



From The State Capital

Here is a summary of important events that occurred on Capitol Hill from Rep. Scott Dietterick, 120th Legislative District.

ABORTION BATTLE LOOMS—

Pro-choice lawmakers this week unveiled a legislative package which would guarantee a woman's right to an abortion in Pennsylvania. Among the measures is a bill which would seek a referendum on an amendment to the state Constitution establishing the right to an abortion. Other provisions of the package would allocate funds to family-planning and day-care programs and require physicians to urge minors to talk to a parent or family relative before having an abortion. Rep. Stephen F. Freind (R-Delaware), the state's leading pro-life advocate, said a pro-life legislative package would be introduced in early October.

ETHICAL BEHAVIOR—Public officials and employees would be subject to increased penalties for crimes they commit on the job if legislation developed by Rep. George E. Saurman (R-Montgomery) is enacted into law. Saurman said this week he will introduce legislation to strengthen the penalties against public employees and officials who commit any of 19 different crimes. "The public trust must be upheld. If the trust is broken...we need laws that will hit the violators and hit them hard," said Saurman.

FULL SERVICE GUARANTEE—Rep. Jerry L. Nailor (R-Cumberland) announced this week that he will introduce legislation which will require gasoline stations to provide specific services when offering "full-service" at the pumps. Under the measure, a full-service station would be required to provide an attendant to pump fuel into a vehicle. In addition, on request, the attendant would be required to check the oil and transmission fluid and clean the windshield. Another section of the bill would require a full-service station to offer an air pump for the convenience of customers. Nailor said the legisla-

tion would be especially beneficial to the handicapped and senior citizens. "This is simply a fairness issue. When consumers pay full-service prices, they should receive full service," said Nailor.

MORE RESTROOMS - Rep. Bruce Smith (R-York) this week unveiled legislation which would require more women's restrooms in all new public buildings in Pennsylvania. Calling the issue "restroom equity", Smith said the additional facilities are needed for women who are often forced to stand in lengthy lines to use the restroom, particularly in stadiums and arenas where large crowds gather. Smith noted that two scientific studies prove that women take twice as long to use restroom facilities and said that New York, California and Virginia have already passed similar legislation. Smith's legislation is aimed at all new buildings owned or leased by the state, its agencies and local governments. He said the bill would also benefit elderly women, who outnumber older men, and women who accompany children to the restroom. "I sincerely hope that the private sector will consider similar policies in restaurants, theaters and auditoriums," Smith said.

PIGEON CONTROVERSY - Some 400 animal-rights activists protested the annual pigeon shoot in Hedges, Schuylkill County, this week calling for an to the fund-raising event. About 6,000 birds were shot during the day-long activity which raises some \$10,000 for upkeep of the community park. Protestors contend that the event is inhumane treatment of the pigeons. Participants argue that the shoot is only for sport and that the birds would otherwise be killed as part of pigeon control efforts in large cities. A bill has been sent to the House which would ban the activity in Pennsylvania.

Wetlands

(continued from page 1)

"The soil takes on a certain color and herbaceous plants dominate a site."

Perry cited some of the cases where his agency has had to come in and have developers pull out fill in places as near as Clarks Summit, the Poconos and Pike County. The restoration has cost the violator from \$100,000 and up.

"If you suspect someone is building or filling in on wetlands, ask them if they have a permit and ask them to show it to you. If they refuse, notify our office. Laws pertaining to wetlands are retroactive to five years. If you suspect a party is in violation, get a map of the location, photocopy an 8 1/2 x 11 section of the area, outline the specific site and send it to our office at 315 South Allen Street, State College, Pa. 16801. We will send someone out to investigate it."

Audubon group will meet Oct. 16

The next membership meeting of the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society will highlight a nature slide show presented by Bill Evans. He examines a variety of plants, birds and animals through beautiful nature photography. The program is set for Monday, Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Dallas United Methodist Church in Dallas.

Bill, who is a charter member of Audubon, has a special personal touch to his show. He makes presentations to schools, clubs and State Parks, and is available to non-profit organizations. Mr. Evans, a Forty Fort resident, can be reached at 287-3786 or through any of the board members.

New Lake-Lehman High lab links high-technology and art of writing

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Lake-Lehman's new computer-assisted writing center containing 17 Apple Macintosh Plus micro-computers, six printers and software library has linked together the art of writing with the ease of technology. The computer lab in the senior high school is the result of a state technology grant written by four high school faculty members.

The goal of the center is to intensify the writing program at Lake-Lehman and to introduce students to current technologies used in higher education, business and industry. Ninth through 12th grade students study writing as a process and use the computers and word processing software to write essays, descriptive paragraphs and research papers. The newspaper staff also uses the lab to help publish the school newspaper.

"The students love the computers," said Miss Campbell, who teaches the juniors American Studies. It increases their writing ability and gives them more awareness for the future. Sometimes students are reluctant to write because of their handwriting or their spelling but their response on the computer is excellent.

"They are doing advance placement, resumes, while learning their mistakes. They write paragraphs or other stories on the computer,

their classmates read them and they share with others. They find it's fun doing college prep and writing in American Studies. They will do a magazine this year for their final."

Reaction to the computer lab by the students and the faculty has been enthusiastic. Senior Kim Vollrath in the writing workshop said "The Writing Lab is fun, a friendly atmosphere to work in. It's not all desks and rows and sitting in alphabetical order. It is more relaxed and comfortable. The computers give us a chance to

work with our hands and eyes and mind. We can get a different feeling using a keyboard instead of a pen and a pad."

Junior Jason Gearhart said "It makes writing papers easier and faster, also neater. I can make changes easily. I like using the computer. It's the thing of the future so why not start now!"

Melissa Billington, also a junior said "College Prep and American Studies are easy to do on the computers. It's neater than doing it in handwriting and so easy to make corrections by moving paragraphs or cutting out a paragraph or two if you want to and it's a lot of fun."

Senior Jennifer DeLeur commented, "I am now able to write a paper and have it corrected and printed all with the touch of a button. This allows me to cut down time in writing and gives me more time to revise and edit my paper. I also believe the computer will help me prepare for college because I will now have a feel for the computer and how it works."

Senior Randy Paraschak and Senior Ed Kelly had similar answers, "I love it," they said.

Maureen Purcell, chairperson of the language arts department, speaking for the faculty members said, "There was no one more reluctant than I was to trade my pencil and legal pad for a keyboard and monitor but I realized that the challenge of the present is to enhance the future. My classroom has become a place of true learning—the teacher learns as the student learns. That in itself creates the perfect educational climate, one of mutuality, reciprocity and respect."

"I recognize that all students will not be converts to this process but they will leave Lake-Lehman with an understanding of the demands of a technologically dependent society and will be prepared to meet those demands with confidence and skill," concluded Miss Purcell.

Anderson Afield

Sometimes agencies that should protect wetlands aid their destruction

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

Folks in Maine, Minnesota, Oregon and in between know that we've been losing about 50 square miles of priceless, very productive land per year for several years. And they know the loss is from the marshes and estuaries of Louisiana. What they don't know is that the federal government, through the Army Corps of Engineers, and the state government, through some ill-defined, poorly conceived agency called Coastal Zone management, plus 3 or 4 other state and federal outfits, severely impede and actually penalize landowners who try to protect their own marshes.

You don't see any bulrushes or grass growing out in the Gulf of Mexico because such plants cannot stand the salt. If you dig a deep canal from the Gulf into the heart of a beautiful marsh, you kill the marsh. In the past 50 years the Corps of Engineers has dug hundreds of miles of such canals and killed thousands of acres of marsh.

The Fresh Water Bayou which they converted into a ship canal is a case in point. Admittedly, as they dug the channel they piled the spoil along the sides which formed levees that might prevent the salt from getting into the marsh. Do they maintain these levees? No, they do not. Will they let the private landowners on either side maintain the levees? Not without getting a permit to do so.

To get such a permit, the landowner must apply for same to the Corps. Then begins the runaround. The Corps says, "We can't issue a permit to repair your levees unless you have a state permit from Coastal Zone Management. But CZM says they won't issue a permit without federal approval. And

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also has to approve, but they won't say "Yes" or "No" until they are confident that you have the okay from the other 3 or 4 agencies.

To begin with, the Corps requires that you provide them with an exact blueprint, drawn by a professional engineering firm, and a detailed map showing the exact location and design of the repairs you want to make in order to save your marsh. Believe me, the drawings and maps do not come cheap.

But you ain't seen nuthin' yet. If, after 2-3 years of haggling and miles of red tape, you manage to get your permit to repair your levee, the Corps will charge you 4 cents per cubic yard for the fill dirt. No, you don't buy it from them. You furnish it yourself, and you pay the marine contractor to do the work. The Corps collects a few thousand dollars from you to keep themselves in business.

Nor does state Coastal Zone Management sit by and nod with approval if you repair a levee or build a weir or otherwise try to save a marsh; -a marsh which is the nursery grounds for millions of shrimp, menhaden, plus alligators that provide food and leather for domestic and foreign markets. What makes Louisiana the world's leading fur producer? Why do they call Louisiana "Sportsman's Paradise"? The answer is her marshes and estuaries.

But the Coastal Zone Management says, "Thou shalt not manage". And they fly the marshes in helicopters to make sure you are not repairing a break in your levee without getting permission from

on high. If, by some chance, you manage to fill out all the forms, get all the blueprints, pay all the fees, and get an okay from one of these agencies, you still have the other 3 or 4 to do battle with.

Admittedly, in the past, thousands of acres of wetlands have been converted to production of surplus crops. As a nation we are only waking up to the fact that wetlands act as storage basins to prevent floods, recharge aquifers, and produce food, furs, and recreation of greater dollar value than surplus corn and soybeans. Such destruction of wetlands must be stopped. There should be a single agency staffed with a few experts in wetland management and marsh ecology to whom a landowner could apply for free advice and approval of marsh preservation and restoration efforts.

If Senators Breaux and Johnston, Senator Picard and Representative Theriot want to halt the loss of land on which their constituents depend for a living, they'd better straighten out the mess in the marsh.

This is a problem that affects your pocketbook and quality of life whether you live in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, or Louisiana.

John M. "Frosty" Anderson was Director of the Wildlife Department of the National Audubon Society from 1966 until his retirement in 1987.

Clarification

In an editorial in last week's issue of The Dallas Post, it was stated that a new member of the Dallas Borough Zoning Board was likely to have a different perspective from incumbent members. A preceding paragraph had referred to the controversy over the Deer Meadow development as an example of an issue that the new member opposed, but was supported by the existing board members.

Joseph Dwinchick was not a member of the zoning board at the time of the Deer Meadow decision, thus, his views on the Deer Meadow question are not public record.



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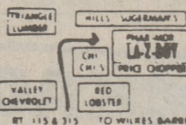
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