

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

American Education Week - Nov. 16-20

Parents, employers can help make our schools better

During American Education Week, November 16-20, many schools will invite parents into their children's classrooms. That's admirable, and we hope many parents and other interested people will accept the offer. But let's see that it doesn't stop there, for the schools or parents.

In all the debates about the quality of schooling in our nation, one theme is consistent: when parents are involved with their children's education, the children learn better and faster. That's why a dialogue between parents, educators and children must not be a sometime thing, it must be consistent and meaningful.

That principle can be extended much further. Many employers have complained for years that our schools don't provide a sound base of the skills and knowledge necessary in the real world of work. With a few exceptions, schools have been slow to bring potential employers in and adjust curricula to meet their needs. That isn't to say that education professionals should abdicate responsibility for what and how to teach, but more openness to the world outside the classroom would be a welcome addition to other teaching methods.

It's a safe bet that bankers, retailers, doctors and shop foremen in the Back Mountain would jump at the chance to work with the schools if asked. Let's hope that every week becomes like American Education Week in its attempt to bring the general community into closer contact with the students in our schools.

Strike quickly for campaign reform

The greatest favor Bill Clinton can do for this nation has nothing to do with budget deficits or foreign policy. Instead, it is to lead a real reform of our campaign process. Elections must be shorter, less costly and more open to the voters. If those changes are made, term limits — the current vogue — will not be necessary.

The way Presidential campaigns and many lesser ones are now conducted has turned them into endurance contests in which strategy and presentation can matter more than ideas. The waste of personal and financial resources is enormous. Even worse, the requirement that massive sums of money be raised distracts candidates from the issues and forces them to become beholden to big donors, if only for access.

The whole mess could be fixed quickly if campaigns were held to three months in length, spending was limited and substantial and equal access to media provided for both incumbents and challengers. In England, for instance, the whole campaign lasts three weeks with modest spending allowances given to candidates. If they overspend, they lose the election.

We should aim for something with the same qualities: a system that allows more people to run for office and to spend their time talking to potential voters about issues instead of hustling for dollars.

Veterans sacrifices remembered today

November 11 is Veteran's Day, a day on which we honor the patriotism and sacrifice of all American veterans of armed conflict. Originally called Armistice Day, the holiday noted the end of World War I, which was called at the time the war to end all wars.

But World War I wasn't the end of war; it soon was eclipsed in ferocity and casualty count by the next world war. Even that massively deadly event did not convince mankind that there was a better way to resolve conflict, so war continues to this day the chosen strategy of despots and dictators, or people who just don't want to share the earth with others.

Through it all, the brave men and women of the United States and many other nations have come forward to risk their lives to protect the freedom and security of their fellow citizens. It is for all of them — the remembered and forgotten, living and dead — that Veteran's Day exists.



Serene pond

Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

Letters

Vocational education deserves respect

Editor:

I agree wholeheartedly with your editorial of October 21 concerning the values of vocational education. As a Teacher and Administrative Assistant at West Side Area Vocational-Technical School, to which Dallas is a contributing

member, I can attest to the excellency of our 14 vocational-technical shop areas. Many of our students go on to levels of higher education, while many go directly into the work force as fully trained, competent, and well paid workers.

I also concur with Mrs. Nagy that we must work with various

elements of the community to improve the image of vocational education. We invite students, parents, and community leaders to visit our school through school tours or our Open House Nights. We're proud of what we have to show you!

Diane Wasilewski

A. Case for Conservation

Why can't we run utility wires underground?

By ALENE N. CASE

Canada has been in the news more than usual during the past month. Often Americans are only aware of our neighbor to the north when we are chilled by "cold air from Canada." It is refreshing to find that Canada is also a land of living, breathing people who delight in winning baseball games and who disagree on political issues as much as other folks. If we look a little more closely, we might also find that we can learn some useful strategies for improving our environment from Canadians.

If you have ever traveled North, you have noticed that litter completely disappears once you pass the border. But, there is a subtler change that contributes to the sense of neatness and cleanliness: the roads and streets are not lined with utility poles. Canada puts all electrical service lines underground. The only poles visible are the ones carrying high tension wires and occasional transition poles near houses.

Now, let's consider the advantages of having wires underground. Since Canada is so famous for its weather, we'll begin with that. Wouldn't it be nice not to worry about ice and snow interrupting electrical and phone service? Photographs of the devastation left by Hurricane Andrew and Iniki showed miles of downed power lines. Such damage is not only wasteful but also dangerous - causing fires and electrocutions. If you think about it, trees that are in storms are most dangerous if they fall on electric wires. So, why not avoid the problem altogether?

Both of the local electric utility companies have been severely criticized during the past two years for their tree trimming practices. The butchering of street trees is only one consequence of stringing wires on poles. People tend to plant shorter trees and bushes in their yards so that they will not interfere with wires. Some power companies spray herbicides to kill vegetation along the power lines whether or not these lines are near a stream or other waterway.

And, how many people do you hear about who have been killed or injured by running into poles? Cars

also run into trees, but poles tend to be much closer to the roadway than trees. Also, the tree is not carrying electricity and therefore only presents a physical danger to the occupants of the errant vehicle. When a pole is clipped off in an accident, electrical service is often interrupted for several hours. Also, rescue workers are in danger of contacting "hot" wires.

I have heard only two arguments on the side of continuing to string wires on poles. The first is that it is too rocky in northeast PA to dig a trench for the conduits. I will only comment that our garden fell by 8 inches in Nova Scotia when we removed all the rocks! If the Canadians can do it, so can we. The second argument is that it is too expensive. Certainly the initial cost is going to be higher than putting up poles. But, if one includes maintenance, repair and replacement costs for the next 50 years, I doubt that there would be much difference. It would be even more economical if such work were done when roads are being built or reconstructed - the time that the gas lines and the sewer and water mains are being installed.

In closing, I would like to share with you the words of a true

Canadian - my own son, Berit. In his seventeenth winter, he penned the following poem after taking our dog for a walk in a snowstorm. His words may help us see the alienation felt by a young man whose first five years were spent in a more natural environment.

Sparkling snowflakes descend upon
The concrete masses
So beautiful, yet so horrid.

If this is beauty
What was the tree
Replaced by a pole
Smothered in creosote,
Stuck in a hole?

What was the forest,
Which has withstood time,
Hardened by trials
Of fire and ice.

Chaos of concrete comforts the common
Cave-dweller of the twentieth century
Calming him into an insubstantial
Complacency in a world where
Concrete abstractions are commonplace.
(Berit Case, 1/25/92)

About the opinion pages

The Dallas Post attempts to publish opinions on a variety of topics in many forms. Editorials, which are the opinion of the management of The Post, appear on the editorial page. Cartoons are the opinion of the cartoonist and columns are the opinion of the author. Neither necessarily reflects the viewpoint of The Post.

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published subject to the following guidelines. Letters must not exceed 500 words. Except in unusual circumstances, no writer may have more than one letter published during a 30 day period. Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear threat to the writer. The Post retains the right to accept or reject any letter and to edit letters as necessary without distorting their meaning.

In addition to letters to the editor, we welcome longer pieces that may be run as columns. The author or the subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be our prime consideration when selecting material for publication.

To submit an item for publication, send it to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612, or bring it to our office.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Nov. 11, 1932 ROOSEVELT SWEEPS NATIONAL ELECTION

In a political upheaval, Democratic Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York achieved an all time high for a national election with a plurality of 413 electoral votes from 42 states.

Holding its Republican strength despite the Democratic tide which swept other sections of the county, the Back Mountain region rallied loyally to support President Hoover and the Republican ticket on Tuesday.

Dallas High School football team plays West Wyoming High School in a return match in the local observance of Armistice Day. Two weeks ago, Dallas defeated West Wyoming 33-13.

"Roar of the Dragon" starring Richard Dix playing at the Himmeler Theatre. Admission is 10¢ and 25¢.

50 Years Ago - Nov. 13, 1942

CAR OWNERS MUST REGISTER THEIR TIRES

Dallas Post has obtained a limited supply of attractive service flags for distribution to families having one or more members in the armed services. These flags will be sold \$1 each as long as the supply lasts.

Final reports made this week by the committee in charge of the Halloween Parade and Block Party showed a balance of \$2 in the treasury. This sum was turned over to Daddow-Isaacs Post American Legion for use at the air raid warning post on Parrish Heights.

All owners of passenger cars who have not registered their tires must do so today and tomorrow. No gasoline will be sold to those who fail to file inspection reports.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 14, 1952

TELEPHONE RATES TO INCREASE

Commonwealth Telephone filed new tariffs with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission increasing monthly charges for telephone service in all of the 39 exchanges it was announced by A.J. Sordoni Jr., President of the telephone company. The increase in charges this time is necessary to offset increased costs and to continue to provide adequate telephone service.

The body of Capt. Alfred James who drowned in the Hudson River when his plane crashed with six aboard was recovered Friday and sent to Trucksville with a military escort. He was buried in Memorial Shrine on Armistice Day.

The Teen Club of Back Mountain Town & Country YMCA opened its 1952-53 season. Thursday evening for its seventh year. All young people are invited to attend from 7-10:30 p.m. each Thursday in the Shavertown "Y" Building.

Dallas-Franklin Township Redskins rolled up their second victory of the season by defeating Wyoming Seminary Squires 25-6 on Memorial Field, Saturday. Injury riddled Westmoreland "Mustangs" suffered their fourth loss of the season losing to Shickshinny 25-7.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 15, 1962

DALLAS TO GET NEW \$300,000 POST OFFICE

Congressman Daniel J. Flood, recently elected for his eighth term has announced that Dallas is slated for a new \$300,000 Post Office of Colonial style architecture next year. Although no site has yet been approved for the government owned building Congressman Flood said it would be centrally located in Dallas Borough.

Formal Installation Services on Sunday afternoon at Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, accorded the new pastor, Rev. John S. Prater all the rights and privileges of his office.

Dallas captured the West Side Conference Crown Saturday when they downed Wyoming 6-0. Lake-Lehman closed its season with an impressive 16-6 win over West Wyoming.

20 Years Ago - Nov. 16, 1972

COLLEGE NAMES ITS SECOND MALE DEAN

For the second time in its history, College Misericordia has a male lay dean. Dr. Leo Robert Downey a St. John's Newfoundland native accepted his new duties in late summer. Approximately 851 students attend the local institution whose president is Sister Miriam Theresa. Dr. Downey is looking at new ways to improve life at College Misericordia.

Sportsmen planning hunting trips during the latter part of November are reminded that there will only be one day of bear season this year and that there will be an additional day for hunting turkeys in Northcentral Pennsylvania.

Dallas Mountaineers remain undefeated chalking up their 10th consecutive win this season over

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Face value on Lehman Twp. tax bills ends November 13

Lehman Township Tax Collector, Peggy Moyer, reminds all property owners and residents that face value on 1992 school tax bills will end Friday, November 13. All payments made prior to the close of the tax collector's office hours, and those which arrive postmarked November 13, will be accepted at

face value. All bills will be due at penalty time if made in person or post marked after November 13 through December 8.

Office hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the last three days of face value