

# THE DALLAS POST

## EDITORIALS

### Dallas teachers' union makes outrageous contract demands

Questions about the motivation behind the Dallas Education Association's (the teachers' union) support for higher taxes in the district will be answered this week with the announcement of the union's demands for a new contract.

Information given to The Post by sources with knowledge of the union's request say that the proposal calls for an average 9.7% wage increase each year for five years along with new benefits to be paid for entirely by the taxpayers. Those are clearly excessive demands in light of prevailing economic conditions and by comparison with the ability of most residents to pay the taxes that will be needed to support them.

Incidentally, if you want some idea of where these pie-in-the-sky demands come from and where the statewide teachers union wants them to go, read the column elsewhere on this page.

It's a shame that the greatest amount of debate over education centers on budgets and salaries. Surely parents, teachers and taxpayers agree that the quality of the result, not its cost, is the most important topic. Unfortunately, the teachers' union (not necessarily all teachers) has tried to brainwash the public into believing that high salaries are inextricably linked with improved student performance. Yet it reacts in horror to suggestions that salary levels be linked to teacher performance via merit-based pay plans.

It seems the Pennsylvania Education Association and its affiliates have decided that their only constituency is their members, not the young lives they are supposed to stimulate.

### Trash hauling flap is out of control

The battle between independent trash haulers and the Dallas Area Municipal Authority is a surprising outgrowth of the region's move to a mandated recycling and garbage collection system. While many people expected confusion over the new rules and regulations, few could have anticipated the threats and potential lawsuits now being talked about.

There is no question that handing the entire collection contract to one hauler is harmful to others serving the area, but it's doubtful that the action was illegal. All haulers were invited to bid on the DAMA contract but to do so they had to prove that they had enough size and financial muscle to perform. Some of the ones that did not bid are now in the forefront of the protest against the new system.

Perhaps the most puzzling aspect of this situation is some residents' vehement insistence that choosing a garbage man is one of their fundamental freedoms. Individual rights are the cornerstone of the American way of life, but there are many cases in which the good of the general populace overshadows private wishes. As the old saw says, "You're right to extend your fist ends at my nose."



Gay day lily

Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

## What the state teachers' union wants

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is a word-by-word copy of the Pennsylvania State Educators Association's bargaining goals for 1991, as they appeared in the PSEA's statewide magazine, "The Voice." They are reprinted here so that local readers can gain some perspective on the origin of contract demands in the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts.

The following are the official bargaining goals that PSEA local associations will seek to accomplish in the 1991 round of bargaining.

#### Compensation Philosophy

PSEA members should be paid similar salaries based on education and experience, regardless of the district in which they are employed.

PSEA members should be paid salaries comparable to those of other professionals of similar education, training and responsibility.

The career salary should be attained in no more than 10 years by every member holding an advanced degree.

PSEA local associations should establish plans that enable them to implement compensation scales with entrance salaries of at least \$37,500 and career salaries of at

least \$75,000.

Professional salaries at these levels will attract and retain skilled educators who can prepare students to be competitive in a global economy and labor market.

#### GOAL 1

Every local shall negotiate a salary package that

- provides minimum starting salaries for all professional employees of \$25,000.
- provides a complete salary schedule.
- reduces the number of steps

of any salary schedule with more than 10 steps,

- provides a minimum average salary increase of eight percent plus increment, and
- provides the professional employees' contracted hourly or daily rate for professional duties related to curriculum, planning, development, consultation, or implementation of any programs designed to improve the instructional process which are performed during non-contracted hours of days.

#### Benefits Philosophy

PSEA and PSEA-Retired members and their families should be protected from financial loss due to sickness, injury, and death.

To ensure the highest level of protection, members must have control of their benefit program.

The PSEA Health and Welfare Fund provides this protection.

#### GOAL 2

• Every PSEA member also shall have fully employer-paid family dental insurance, family vision insurance, family prescription insurance, life insurance, and income protection insurance. To achieve this goal, a local association shall add at least one additional benefit or improve an existing benefit.

• No PSEA local association shall accept insurance caps or reduction of benefits.

• Every PSEA local shall attempt to reduce the financial burden of health care insurance for retirees.

#### Educational Environmental Philosophy

PSEA members are committed to quality education. Therefore, every PSEA member should teach in an environment which is conducive to learning.

#### GOAL 3

Every PSEA local shall negotiate at least one of the following improvements for elementary and secondary teachers.

- contract language which establishes or improves class size,
- contract language which guar-

antees adequate preparation time during the student day for all teachers, and

• contract language which establishes voluntary and involuntary transfer procedures.

#### Organizational Necessity Philosophy

It is in the best interest of the Association and the administration to have an effective, efficient working relationship, which can be achieved by promoting a cohesive local association and by recognizing the local president's responsibilities.

#### GOAL 4

• Every PSEA local association president shall be given released time during the student day to perform the duties of his/her office.

• Every PSEA local shall negotiate a fair share clause.

#### Professional Improvement Philosophy

PSEA members should be given the opportunity to develop professionally.

#### GOAL 5

Every PSEA local shall negotiate contract language pertaining to

- sabbatical leaves
- induction, and
- continuing professional development.

### Library news

## Horse show was success, cookbook in the works

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The third annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Horse Show was held Sunday, June 23 at the Luzerne County Fair Grounds. In spite of the rain all day Saturday, the day before, which is the day most horsemen prepare their horses for travel; the show was a success.

Dr. John and Kathy Shaskas, co-chairs of the show, were pleased with the results, the attendance, and the entire performance. The Horse Show committee would like to thank the sponsors of the show and the Dallas Rotary Club members for taking charge of the refreshment stand at the show. Thanks also to the faithful friends

of the library who made brownies, cup cakes and sweet rolls to sell at the booth. The secretary's booth was managed by Connie and Paula Scott and they handled the paper work. Dr. Shaskas also wants to thank all friends of the library from Winterview Farms who donated their time and experience. The profit from the show should net close to \$4,700; down from the hoped-for goal; however, the weather did play a part in that. The library staff thanks Dr. John and Kathy for a very successful horse show and for all they do for the library through the year.

The first Back Mountain Memorial Library Cookbook is being put together by a loyal and very willing group of volunteers. This is a major

project which requires many hours of devoted time and talent. The cookbook is dedicated to all our "Readers", young and old, large and small, and especially to Mrs. Florence T. Crump for her dedication to children and libraries. At the age of 96, Mrs. Crump still makes the library her most important concern and the children's involvement in libraries her number one objective.

There is a congratulatory letter from our own Senator Charles Lemmond in the front of the book, wherein he states, the publication truly reflects the spirit of our library. There is a brief history of the library and its beginning with the charter accepted on February 1, 1945. The first library auction was

held in 1946 and showed a net profit of \$3,000. The net profit from the 1990 auction was \$50,000.

Our library is entirely supported without taxation and could not exist without total community participation. The "Friends of the Library" organization consists of anyone who makes a contribution to the library, monetary or through volunteer time and energy. This is the group who are producing this cookbook and it should be a fantastic item when it is finished. The book will have 400 pages with unusual recipes and celebrity recipes from Barbara Bush, Ellen Casey and Wolfgang Puck. Orders may be placed at the library, where a sample will be available.

### Only yesterday

#### 60 Years Ago - July 17, 1931 NEW ROAD PLANNED TO HARVEYS LAKE

Two hundred thousand trees are to be planted in Luzerne County this year being furnished by the state to persons who applied for the trees.

Luzerne County Commissioners to study plan for new road from Luzerne to Harveys Lake.

Handicapped by lack of water fire companies from Dallas and Harveys Lake were forced to devote their efforts to saving adjoining residences from the flames that destroyed the Ralph Husted home along the highway at Idetown.

Engaged - Ruth Elizabeth Schoonover and Sereno F. Alling. "Kick In", starring Clara Bow is playing at Himmler Theatre.

#### 50 Years Ago - July 18, 1941 DEER SEASON CLOSED TO SAVE HERDS

Dallas Water Company agreed to install fire hydrants in Central Dallas.

Tuesday night may be the finale of the all-out defense collection of aluminum.

Dallas Borough Council hopes the \$30,000 WPA project for the borough lasts until all roads are completed.

Engaged - Eleanor Frances Prushka and Frank E. Novis; Jean Nelson and Jack Roberts.

Wed - Janet Louise Thomas and William S. Lee, Jr.; Elizabeth Ohlman and Willard Neuls.

Closed season on antlerless deer is declared as the great herd diminishes.

#### 40 Years Ago - July 13, 1951 TOMATO CROP LOOKING GOOD

Perfect weather prevails for the Fifth Annual Auction.

Prospects for the green tomato crop in the Back Mountain are excellent this year, according to James Hutchinson, Luzerne County Extension agent.

Construction at Lehman School booms as cinder blocks work begins.

Prince of Peace Church men plan weiner roast for Friday.

Wed - Clair Searfoss and Pvt. Robert Adams; Jane Harrison and James LaBar.

Archbald Brooks heads American Red Cross.

Trucksville Firemen's Fair starts Wednesday.

Patterson Grove Camp meeting to feature a famous clergyman.

#### 30 Years Ago - July 13, 1961 NEW HIGH SCHOOL ALMOST FINISHED

There was standing room only at this year's Back Mountain Library Auction.

The new Dallas Senior High School is to be finished by mid-August.

Ground will be broken in Dallas on Sunday at 4 p.m. for the new Novitiate Junibrato buildings to house approximately 200 young Sisters of Mercy.

Dallas Dairy, only undefeated sand lot team in Wyoming Valley

will try to remain that way when they meet Tunkhannock Friday night and Pringle Sunday.

Wed - Beverly Anne Crispell and S. Ray Wandell.

Berti and Sons bowling team took first and second half honors in the George Shupp League.

College Misericordia will present a workshop in modern methods in arithmetic July 19, 20, and 21 in Walsh Memorial Auditorium.

#### 20 Years Ago - July 8, 1971 SANDY KABESCHAT IS HORSE SHOW QUEEN

Dallas Township offers police help to its neighboring communities.

Opening ceremonies of the two day Lehman Horse Show were heralded by a parade along Route

118 featuring Lake-Lehman's top-notch band under the direction of John Millauskas.

A bunco artist hit a Dallas homeowner taking her for \$370 for alleging to have repaired her roof.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church sponsors group in an outdoor theatre production 'Cinderella' in the lot alongside the church.

Franklin Township firemen to hold annual bazaar.

Sandy Kabeschat was crowned 1971 Lehman Horse Show Queen Friday evening.

Wed - Marilyn Hooper and John Carey; Dorothy Janus Lewin and Marvin Glade Weiser; Tacqua Jones and Elwood C. Ide Jr.; Doreen Ann Johns and Ernest Gay II.

Westmoreland Teeners defeat Lehman-Jackson 14-12 in the Teeners League.

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