company back on its feet and provide incentives to the employees for helping them to accomplish it. For once, our government should learn a valuable lesson from the private sector and implement performance based pay raises for Congress soon. Then all Americans could begin to enjoy the benefits of a growing economy, full employment, no inflation and a government that balances its budget year after year.

Pete Cochran
Dallas

Program for inmates at Chase prison needs new volunteers

Editor:

We are once again recruiting volunteers for the THRESHOLD program and are setting dates for the Basic Training weekend for April 1 and 2, Parish House, Prince of Peace Church, Dallas.

What is THRESHOLD? It is a decision-making program that is taught to inmates at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas who are about to be released into their various communities. THRESHOLD is taught by volunteers on a one-to-one basis over a period of 10 weeks.

The only prerequisite to become a volunteer is to be a caring person who wants to reach out to some-

one about to make a new beginning.

While THRESHOLD is not a "religious" program, it is very much based on Christian principles and teachings.

For more information, please call Ingrid Prater at 823-9548, or leave a message at 675-1723. She will also be able to furnish names of present or former volunteers who would be glad to talk about their experience with the THRESHOLD program.

Actual teaching at the prison is scheduled to begin on April 10.

Sister M. Julian Baird
THRESHOLD Volunteer

Protests Dallas school plan

Editor:

To taxpayers of Back Mt.: It's outrageous - not too long ago the Dallas School Board levied a 16 mill tax increase and now they want to burden us with a \$4 million bond. The new building (which they don't need) is a modern day Taj Mahal.

Clear your calendar and attend the March 13, 1989 School Board meeting and protest this latest extravagance of your School Board. It's your money.

F. Joseph Funke
Dallas

Library news

Clowns and mimes on display this month

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The display case in the office area of the library is featuring some lovely Mimes and Pierrot Love Clowns. These have been loaned to us by Stefanie Dwinchick and Josephine Zekas of Dallas and these girls have set up a beautiful display. Stefanie is 13 years old in 8th grade and Josephine is 14 years in 9th, both at Dallas Junior High School. Jo became interested mostly because she thought these mimes and clowns were so neat. She first was given a mask, her favorite, which is a red and white butterfly one and her favorite doll is a large pink jester, sitting in the prime corner of the display. Jo and Stef are good friends and when Stef began collecting also, they enjoyed buying together and comparing their collections. Stef's first doll was a silver and black check-

ered with baggy pants and her favorite mask is a black and white stick mask, while her favorite doll is blue and white polka dotted one.

The display includes many mimes and clowns such as, some tiny little clowns in colorful outfits; some have shimmering clothes and there are a few in fancy shiny gold outfits. There is a mirror with a mime painted on it, which is little sister Susan's favorite; there are many pieces of jewelry, such as earrings, pins, necklaces, stick-pins and a jewelry box. There is a set of vases, a rubber stamper, some pewter items and three musical clowns, one that moves while the music is playing. The girls have set these up on two scarfs, with clowns on them, naturally. One very unique item is a blue china eye piece mask. They are 40 to 50 items in the display and each girl has more at home. They have been collecting for over two years and buy some themselves and receive them as gifts at Christmas and for birthdays. There are mimes and clowns on every item in the display and they make a really colorful and unique display. This display will be at the library until March 29.

The library Board of Directors met after the annual meeting for a reorganization meeting with the new officers taking office. The 1989 officers include: President, Elizabeth Lloyd; Vice President, Frank Poplaski; Secretary, Pauline Kutz and Treasurer, Glenn W. Eyet, Jr. A new board member from the Sweet Valley area is George Bacon.

A young child asked her mother, "Do we check these books out at the children's desk?" The mother said, "No." The child, "Sometimes we do check them out at the children's desk." The mother said, "No." The child, "Why not?" Answer, "Since the library is in this new building, all books are checked out at the main circulation desk." The child's answer, "Oh!"

Visiting at the library last week, Melanie, Patti and Pam, three former library pages.