

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Fear of retaliation stifles public debate

There was a meeting at the Dallas Elementary School last week to inform parents about the practice and signs of satanism among young people. But you won't see the pictures The Post took at the meeting in this week's paper.

That's because one of the organizers - the head of the organization - came to our office the next day and asked us not to publish them, out of fear that some harm might come to her family. Since we honor those kinds of requests, the pictures will not appear.

Our concern is not with individuals, but with the message being sent to youngsters by adults who fear to be openly associated with an important issue. We have seen that fear far too frequently in relation to many subjects that deserve to be given a full and fair public debate. It is especially troubling when the actions of those opposed to a supposedly dangerous practice allow that fear to control their lives. In so doing, their enemy has won without ever firing a shot.

"Nothing is terrible except fear itself," wrote Francis Bacon in 1623. That adage holds true today as it did then. And it is equally true that evil and corrupt practices cannot stand the light of day. It is the duty of citizens, and the media as an extension of them, to bring important matters to the forefront of community discussion.

Intimidation doesn't come only from fear that some evil-possessed person will steal your children; it appears every time a citizen refuses to speak up for what he believes is right because of fear of retaliation from those perceived to be more powerful. It happens when any of us chooses not to add our voice to whichever side of an important public issue we think is the right one. Or when we claim we don't "want to hurt anyone's feelings."

The problem is that the excuses we use to avoid speaking up are based in some fear - usually more imaginary than real - that our courage will draw a damaging response. While that is seldom the case, it does occasionally happen. But that is the price we pay to live a reasonably free and unfettered life.

A vigorous and open debate on pressing issues is far healthier for a community and its citizens than is a misplaced fear that speaking out carries a risk too heavy to bear. We don't believe that to be the case, nor do we think most people are not capable of agreeing to disagree on certain topics. More discussion and less intimidation will serve the Back Mountain and the nation well.

One man is counted

Speaking of speaking out, Dallas Township Supervisor Frank Wagner didn't wait for someone else to call The Post and tell us his side of the controversy brewing over the lack of building codes in the community. Not everyone will agree with his opinion, but he has the courage to state and defend it.

William Henry Harrison, not one of our better remembered presidents, said in his inaugural address in 1841, "A decent and manly examination of the acts of government should not only be tolerated, but encouraged." It seems just such a review may now be taking place in Dallas Township. If it is done thoroughly and fairly - and if citizens as well as officials get involved - the end result will be one appropriate to the needs of the community.

Choir hosts needed

Wanted: About 100 host families for top flight, dedicated young people. Only requirements - feed them three breakfasts and take them to and from choir practice. Call Florence Sherwood at 675-5201 to apply.

The planners of the Region IV Chorus didn't run an ad, but if you did it might have read like that. If you can help, they'll appreciate it.

The regional competition scheduled for March 21-23 at the Dallas Middle School will bring together 162 high school students from 52 school districts throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. These youngsters have progressed through district chorus and will be here to vie for only 32 spots available at all-state.

Part of the obligation of the host district is to provide three nights' housing and breakfasts for the participants. That's really about all there is to it, according to Mrs. Sherwood. Practice and performing will take up virtually all of the young people's time.

If you have some room in your home, for a dedicated, interesting young person, show them a little Back Mountain hospitality. You'll be glad you did.

Letters

Old friends saw, responded to golden anniversary notice

Editor: Thank you so much for putting our 50th Anniversary article in your weekly newspaper the week of February 21. We received many congratulatory cards from old hometown friends and neighbors. We've subscribed to your paper

since we've been married - all fifty years. This has kept us in touch with the old home town where we lived, went to school and graduated from Dallas Boro and Dallas Twp. High Schools.

Peg and Ted Cobleigh Troy, Pa.

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Ronald A. Bartzek Editor and Publisher	Charlotte E. Bartzek Associate Publisher
Peggy Young Advertising Acct. Exec.	Charlot M. Denmon Reporter
Paul Rismiller Composition	Jean Hillard Office Manager
	Olga Kostrobala Classified/typesetting

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It's snow beautiful

(Photo by Charlotte Bartzek)

Letters

Husbands say thanks for help after trailer fire

Editor:

A special thanks to the "Back Mountain Riding Club," and the "Blue Ridge Mountaineer Band." Also to all merchants that generously gave food and clothing to us,

the persons that went around to the merchants for donations, the churches, the wonderful school students and to everyone for their donation of money, clothing, time and prayers and their thoughtful-

ness.

It is all deeply appreciated. It's great to have so many friends and relatives for their understanding.

Jack Husband and family Centermoreland

Says Sen. Lemmond's vote damaged father's rights

Editor:

Men - Beware of Charlie! Senator Charles Lemmond fully supports the militant feminists who have destroyed fathers' rights.

He voted against a man's right to know that his own child is about to be exterminated by his wife and her abortionist. That bill wouldn't have restored to him any control over the life or death of his child, but ATLEAST would have returned

to him a position in which his feelings, his interest, and his support could be a factor in the decision.

I believe in equal rights for women, but that shouldn't eliminate equal rights for men—or for unborn children! One vote for these human beings is not equality.

Joan E. Host Tunkhannock, Pa.

Minnesota youngster seeks postcards

Editor:

I am in third grade. We are learning about our country. Would you please send me some postcards of your community. This is a school project.

Thanks Kristine Wichner Sandstone Elm. Sandstone, Mn. 55072

Opinion

Plans growing for Earth Day's 20th anniversary

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

Mainstream America has become environmentally conscious and environmentally sensitive. This has become more clear as each day goes by and the events and projects connected with the 20th anniversary of Earth Week and Earth Day rapidly approach.

April 22, 1990 will mark the anniversary of Earth Day. Much has transpired since 1970 with the passage of the national Environmental Policy Act, many other types of federal legislative and regulatory policies and strong legislative acts which have recently been proposed by the Casey Administration and acted upon by the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Two recent examples are the state Superfund Act and Act 101 which is the new waste management and recycling law for Pennsylvania.

The transformation of what was reportedly a fringe protest movement in the 1970s to a more mature, acceptable policy driven discipline in 1990 makes the environment become as important and as critical as economic development was in the 1960s and 1970s in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The task may be to now blend both disciplines together so that an appropriate balance between quality and quantity of economic development can be blended with the appropriate environmental sensitivity to the landscape of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Many volunteer, environmental organizations have sprung up in recent years in relation to the problems which citizens fear concerning the environment. Almost every project of significance having to do with waste management, for example, raises the ire of local citizens and a new citizen group is organized to protest and prevent a waste management project from being undertaken. On the other hand, citizens have become far more knowledgeable about environmental issues than ever before in the history of the nation. How this knowledge and interaction of what some feel are disparate goals such as economic development and environmental sensitivity can relate together is an important issue for the 1990s.

The 20th anniversary of Earth Week and the celebration of Earth Day can be an opportunity which should not go unnoticed. Special attention should be given in all areas of Northeastern Pennsylvania to ways and means by which the celebration of Earth Week and indeed the entire year can be called the Year of the Environment. Here are some examples of activities which might be considered.

...Have one or more industries open their facility for tours and demonstrations relative to the environment. This might include plastics recycling companies or industries who have taken special pains to handle difficult environmental problems.

...Publish a list of environmentally sound or environmentally sensitive areas which can be visited. Such a list might include, but not be limited to, Grey Towers (Pinchot Institute), Lacawac Sanctuary, the Tubs, various state parks, etc.

...Have a regional environmental workshop (of limited nature since not much time remains) to demonstrate a regional approach to environmental issues. Survey key industries, school districts, and other organizations concerning their plans for Earth Week. Issue some type of newsletter which spells out

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - March 7, 1930 MAJOR HOME DESTROYED BY FIRE

Fire destroys the W.M. Major home in Lehman.

Dallas Borough Council passes new building ordinance but vetoed the purchase of land for the future erection of a sewage disposal plant.

Kingston Township team defeats Dallas Township team 29-23 to put them out of the running for the first place in the Bi-County League.

Every home in the community is invited to enter the yard and garden contest sponsored by the Mount Greenwood Kiwanis Club.

50 Years Ago - March 8, 1940 EIGHT VIE FOR REPRESENTATIVE SEAT

Dallas Borough Council agrees to give the Dr. Henry Laing Fire Company \$300 yearly if Dallas Township will agree to give a like amount.

Harveys Lake Police Chief Ira Stevenson warned truckers who were unable to produce weigh bills on demand to stay away from the lake.

Engaged - Emma R. Ertz and Derwood Jones.

Wed - Mary Louise Carpenter and Roland R. Kocher; Marguerite Ide and Theodore Cobleigh.

Dallas Borough team leaders of the Back Mountain Baseball League, amazed fans by tying the fast Luzerne five in a practice game on Monday.

40 Years Ago - March 10, 1950 STUCK SAFE FOILS ROBBERY ATTEMPT

Amateur night at Lehman High School drew a large crowd to enjoy the contestants from several schools.

A stubborn safe foiled the attempt of burglars who tried to rob

Wed - Jeannette Brown and Joseph P. Rother.

Dallas Borough girls will play Dallas Township girls on a neutral floor this week to determine who will be winner of the first half.

Goodleigh Farms produces the world champion cow, Eolus Herina.

30 Years Ago - March 10, 1960 MELLON NEW DALLAS SUPERINTENDENT

Dallas School Board names Dr. R.A. Mellon as superintendent at a starting salary of \$13,000 per year.

Westmoreland Key Club won the top place in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for achievement.

Shavertown and Huntsville teams will meet Saturday to determine the winner in the semi-finals of the Church League.

Wed - Margaret Rusinko and Guy R. Peters.

20 Years Ago - March 12, 1970 YAGLOSKI FINISHES SEASON UNDEFEATED

Ray Yagloski, Dallas graduate, was the top King's wrestler this year finishing the season with a 12-0 record.

Wed - Sharon E. Coolbaugh and David Crouthamel; Susan J. Smith and Robert Lehrmitt.

Engaged - Diane S. Rogers and Lawrence Lee Ralston; Louise E. Wichert and Daniel H. Davis.

based upon the United Nation's Environmental Sabbath Packet.

...Work with the Pennsylvania Office of Environmental Education to co-produce and distribute packets of projects and activities for elementary and secondary schools.

...Distribute an annotated, state wide source book of environmental education sites, programs and materials and environmental advocacy groups throughout the region since the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources will be publishing such a document.

One important function during 1990 will be highlighted by WVIA, the local public television and radio station. The public broadcasting system nationally has chosen 1990 as the Year of Environment, and each local public television and radio station will be highlighting environmental actions.

If you have any comments or thoughts relative to special events in 1990 in connection with the environment, send them to the attention of Joy Evans, Project Coordinator, WVIA-TV, Old Boston Road, Pittston, PA 18640 or Len Carlin, Environmental Project Coordinator, EDCNP, 1151 Oak Street, Pittston, PA 18640.

Howard Grossman is Executive Director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He lives in Dallas.