

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Today's youth all bad? Don't believe it

What's the matter with kids today? That familiar refrain is heard over and over again, followed by the assignment of blame for bad behavior to television, parents, teachers, even a high-fat diet. No one, it seems, is willing to buck the trend and suggest that maybe, just maybe, kids today aren't that different from previous generations, and they might not even all be bad.

Students at Dallas High School are putting the lie to blanket condemnation of their generation by throwing their considerable talent and energy behind a program that will benefit their less-fortunate neighbors. Each of the school's four classes is collecting canned goods this week, with a goal of 1,000 items per class. The food will be turned over to the Back Mountain Food Pantry, which maintains a stock that is distributed to families when they are unable to buy their own. The pantry is operated jointly by local churches, and generally relies on ministers when deciding who is eligible to receive emergency supplies.

The project was inspired by the senior sociology classes under the direction of Jay Pope, with assistance from John McCarthy. The spirit was contagious, with all the students joining in along with faculty members, who have already made their donations.

So, the next time someone starts in on today's young people, remember the good being done by Dallas High School students, and their teachers. Your defense may surprise the complainers who enjoy running down others in a futile attempt to build themselves up.

Free trade is about more than money

The debate is over, the opposing points have been made and the vote on the North American Free Trade Agreement is at hand. No matter which side you're on—if either—you're probably glad this contentious wrangle is almost over.

Opponents of the treaty have confined their argument almost entirely to jobs and whether or not NAFTA aids U.S. companies and workers. They say it doesn't, that all the pact will do is give a further edge to companies that already enjoy huge wage cost advantages over domestic manufacturers. Since it's possible to dig up statistics that support just about any prediction of job growth or loss, they have offered up the ones that agree with their position.

Jobs are important, especially at a time when the largest American employers seem to rush pell-mell to shed workers and thus raise their "productivity." And it may be true that certain industries which use low-skill work may find in Mexico an opportunity to lower their expenses enough to offset the lower productivity south of the border, and the higher transportation cost of bringing goods back to U.S. markets. But, it would seem the longer range projections favor the growth of higher-paying jobs in the U.S.

There is more at stake than jobs, however, in this trade pact. A prosperous and peaceful Mexico will retain more of the people who now emigrate illegally to the U.S. NAFTA also can be the cornerstone of further trade agreements in Latin and South America, and the Caribbean. Those regions are home to millions of people whose standard of living has enormous room for growth, and whose appetite for goods and services can be met in large measure by U.S. firms.

A look back through recorded history confirms that every great nation has been a great trader. That's because the benefits of world trade aren't simply economic; the interaction and interdependence created by trade spills over into the culture, building tolerance and understanding of those who live elsewhere, worship differently and follow their own traditions.

Despite the exaggerations from both sides of the fence, NAFTA is hardly a make or break proposition for America or the rest of the world. It is, however, an important signal to our trading partners around the globe that the U.S. supports the principles of free trade with more than rhetoric, and it should be passed.

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 a contrasting 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. We do not publish anonymous letters, but will consider withholding the name in exceptional circumstances. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar.

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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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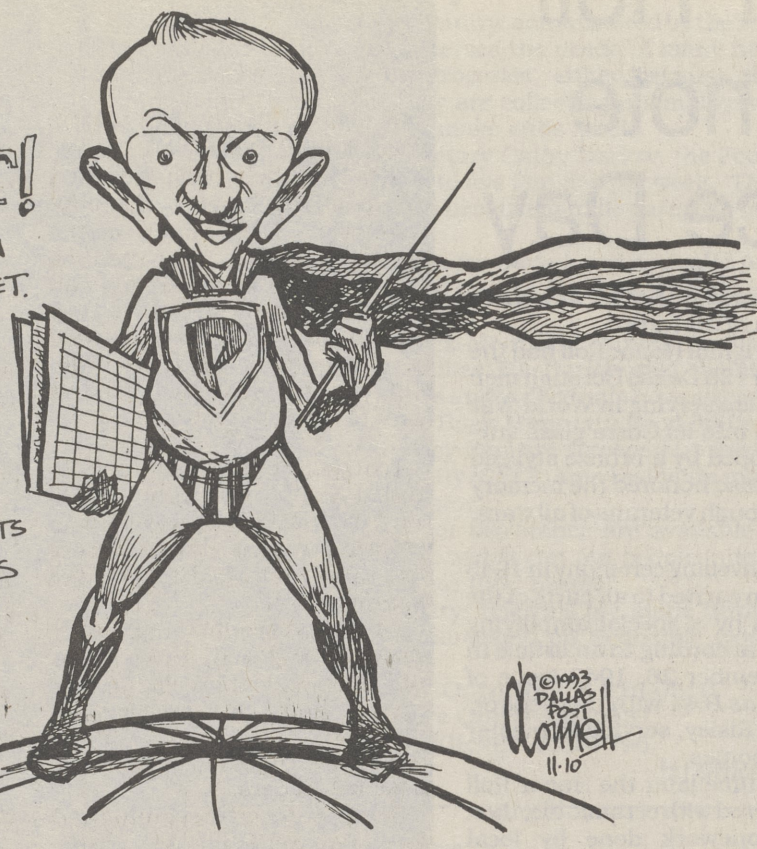
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OUR HERO!

TALKS FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET. CAN BUY A TALL BUILDING WITH A SINGLE BILL. H. ROSS PEROT DEFENDS THE AMERICAN WAY ARMED WITH CHARTS, GRAPHS, ONE-LINERS & PLAIN TALK.



Letters

Pioneer Ave. speeders are dangerous

Editor,
It is our misfortune to live along Pioneer Avenue near the entrance to Newberry Estates. The speed limit along Pioneer Avenue is 35 miles per hour. I have been complaining for years to the local police in Dallas Township and Boro about the speed of the vehicles that travel along our road. I have written letters to the editor to this and other newspapers, to no avail.

In the morning my children and I wait for the school bus at the end of our driveway. We watch the cars, trucks and busses zoom up and down the road at speeds well in excess of the speed limit. I have yet to see a police vehicle at that time of day.

This past spring I wrote a letter of complaint (again) to the Chief of Police. He called me, and I was told by Chief Carl Meiers in June that during the first week of July, police would be out with radar on loan from the Commonwealth to clock vehicles. He asked permission to use my driveway, which I gladly gave him. Four months later I still wait for something to happen.

On Halloween night, I took my children trick or treating. We carried flashlights and walked along the shoulder of the road, facing traffic. Yes, it was a dark and rainy night. One might think that for that very reason - not to

mention that kids would be out and about - people in cars would be just a little bit more attentive and observant. We were nearly struck by several vehicles. They only moved or slowed slightly when I shined my flashlight directly at the windshield.

On a number of occasions I have pulled out of my driveway only to be nearly hit by some idiot roaring along at speeds approaching 60 m.p.h.

Well, it has happened again. At about 8 this morning, I was taking my son to day care. Before I pulled out onto the street, I looked and saw there were no cars coming. As I put the car in gear to head south, a car came up from behind and passed me. I very nearly was hit by this driver, who a) did not allow enough room for me to travel in my lane and b) pulled in front of me too quickly. As it turned out, he was heading to the same general area as the day care. He got to his destination about 3 seconds before I got to mine, even though I was traveling at the speed limit.

What do you suppose he will do with his time savings?

I ask you, the editor, to ask the police why they cannot patrol this road. I am merely a citizen and get no response. With the construction on Route 309, traffic

volume is up along Pioneer Avenue. The other night we got a package delivered by UPS. The driver commented that "It's like Daytona out there!"

Will someone have to be hurt or killed before the police enforce the law? What kind of excuse will be offered up to the victim? The ones that I have heard range from "We can't be everywhere", "We don't have the manpower", to "We'll end up stopping some lawyer's wife and he'll take us to court and beat the ticket". The last comment came from the township solicitor, by the way, after a township council meeting I attended some years ago where I voiced my complaints again. Good Lord, what an attitude.

Have the state police been asked to assist? Why or why not?

Last week a body was seen lying along the intersection of Pioneer and Overbrook roads. Why has there been nothing in the news about what happened? Was this person dead or alive? Was this person struck by a car or merely sleeping in the grass? The police were on the scene. Several people told me about having seen this incident, but I read nothing in the paper(s) about it.

Roy Moen
Dallas

Guest column

Pay now, study later: a new tuition plan

The Pennsylvania Tuition Account Program enables people to lock in a price today to pay for tomorrow's tuition at any of Pennsylvania's 32 state-owned and state-related colleges and community colleges.

Nearly 100,000 Pennsylvanians have requested applications since we launched the Tuition Account Program on September 9.

We designed the program for virtually all family budgets. A person may pay for a student's entire tuition in a lump sum, or part of his or her tuition by purchasing credits or units.

The Tuition Account Program makes it possible for families who cannot afford to pay for full credits to buy units of credits. Units reduce the financial burden on families by enabling them to pay, for example, as little as \$3 toward their children's future tuition at some Pennsylvania community colleges. Twenty tuition units equal one tuition credit.

No other tuition pre-payment program in the nation enables people to buy tuition units. By offering tuition units, we hope to offer even the most financially strapped families a mechanism to provide for their children's higher education. Also, we seek to give students an incentive to graduate from high school. If students know their parents, grandparents or someone else is paying for their college education, they may be less inclined to drop out of high school.

People may apply their tuition credits to any licensed or accredited college, university or trade school in the country - from Harvard to hairdressing school, from a community college to electronics school.

The Tuition Account Program can take the worry out of inflation. It guarantees that those pre-purchased tuition credits will always hold their value. No method of saving or investing can make that promise.

The Tuition Account Program is a conservative method to pay for your child's future college education. Money placed in a mutual fund or savings account is subject to the unpredictability of the marketplace. In fact, investors in mutual funds risk losing not only interest, but their principal as well.

A mutual fund usually requires a minimum investment of between \$250 and \$1,000 to establish an account. Many of these funds also require minimum payments ranging from \$50 to \$100 for additional purchases.

You can open a Tuition Account with an initial, one time application fee of just \$47. When the time is right, most people can start purchasing tuition units at prices ranging from \$2.42 to \$14.86.

The prices of tuition credits and units for a specific school are based on that school's current tuition rates. The pricing is established annually by actuarial assessments required by law. To ensure the financial stability of the Tuition Account Fund, a premium is added. Every penny used to purchase credits or units goes into a person's Tuition Account. The prospective student will get the full benefit of the account when he or she attends college.

For example: A college charges \$100 per credit. The actuary determines that the Tuition Account Program's price for the tuition credit should be \$105; \$100 is the credit and \$5 is the premium—total amount paid into the account is \$105. At the time the student enters college, the value of that credit in his or her account will be \$105, plus accrued interest.

You can purchase credits and units in any amount you want, whenever you want.

No other state with a pre-payment tuition plan allows out-of-state residents to participate as freely as our program does. Either the purchaser of the credits

or the person who will use the credits must be a resident of Pennsylvania at the time a Tuition Account is opened.

That means a grandparent living in Florida may purchase credits for a grandchild living in Pennsylvania. Or a divorced parent living in Pennsylvania may purchase credits for a child living in California. Once a Tuition Account is opened, a person may continue to purchase credits, regardless of the residence of the purchaser or child.

A student who gets a scholarship is entitled to a refund equal to the amount of the scholarship. Full refunds will also be made in the event the prospective student becomes disabled or fails to get admitted to a school.

If a student decides not to attend college, his or her tuition credits can be transferred to another eligible beneficiary, such as a brother or sister; the credits can be transferred to a trade or technical school; or the purchaser may receive a refund subject to a 10 percent penalty.

I want to stress that there is no commingling of state money in the Tuition Account Fund. By law, the Tuition Account Program money is placed in an independent fund. It cannot be used by the state for other purposes.

We are confident Pennsylvania's new Tuition Account Program is a conservative, responsible, innovative program that can make college possible for many families who never dreamed they could afford to send their children to college.

Catherine Baker Knoll
Pennsylvania Treasurer

The most
Back Mountain news
The Dallas Post

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Nov. 24, 1933 AREA RESIDENTS GIVE RECORD AMOUNT

The decision to pay off \$6,500 worth of long-term bonds as a means of reducing the district's indebtedness was reached by directors of the Dallas Township Board at its meeting this week. The bonds were negotiated at the time the school building was constructed and are not due for a number of years. Payment at this time will save the district a considerable sum in interest.

Residents of Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and Kingston Township contributed \$3,076.12 to the 32 affiliated agencies of Community Welfare Federation during the campaign which ended Wednesday. The Dallas Division ranked 10th among 37 teams working on the campaign. It was one of the 17 which exceeded their quotas.

50 Years Ago - Nov. 19, 1943 FIRST DALLAS HONOR ROLL DEDICATED

Spurred by a desire to have the "Truth or Consequences", national radio program broadcast from Lehman High School, students of that school brought a record, 11,300 pounds of waste paper in on Monday. This amounted to 42 1/2 lbs. per pupil.

In recognition of the services of its 128 sons and daughters in the armed forces and of those former soldiers who served in all wars of the Republic, Dallas Borough will dedicate its Honor Roll Sunday afternoon at the parkway intersection, Main St. A program replete with patriotic significance has been arranged by the chairman of the unveiling committee.

You could get - Ground beef, (8 pts.) 25¢ lb.; veal rump (5 pts.) 29¢ lb.; Emperor grapes, 2 lbs. 29¢; Ivory soap 3 lg. cakes, 29¢.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 20, 1953 FIRST AREA WOMAN FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Mrs. Alfred Bronson, Sweet Valley has received word that she successfully passed the State Board exam in August and is now a licensed funeral director. Mrs. Bronson is the first woman funeral director in the Back Mountain area.

Borough Council took possession of the Oliver Building Wednesday. Equipment has been moved in and the December 1 Council meeting will be held there. It is expected that Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. will move just as soon as overhead doors are completed at the entrance to what formerly was the auto shop.

Assessed valuation for property in Dallas Borough during 1954 will generally remain the same as 1953. The Luzerne County Board of Assessors is preparing new assessment cards which will be mailed shortly to all borough property owners, restoring 1953 assessments, except in cases where the Board's own field assessor made a personal inspection and assessed new properties, or increased assessments on properties where improvements were made during the year.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 21, 1963 HISTORIC HEFT SAW-MILL DEMOLISHED

One of Back Mountain's oldest landmarks, the old saw mill built by the late Mitchell and Philip Heft, Carvelton, originally run by water power supplied by the nearby dam, was demolished for the new state park.

Kingston Township's new municipal building and fire hall will have to be redesigned to meet budget specifications. Architects may have to delete fancy trim and cut floor space to meet the estimate proposed.

Dallas Senior High School grid-ers captured their 2nd consecutive West Side Conference championship Saturday by completely overwhelming a supposed good Wyoming eleven, 32-0 before some 3,000 fans on the loser's field.

Lake-Lehman grid-ers closed the season on a winning note with an impressive 32-13 win over West Wyoming on the Lehman gridiron.

20 Years Ago - Nov. 21, 1973 VANDALS CUT DOWN 16 CHERRY TREES

Sixteen Japanese cherry trees have been cut down on two separate occasions by vandals at Lake-Lehman Senior High School. Anthony Marchakitus assistant superintendent and high school principal told *The Post* that he had been called to the school by a custodian to find 13 of the trees felled by a "sharp instrument". By Monday morning the remaining three trees were also down.

An unofficial low bid of \$1,898,000 for construction of a new Lake-Lehman elementary school was submitted by the Roy E. Kline Co.