

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Safe driving near school buses is too important to forget

Dr. Richard Coslett is concerned about the safety of school children because motorists don't always stop for buses that are picking up or unloading students; and he is not alone. Administrators in both the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts report that drivers sometimes don't follow the rules requiring that they stop for buses, raising the possibility of a tragic — and needless — accident.

The rules are simple. According to the Pennsylvania Driver's Manual, "When a school bus stops and its red lights are flashing and its stop arm extended, you must stop at least 10 feet away from the bus, whether you are behind the bus or coming toward it on the same roadway. Remain stopped until the red lights stop flashing, the stop arm has been withdrawn, the children have reached a safe place, and the bus begins to move."

The fact is, every motorist knows the rules, but some of us forget the reason for them, or get distracted by other concerns and don't notice the bus or the students. After all, how often has a child been run down in the Back Mountain? And besides, aren't they supposed to look both ways before crossing the street?

No, there haven't been many accidents involving children around buses, and yes, they should look both ways. But they're kids and drivers are adults (or almost so), and as such are charged with watching out for youngsters. If you don't, who will?

There are penalties for failure to stop for a bus and worse ones if a driver strikes a child. But the greatest penalty for one moment of carelessness won't be meted out in court; it will come from the pain of knowing that you are responsible for the resulting injury or death. That is far too high a price for either party to pay.

Be careful when approaching a school bus that is stopping to pick up or discharge students. Obey the letter of the law, but more important its spirit, by doing your part to avoid an easily preventable tragedy.

Recycling program is credit to the region

Less than a year after it began, the recycling program established by the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) has become one of the most comprehensive in the region, perhaps the state. Last week, DAMA announced that it would accept old automobile batteries; a few weeks earlier used motor oil was added to the list of materials that could be turned in. And DAMA's basic curbside pickup program includes a wide range of paper, glass, metal and plastics.

Recycling was late in coming to this region, but is now in full swing. That creates something of a problem as supplies of recycled material far outstrip demand. But it is still far better to have the stuff stored or disposed of properly than to have it mixed randomly with other trash in inadequate landfills. That is especially true for batteries which contain lead and acid, making them dangerous to burn or bury.

Now we need to assure the growth of industry that will manufacture merchandise using recycled material. Surely it will be for the good of the Earth's health and our children's future to do so.

Layoff pay for school workers is bad idea

Has there ever been a more lame-brained idea than paying unemployment compensation to school service employees because they are "laid off" during the summer? If adopted, legislation to do so would unnecessarily add expense to school budgets that are already severely strained.

It is no secret that working in a school cafeteria, for example, is not a year-round job, and surely anyone who applies knows it. The truth is, many people who take on such work are attracted to having their summers off. Some have school-age children and want to be home with them; others like to take long vacations. In any event, there is no shortage of applicants precisely because the jobs are attractive just as they are.

Local school districts don't need another stone around their necks right now. This proposal should be quietly retired before it gets any further.

Do you agree? Disagree?

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post. We welcome your opinion on contemporary issues in the form of letters to the editor. If you don't write, the community may never hear your point of view. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Please include your name, address and a daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity. The Post does not publish anonymous letters, but will consider withholding names when appropriate. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar, but will call the author if we think editing may change meaning.

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Winter melts into spring

Photo by Charlotte Bartzek

Letters

Potential dog attack too serious to ignore

Editor:
I believe that your story of April 15 concerning the Doberman Pinscher misses the crux of the problem. The concern of the neighborhood is not only with the specific violations committed by this dog and its owner, but rather with the situation in general.

Perhaps readers are unaware that, per the Kingston Township solicitor, a dog is allowed to run free on its property. No fence or leash is required to prevent the animal from running onto a neighboring property and attacking. Granted that a dog may be "well-trained"; ninety percent of dog owners would probably say this about their dog. The question is, however, whether the owners (and the Township) are willing to guarantee that this "well-trained" dog will never go berserk and attack. The newspapers and veterinarians' offices can relate a multitude

of stories of "well-trained" dogs which have gone berserk for no apparent reason and attacked their owners and/or innocent bystanders. In one recent local case a German Sheppard attacked its owner, requiring over 100 stitches in the owner's face.

In our specific neighborhood, there are at least 15 children of ages 1 through 6 living within a one-block radius of this Doberman. Should we as parents accept that this dog, of a species bred for viciousness, be allowed to roam unleashed with only the voice of its owner to restrain it? What if the owner is distracted for a few minutes, or if the unleashed dog runs to the other side of the house, out of sight of the owner? Can this dog still be considered to be "under control?" Granted that the dog obeys the owner and its training 99% of the time; for the sake of argument let's even say that the

dog obeys 99.9% of the time - what most people would consider a sure thing. What happens in the other 0.1% of the cases, which calculates out to at least one time every three years? Are we as a society willing to gamble with the lives of our children every three years in order to let this dog have its first bite? A bite that we know would maim, if not kill, a defenseless preschooler?

And what happens after this easily foreseen tragedy occurs? The Township says, "Sorry, but the dog is allowed its first bite. It's too bad that the bite killed the child." The owner says, "Sorry, but the dog was well-trained. It never attacked anyone before. I don't know why it went crazy." And the parent, kneeling at the gravesite, says, "Sorry little one, but I could not protect you, even in your own backyard." Where is the common sense here?

Jeffrey J. Pyros
Shavertown

Library news

Book lending is up over last year

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has been very busy with circulating books for the first quarter of 1992. An increase in circulation for the first three months over last year for the same period shows 3,653 total increase. Book circulation in March was 8,549; Book Club circulated 212 and 116 new books were added to the collection. Books withdrawn totaled 105, there were 35 interlibrary loans procured and new borrowers joining the library were 84 adults and 65 juveniles. Reference questions answered were 413 and 218 patrons were re-registered for 1992. Our total number of registered active patrons stands at 13,230.

The children's story hours will continue through the end of April. Toddler story hour had a special puppet show presented by "Nancy and Friends". Our Friends campaign for 1992 has reached a total of \$7,270 on our way to a budgeted total of \$10,000. Book Club membership to date is 200 members with \$1,815 collected in dues for the purchase of books for the Book Club shelf.

The April Book Club meeting was held in the reference room with a program presented by Back

Mountain Books of Dallas. Mrs. Youells gave book reviews on many new adult and childrens books which are available in her shop. The next book club meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18 at the library. Guests and new members are always welcome.

The library will sponsor the storytelling team, "The Wild Wash-erwomen", a program for children of all ages on Thursday, April 23 at 7 p.m. at the Dallas Elementary School. The team consists of Mary DeMarsh and Cynthia DeFelice. Books will be available for sale and signed by the author after the stories. Admission is free and sponsored by the Friends of The Back Mountain Memorial Library.

The fourth annual "Luncheon with a Special Author" will be held Thursday, April 30 at noon at The Barn at Newberry, Newberry Es-

tate, Dallas. The public is invited and reservations may be made at the library. Guest speaker will be F. Charles Petrillo, whose topic will be "Harveys Lake - a 200 year History".

A new book at the library donated by Dallas Federated Womans Club is "The End of the Pier" by Martha Grimes. This is a stunning new novel that abounds in all the dazzling inventiveness of plot and character. It is sophisticated, moving, utterly satisfying and exciting.

"Miami" by Pat Booth is the story of a roller-coaster love affair between super-model Christa Kenwood and famous author Peter Stein. The romance rages from the sands of Palm Beach through Miami to exotic Key West. The climax of the novel brings surprise and shock.

UGI to read electric meters monthly

Effective April 2, 1992 the Electric Utility Division of UGI Corporation will begin monthly meter reading. The change to monthly readings is expected to reduce the number of customer inquiries and improve the overall level of customer satisfaction according to J. Rymar, Manager of Customer Re-

lations at UGI's Electric Utility Division.

It is expected that the vast majority of monthly bills will be based on actual meter readings and not an estimated reading. This will ensure the changes in actual usage from month to month will be reflected in the bill.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Apr. 22, 1932
KINGSTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOARD GIVES TEACHERS NO PAY INCREASE

Kingston Township School Board at its meeting reelected 14 of 16 grade teachers and filled one of the two vacancies created. No increase in salaries were granted.

The Tom Thumb Wedding under the auspices of the Young Women's Missionary Society was presented last Friday with notable success. A large crowd attended and the performance was received with enthusiasm.

Now playing at the Himmler Theatre, "The Big Parade" starring Karl Dane.

50 Years Ago - Apr. 24, 1942
SHAVERTOWN FIRE CO. SEEKS TO RAISE \$1,000

Mrs. Jane Lohmann an employee of Trucksville Post Office since 1925 has been appointed acting postmaster of that station to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Nicholas Staub and will be effective until she is named permanent postmaster or the position is filled by another qualified applicant from Civil Service rolls.

Seeking to increase and modernize their fire-fighting department, members of Shavertown Fire Co. launched a campaign to raise \$1,000 from the citizens of the community. Residents are asked to take out regular memberships in the company, priced at \$1.00 and to make any additional donation they can afford.

Annual war bonds purchases of more than \$100,00 in the Back Mountain area were indicated this week as returns from "Pledge for Victory" campaign came in to Charles A. Stookey of Dallas, Chief Air Raid Zone #9.

Wed - Ruth Boyer Howell to R. Newton Davenport; Aileen Connor to Lauren Dymond.

40 Years Ago - Apr. 25, 1952
MILLS BROS. CIRCUS WILL COME TO THE BACK MOUNTAIN

Capt. Lauris D. Graves, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Graves, Church Street, Dallas is on his way home from front line action in Korea after having received the Bronze Star and Oak Leaf Cluster for heroism in action. Capt. Graves surgeon of 2nd Bat., 7th Reg., 3rd Div. moved wounded men to safety and made first aid dressings in the face of lethal artillery and mortar barrage near Yaksan-Dong.

Mills Brothers, 3-Ring Circus has given assurance to the Back Mountain Town & Country Branch YMCA that it will set a place on its 1952 schedule for the Back Mountain Area.

William Hoffman and D. Warmouth, 2 Wilkes College students from Dallas are appearing in the Cue 'n' Curtain production of "Ah Wilderness" at the college gymnasium on South Franklin Street.

30 Years Ago - Apr. 26, 1962
FIRE DESTROYS KLIAMOVICH BARN

Fred Hennebaul, Lehman wrestler who was injured four months ago is much more comfortable at Geisinger Medical Center according to his mother Mrs. Walter Hennebaul who says he is improving constantly and will be moved from Danville to General Hospital where friends can visit him more easily.

Fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the barn during high winds of Lefty Kliamovich farm on the Alderson-Beaumont Road at Beaumont.

Back Mountain Protective Association Community Service Award is to be presented to Howard W. Risley, Editor and Publisher of The Dallas Post at a dinner to be held May 28 at Irem Temple Country Club.

20 Years Ago - Apr. 27, 1972
MUSKIE TAKES BACK MOUNTAIN VOTES

Muskie takes the Back Mountain where light voting marked Primary Elections. Major reason for the light vote was a lack of interest in candidates and offices, according to poll watchers.

The Lake-Lehman High School Band directed by John Milliauskas will participate in the 1972 Annual Maryland State Grand Festival Parade of Champions in Hyattsville, Maryland. Arrangements are made with Martz Coach Co. to provide service for anyone wishing to attend.

John Zaleskas, assistant principal of Lake-Lehman High School and graduate of Coughlin High School will be guest speaker at the Coughlin Football Banquet to be held at the Kozy-K Lounge.