

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Prior restraint of students was wrong

The director of discipline for the Dallas School District erred badly last week when he severely punished two Middle School students for organizing a sit-in to protest the war in the Persian Gulf, a demonstration that never took place because the organizers were suspended before it could occur. By acting without absolute justification, the administration trampled on the students' rights as citizens of the United States.

Prior restraint — suppressing an individual before any illegal action has occurred — is clearly a violation of constitutional guarantees of free speech and assembly. It can also be argued that the demonstration, which was supposedly to have taken place before the opening of school, should itself have been allowed to occur.

Students in the Dallas schools have apparently been taught two lessons by this episode; that to protest peacefully is considered a threat by some, and that those with power can sometimes abuse rights considered fundamental in our society.

The students are undoubtedly shocked at the severity of their punishment for a violation that never occurred. But even the existence of news reports about their plight is a reminder that America offers many ways to express one's opinions to a wider public. As long as avenues of expression exist, they can be used to expose misguided interpretations of citizens' rights.

Brutal tactics expose Saddam's true nature

Each day's news from the Persian Gulf seems to bring more justification for the action by United States and coalition forces against Saddam Hussein and his brutal regime in Iraq. Take your pick of vicious, inhuman acts: Targeting missiles at Israel for no reason other than to fuel the fanatical fire of radical Palestinians, abusing prisoners of war, executing his own commanders for failing to stop an overwhelming attack, dumping oil in the Gulf for no apparent reason other than to distract his opponents. It has become increasingly clear that President Bush's warnings about the diabolical nature of Iraq's leader were not overstated, and that, short of Saddam's assassination, a confrontation of some sort was inevitable.

The immediate question has become how to end the war as quickly and cleanly as possible with a minimum loss of life. The President has been wise to let his military leaders determine the best way to accomplish that objective, and they have so far performed well. The end of war is unlikely to bring true peace to a region that has adopted fighting as a way of life, but the end of Saddam Hussein's reign surely will remove the greatest source of terror from the Mideast.

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 their 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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Published Weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc.
P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612
Telephone: 717-675-5211

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MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
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Icy crossroads, Huntsville Reservoir

(Photo by Charlotte Bartzek)

Library news

All will be forgiven at the library on Valentine's Day

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is planning to hold an Amnesty Day on Valentine's Day, February 14. This means that any overdue book that is returned on that day will not be charged an overdue fine. We hope that some of the many books that are now out and quite overdue will be returned on that day. We do want our books back in the library on the shelves for other people to borrow and this is a way of offering a no charge return for the

overdue books. The library will be open from 9:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. that Thursday and no charges will be made for overdue books.

Library patrons are reminded that Book Club dues for 1991 is now payable at the library. Single membership is \$10.00 and double \$15.00. The membership entitles the borrower to select books from the Book Club special shelf which circulate for a two week period. During 1990, \$2,400 was given for Book Club memberships and this money was used to purchase books for this special shelf. After

six months the books are removed to the regular library shelves in the main reading room and become a part of the library circulating collection. New Book Club members are always welcome.

New Book Club books: "The Fifth Law of Hawkins" by Charles Durden is a comic novel that opens when Jamie has just been freed from a Mexican jail, rescued by an American tourist, Jamie, true to form, works his charm and soon enough he is out and on his way to The City of Brotherly Love, where he becomes a reporter on a news-

paper, the Philadelphia Call.

"Entered From The Sun" by George Garrett is an enthralling novel about Elizabethan England. The story focuses on an investigation into the murder of Christopher Marlowe—poet, playwright, and something of a spy—who is an equally spectacular literary personality. The time is 1597, the place is London. Two men are hired separately to determine what prompted a killing. Each man uses his own method of sorting the intrigue and conspiracy.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Feb. 6, 1931 STUDENTS TO PRESENT 'HERE COMES PATRICIA'

Olan DeWolfe of Dallas was awarded first prize in Commercial Law at Syracuse Chapter of American Institute of Banking.

The Back Mountain is within \$700 of its Welfare Federation Goal of \$2,325.

The Meridian cagers easily defeat the Keystone A.C. team 70-10. Kingston Township students to present the Keystone A.C. team 70-10.

Kingston Township students to present the play "Here Comes Patricia" Wednesday, Feb. 11, at the Shavertown M.E. Church.

"Doughboy" starring Buster Keaton is playing Friday and Saturday at the Himmler Theatre.

Dallas Township High School students will hold an oyster stew at the Kunkle Community Hall, February 18 to help raise funds for their trip to Washington in the spring.

In 1931 Moore's House paint could be purchased for only \$2.00 per gal. at Gay-Murray Co., Tunkhannock.

50 Years Ago - Feb. 7, 1941 FAMILY HAS BROTHERS ELIGIBLE FOR DRAFT

Residents of a large area of Dallas Borough can save 40% of their fire

insurance costs with the installation of 10 fire hydrants, Harry Ohlman, representing Dr. Henry Laing Fire Company, told the council Tuesday night.

Mrs. Margaret Lavelle Detter, having the distinction of being a two-generation war mother, saw six sons serve in the U.S. Army in the first World War and now has four sons who are still eligible for World War II. She is the mother of 13 children.

Cadet Ross Lapp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Lapp, has successfully passed his pilot's test required by the government for graduation from the air training course.

Alan Kistler is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan C. Kistler of Harveys Lake, to undergo a year's training in the Army. His brother William left for Fort Meade some months ago.

Engaged - Erma Shaver and Charles H. Conklin; Margaret Shindel and H. Robert Weaver.

Wed - Grace L. Morris and Robert Bachman; Helen Thorne and Thomas Kasakowski; Anne Wassnick and James Kozemchak; Lucille Hewitt and Leonard Stuart.

Excellent coasting on Machell attracts 30 to 40 youngsters since the Borough Council closed traffic between 3 and 10 p.m.

40 Years Ago - Feb. 2, 1951 NEW JACKSON TWP BUILDING APPROVED

The State approved the Lehman-Jackson Building Authority's plans for the new building.

Robert F. Bachman has been appointed sales representative for Brown & Bigelow, world's largest producer of Remembrance Advertising.

The Fourth Annual Back Mountain Community Concert will be presented April 4 in Kingston Township High School auditorium.

Engaged - Laberta Shultz and Lyle W. Merithew; Vera Coates and William Bulford Rineman; Charlotte June Culp and Albert Ashton.

Wed - Ida Schoonover and Almerian Curtis Edwards; Ruth Folsam and Earl C. Henwood.

30 Years Ago - Feb. 2, 1961 FLACK IN FAVOR OF GAS TAX

Sen. Harold E. Flack of Dallas, Republican, is ready to vote for the two-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax increase.

Back Mountain boys had a reunion at Camp Benning, GA.

Carl C. Stainbrook, Supervisor of the Northeast Division of Pennsylvania Game Commission, stated that the winter feeding program is progressing nicely with the help of local sportsmen by cutting browse

for deer and placing corn in feeders where turkeys are visiting.

Engaged - Nancy Casterline and David A. Hudak.

Wed - Carol Jane and Joseph Burezk; Josephine Radonavitch and Thomas Bunney Jr.

Andrew Denmon Jr. of Dallas, took first place and a \$50 savings bond for his poster entered in the Wilkes-Barre AAA Club Safety Poster Contest. His poster will be entered in the judging of the AAA in Washington, D.C.

Westmoreland cagers cop first half by downing Fairview 66-57 at home.

20 Years Ago - Feb. 4, 1971 WEIS STORE, NEW BANK OPEN IN AREA

Clean air workshop held at Marywood College scores pollution crisis.

Weis Market opens in the new Dallas complex in Dallas Village Shopping Center.

The official bank opening of the Dallas Village Office of The First National Bank was held Tuesday.

Dallas cagers cop title with two victories, 69-67 over Wyoming Seminary and 88-52 over Plains.

George B. Sordoni is proposed for election to the board of directors of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Bank & Trust Co.

Anderson afield

Environmental concerns complicate modern-day politicians' lives

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

Let's just assume you are a congressman from Iowa. Among your constituents you have a housewife, a fisherman, a hunter, a trapper, an ecologist and a farmer. Since farmers represent the most votes, you naturally ignore all birds except domestic fowl. You ignore the deer, squirrels, and rabbits, but not the cows and hogs. You can't identify buffalo grass, big bluestem, blazing star or burr oak, but you know about wheat and corn.

Alas! A politician's life is never simple. As a congressman, you could care less about bluebirds. As Interior Secretary Lujan said about squirrels, "There's red ones, brown ones, black ones; - I don't know how many; - so why worry about them?" And that's how you feel about birds. There's red ones, black ones, blue ones, and so what have they to do with the price of

corn? But then there's that fool housewife in Ames who belongs to some outfit called the Audubon Society and she's raising Cain because English starlings are taking over the cavities bluebirds need to nest in.

Here you are, making a few promises here and there, trying to raise money to get re-elected and she's hollering about bluebirds! Doesn't she know bluebirds don't vote? Well, you know it, even if she doesn't.

And if that isn't enough, here are these guys in Ducks Unlimited talking about restoring some of those ponds where the mallards and blue-winged teal used to nest. You shake your head as you reflect, "When my dad was the congressman from this district, he bragged about all the money the U.S.D.A. spent draining all the potholes and straightening all the streams so we could raise more

corn. So maybe we are running out of ducks as a result. These damn duck hunters don't realize that ducks don't vote. And those bass fishermen are just as bad. They claim the streams are so muddy and the lakes so full of carp the bass don't have a chance. But bass don't vote."

And you recall granddad telling of plowing with a team of horses. Fields were small, and the fencerows grew up to brush and wild sunflowers. Come spring, seemed like quail used to whistle from every fence post. And in fall the quail hunting was out of this world.

But granddad didn't have to worry about the election coming up in '92. You do. The big tractor and farm equipment dealers can be counted on for campaign funds. Too bad those hedgerows and woodlots get in the way of heavy equipment. But they did, and so they had to go. And the quail went

with them, along with some of our topsoil.

And you're counting on the ag chemical companies for support, but you keep having to dig deeper wells to reach groundwater. What's this about nitrates causing blue babies?

There was this guy, Dr. Paul Errington, a professor of wildlife ecology at Iowa State University. He put himself through school trapping muskrats and mink. Errington is dead now, but his students claim the marshes in which he did his research should not have been destroyed. What kind of nonsense is this?

And then you have these crazies who claim the good Lord did not look with favor on breaking sod on the prairie. You must admit the topsoil is getting thinner. Every year millions of tons of priceless Iowa soil go down the Mississippi, between the levees built by Army Engineers, out over the continen-

tal shelf, and into the deep blue sea. Whenever they can find remnants of virgin prairie, they buy them and people come from all over just to look at the grass and wildflowers. It makes no sense.

Yes, you may wonder what's going on. But you're probably still

the best congressman money can buy.

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

Letter

Fourth grader wants to know about Pennsylvania

Editor,
My name is Heather Lilly and I live in Renton, Washington. I am in the 4th grade at Maple Valley Christian School.
Every Spring our school has a "Creative Fair". My project this year is on the State of Pennsylvania. I would like the readers of your

newspaper to send me postcards of your beautiful state. Please write on the postcard your favorite thing about Pennsylvania.

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