

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Looking for a hero? Don't look too far

We've heard a lot of comments lately that there's a shortage of heroes for young people to look up to. Maybe we haven't been looking in the right place.

Seventeen-year-old Keith Rinehimer of Shavertown is the latest in a long list of local heroes whose actions save lives and property every day. By recognizing that Wallace Stetler had a broken neck as the result of an auto accident, Keith is credited with saving Stetler's life. That is quite an accomplishment for this young man, but he is not alone in having performed so admirably.

Every day, when the fire whistle blows or the ambulance siren's wail is heard, our neighbors spring into action, putting their skills to work in service to the community. There are no paid fire or ambulance crews in the Back Mountain; the men and women on whom we depend are volunteers who donate their own valuable time. These are real heroes; far more important to us than an overpaid baseball player or a fictional movie character.

Maybe it's easier to look up to someone who is far away, and whose faults aren't known to us. Maybe because we know our local heroes so well, we forget how special their service is. But only until we need them; then we are reminded that real heroes don't hit home runs or score touchdowns, they fight fires, extract accident victims from demolished cars and help elderly fall victims.

They aren't paid millions to do it, and they don't often get their names in headlines. But they are the real heroes to people in need.

You can help us spot misleading ads

The Dallas Post has begun to publish a notice on the classified pages that alerts readers to be careful when responding to advertisements. We think it's important that people understand that while most companies offer legitimate products or services, there are some that try to take advantage of glibble or desperate readers.

Some things to watch out for include excessive charges for 900 number calls (We make advertisers put their charges in the ad); businesses that require payment for information or a product but never fulfill the order; and fee for services ads, such as ones that require prepayment in order to get a charge card or loan. There are many more, and the best policy is buyer beware.

It is not our intention to restrain businesses from advertising their products or services. At the same time, we feel some responsibility to screen for obvious scams. We would like our readers help; let us know if you feel an advertiser has acted illegally or unethically.

A good rule of thumb in deciding whether or not to respond is this: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

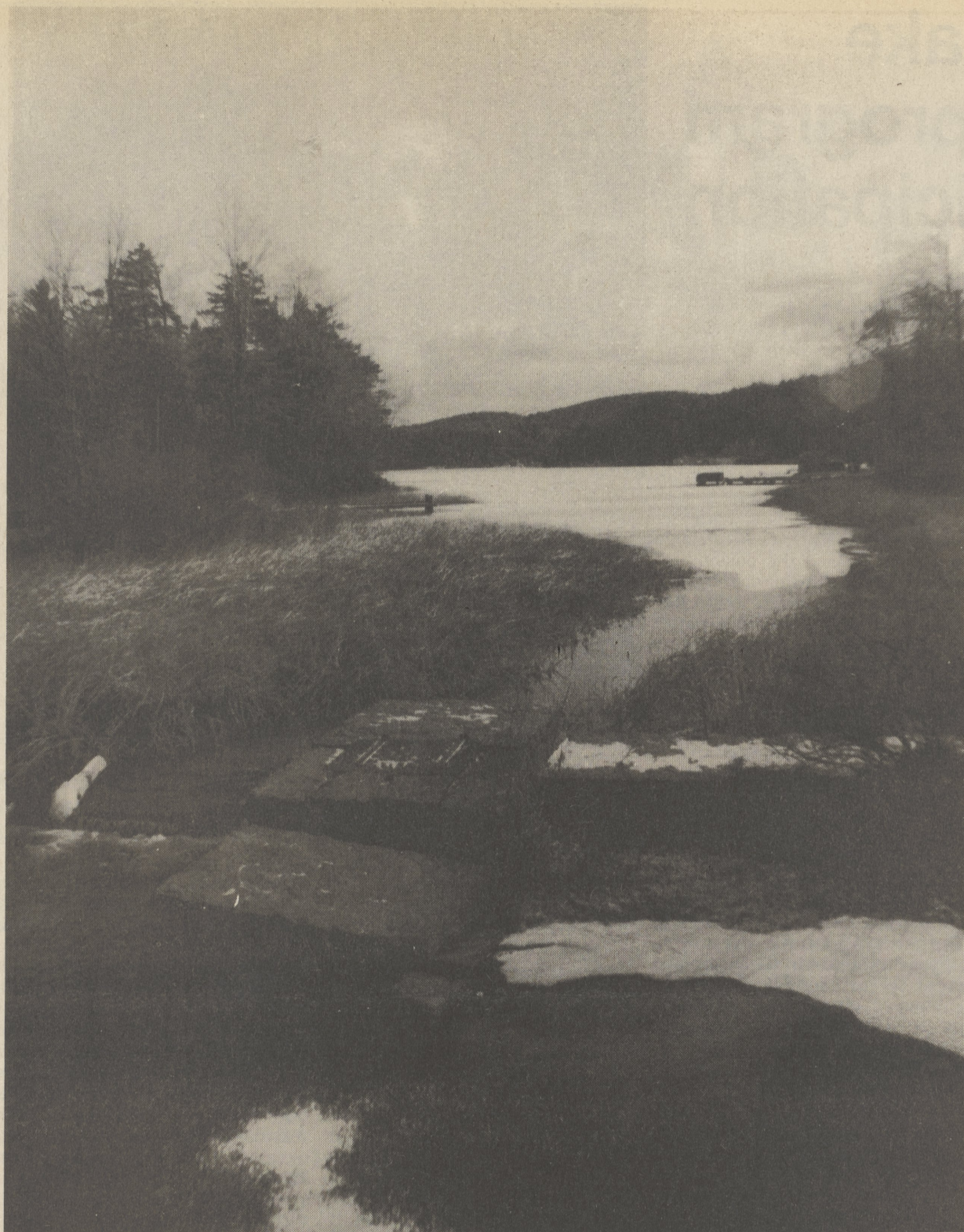
Teachers' union demeans its members

Does the leadership of the Pennsylvania Education Association (the teachers' union) and its Dallas affiliate really think its members can't think and speak for themselves? That's the impression one would gather from the list of "tips" to answer questions from friends and neighbors that was sent to Dallas teachers last week.

Mostly the advice is vacuous pop psychology mixed with recommendations on how best to deflect hard questions. Teachers are advised to couch their answers in general terms, such as in this entry. "Talk about what 'people want' and what 'people can accomplish' not what teachers want. Say 'everyone knows' rather than 'teachers believe.'" And if all else fails, the memo goes on, tell your questioner that he should be paid a lot more, too!

There you have it. The union doesn't want anyone talking about what they really believe, just responding to hard questions with homilies and pap. They must believe that their own members are just so many patsies for the leadership to use to accomplish their goals without regard for the reality of the situation.

Hopefully the union leadership's request that members fall into lockstep with their irrational demands will land on deaf ears. If teachers are just mindless members of a group bent only on enriching itself we're in bigger trouble than we realize.



Frozen outlet, Harveys Lake

Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

J.W.J.

Voting blocs cutting our own throats

By J.W. JOHNSON

Notwithstanding this nation's voracious appetite for a steady supply of sexual misconduct stories about its leaders, there are other issues facing the nation as we approach this year's presidential election.

President Bush faces a crisis of confidence in his ability to formulate, and then cause to have directed, a coherent economic policy. In fact, were ours a parliamentary form of government such as that seen in England, there's little doubt that President Bush would already be out of power.

Meanwhile, the Democrats have fielded a motley crew of Democrats trying to sound like Republicans.

And among those (primarily) Democrats are those who will seek the disintegration of the voting franchise into various voting blocs which will then support those particular candidates. Much will, in fact, be said about increased voter registration as being good and a boost for democratic government.

Not necessarily so. Increases in voter registration (and then presumably voting) are often little more than mass efforts by special interest groups, and not automatically a boon to democracy. This is particularly true if those registered are largely illiterate, unformed or interested only in their own potential federal benefits.

In the beginning of our republican democracy, only the so-called

'qualified' could vote. That generally meant only the wealthy, the landowner, or the literate, and usually meant only all three.

Much has changed since then with homogenization of votes to include women and minorities, and the elimination of a poll tax which had been used to maintain the status quo.

But continued and ever more frenzied efforts at mass registration hold the same potential for harm to this republican democracy as did the lack of voting rights being extended in the first place.

The right to vote has, in fact, been extended to include virtually everyone...whether they can read or write, whether they understand English or American history, or the functioning of government, or any of the issues facing our nation today. That is pure democracy in an impure world.

Some voter registration drives assume ludicrous proportions. Black leaders, for example, know that Democrat candidates usually get about 90 percent of the black vote. So when mass voter registration is launched, it's not primarily an effort to get more people involved in participatory government and voting for the best person for the job; rather it's primarily a bid for power. And once that power is gained, it primarily means more money in the form of more social programs and other federal aid.

What's equally disturbing can be seen in what happened in Philadelphia during the 1980's. In that city, a black mayor was elected...a good man...with 98 per cent of the

black vote. Had a white man received 98 per cent of the white vote, running against a black man, the cries of 'racist voting' would have been heard immediately. But little was said then or since about the obviously racist voting in Philadelphia.

Registration of citizens who think for themselves, who vote from informed conviction, enhances the democratic process. Mass efforts in bids for political power are not automatically a sign of enlightenment.

Extending the vote to citizens, the very essence of a republican democracy—compared to what we have today, is not what our founders had in mind.

They had in mind a government elected by citizens who voted their conscience and conviction, who were reasonably informed on the issues, and who voted individually.

They didn't have in mind voting blocs of people who do not vote individually. And leaders who weld huge national blocs together are in reality making a bid to take power from the majority.

If the members of those blocs vote en masse and only one way, such a pattern will eventually polarize majority voters, in opposition.

The majority cannot be expected to continue forever voting independently (and often for minority candidates) if its candidates are to be automatically denied support by minority voters acting as a racial bloc.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Feb. 26, 1932
JOHN CHAPPEL RESCUES SKATER

John Chappel rescued a young boy who was skating on ice and broke through into five feet of water, from drowning at Johnson's Pond, Trucksville. Chappel who was also skating succeeded in bringing the boy to solid ice.

Lake Township High School has the distinction of being one of the few schools from Luzerne County selected to present a one act play at a tournament to be held this week at Bloomsburg State Teachers College.

"Delicious" starring Janet Gaynor now playing at the Himmler Theatre.

50 Years Ago - Feb. 27, 1942
FRIEND OF CHAING KAI-SHEK WILL SPEAK TO DALLAS ROTARY

Dallas Rotary Club have invited L.E. McLachlin for 28 years Y.M.C.A. secretary in Foochow, China and an intimate friend of Chaing Kai-shek and other Chinese leaders to speak at a Community Forum in Dallas Township High School, March 12.

Final games of the Back Mt. League Basketball season are scheduled for tonight. Dallas Borough holds the lead and there seems no doubt it will claim the championship. Harter is in strong second place position.

Stanley Zelazinski, Lehigh High School senior who left school in the 8th grade to go to work but some years later decided he should complete his education is among the selectees called for service by Draft Board #5. Although still in school his age places him within draft limits and he will be called for service next week.

Engaged - Ruth Howell to Robert Newton Davenport; Carolyn Irene Brace to Loren Fritz.

40 Years Ago - Feb. 29, 1952
LOUIS KELLY OF IDETOWN WILL BE NAVY FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR

Louis Kelly, Idetown has been recalled to flight service and will report at the Naval Air Station in New Orleans tomorrow. A Navy pilot during WW II, he will be a flight instructor with a rating of Lieutenant S.G.

A roaring crowd of 350 Lions, and their wives, came to a testimonial dinner at Irem Temple Country Club to honor B.C. Banks founder of Harveys Lake Lions Club.

Engaged - Margaret Jane Williams to Ricahrd W. Lutes; Margaret Christine Saggi, New Brunswick, NJ to Paul Sedler; Anita Rinus to R. Willard Reese.

30 Years Ago - Mar. 1, 1962
GEORGE RUCKNO HEART FUND CHAIRMAN

George L. Ruckno, Shrine Acres, has been appointed 1962 Heart Fund Drive, Special Gift Chairman for the Back Mountain Area.

Feb. 9 is Maryalice Knecht's lucky day. Last year on Feb. 9, she received word that she was to go to Sweden as a Rotary Club foreign exchange student. This year Feb. 9, she received word that she is a finalist in the Merit Scholarship Award Contest, ranking among the one half of one percent top senior high school students in the United States.

Nancy Tinklepaugh and Elaine Kozemchak, two Back Mountain girls were among 10 contestants selected to represent Glamour Magazine's Best Dressed Coeds on the Wilkes College campus on Sunday evening.

Atty. Robert Fleming, Dallas Borough Solicitor tossed his hat in the ring for Republican nomination for Representative in the General Assembly from the 6th Legislative District.

20 Years Ago - Mar. 2, 1972
DALLAS GETS NEW AMBULANCE

A new ambulance with the latest and most up-to-date equipment has been delivered to Dallas Community Ambulance unit Sunday and put on display by unit officials. The Cadillac Superior, blue in color, is a larger vehicle than the previously owned 1968 model.

Fred Lamoreaux, Dallas Township roadmaster, retired Feb. 29 after serving with the road department for 23 years. He will continue to serve Dallas Township but in another capacity, as a member of the Board of Supervisors.

Two members of Lake-Lehman High School Robert Scott and Edmund Piper will participate in the Regional Two State Band Concert to be held at East Stroudsburg High School, March 2, 3 and 4. Band director John Miliauskas will accompany the boys to East Stroudsburg.

Library news

Dance will benefit the library March 29

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

I visited one of my favorite places in this world last weekend; the New York Public Library on 5th Avenue in New York City. The main attraction was the King Arthur display on the first floor of the library. This was a very exciting and educational tour through three rooms filled with books, maps, historical data, playbills and other information about this era. There were manuscripts dated 1569 and books copyrighted 1634 in the display. The books were set up on stands with certain pages highlighted and information referring to the particular section outlined. At 4 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon, there were at least 100 people browsing this section.

The New York Public Library with 82 branches offer nearly 10,000,000 books and audiovisual materials, 5,700,000 of them circulating items. Over 2,500

people staff the Library system. The Library is a private corporation dedicated to the service of the public. It is accessible. It is free. It is a treasure whose resources are shared by millions. It is truly a remarkable place to visit and browse.

At the recent annual meeting of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Board of Directors; several new members of the Board were introduced. They include Lois Townsend, Ruth Tetchner, William Jones, David Payne, Jr. and Dr. Anthony Anzalone. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the reference room at the library.

The Stretch Out exercise studio of Shavertown is sponsoring a Dance-A-Thon to benefit the library on Sunday, March 29 at Gate of Heaven gymnasium in Dallas from 2 to 5 p.m. More information can be obtained at the Stretch Out or the library.

New books at the library: "A

Hooded Crow" by Craig Thomas is a virtuoso thriller, set in today's post-Gulf world of high technology, economic brinkmanship, and political upheaval. In London, agents are investigating the Reid Group's exports of high-tech products, which may be illegally going to the Soviets. An ex-spy stumbles upon a crashed plane full of British high-tech—and a corpse bearing a KGB ID card. An espionage masterwork.

"The Bullrush Murders" by Rebecca Rothenberg is a botanical mystery that vividly evokes the land and the conflicting cultures within it. Claire Sharples is a sleuth beginning to feel like a caged laboratory rat, working in MIT's ivory tower research facilities. She accepts a research job in California's San Joaquin Valley to discover that the bleak region is most notable for its absences of rain, decent conversation and good Thai restaurants. She also can't figure out why she is attracted to Sam, an ill-mannered field scientist.

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