

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

New board members risk losing influence

Talk about getting off on the wrong foot. In less than a month, newly-elected Lake-Lehman school board member Pat Gold seems to have gone out of her way to anger just about everyone except her most rabid supporters. First, she was quoted running down Parent-Teacher Association members in an article that appeared in The Times Leader. Then, at the board's January 11 meeting, she demanded that Karen Whipple resign because she hadn't filed a financial disclosure form with the state. She's the board member appointed to replace Martin McMahon, who had moved out of his voting district. When Whipple's lapse was explained as an oversight that would be quickly corrected, Gold persisted in calling for her resignation instead of backing off gracefully.

If this is a prelude of things to come, whatever good Gold and her compatriot-in-opposition Allen Moss hoped to accomplish will come to naught. Both seem to have forgotten for the moment that common courtesy and respect for others are more likely than self-righteous confrontation to move opinion in their favor.

Lake-Lehman is just beginning negotiations for a new contract between teachers and the district. If past experience is any measure, this will be a trying year for everyone involved, and media coverage will be intense. Since Moss and Gold were elected largely on their stand that district property owners can't afford higher taxes to pay for teachers' salaries, we can expect them to lead the charge against a too-generous settlement. That's certainly their prerogative; but if they proceed in a manner that alienates them from the rest of the board and the majority of parents—not to mention teachers—they're likely to lose any opportunity to influence the discussion.

New members of any organization quickly learn they haven't been anointed with any special authority, and must earn the respect of others. Let's hope that these two capable individuals soon realize that when the bull gets into the china shop, all that's left are broken dishes.

Publisher's notebook

Last week's accident in Bear Creek involving two school buses was not at all surprising. It happened at about 1 p.m., as the buses were taking home students who had been dismissed early because of a snowstorm. In this case, early dismissal may have been a good idea, because the storm began in mid-morning and was forecast to last until evening.

There have been several times this winter when early dismissals made far less sense, and resulted in buses traveling roads before plow crews had time to clear them. On those days, holding school for the full day would have meant safer travel.

Snow days, early dismissals and delayed openings will always be judgement calls, but it often seems the bias is heavily tilted toward calling them. And, while entire days must and will be made up, half-days won't; they are included in the 180-day school calendar that is required by state law. That's not fair to students, and the true amount of time they spend in class should be considered when weighing the options on a snowy day.

Last week's attack on figure skater Nancy Kerrigan and the subsequent arrest of members of Tanya Harding's entourage was a new and shocking stage in the decline of sports as a repository of fair play and a diversion from everyday life. Despite past incidents like the attack in Munich or training scandals in East Europe, the Olympics have maintained an aura of higher standards and greater sportsmanship than strictly professional sports. This ruthless action will go a long way toward poisoning that image.

We're sending entries to the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers' Association Keystone Press Awards contest this week. We've entered each year since 1990, and have won a few prizes along the way. It's always interesting to take a fresh look at the previous year's papers, and to select items we think were our best. We'll have to wait until April to find out if the judges, who are from Arizona, agree.

Headline from The Dallas Post, January 26, 1934. My how the meaning of some words changes over time.

Social

Dallas Folk Among Gay Crowds Wintering At St. Petersburg

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The Dallas Post

Published Weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc.
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Telephone: 717-675-5211

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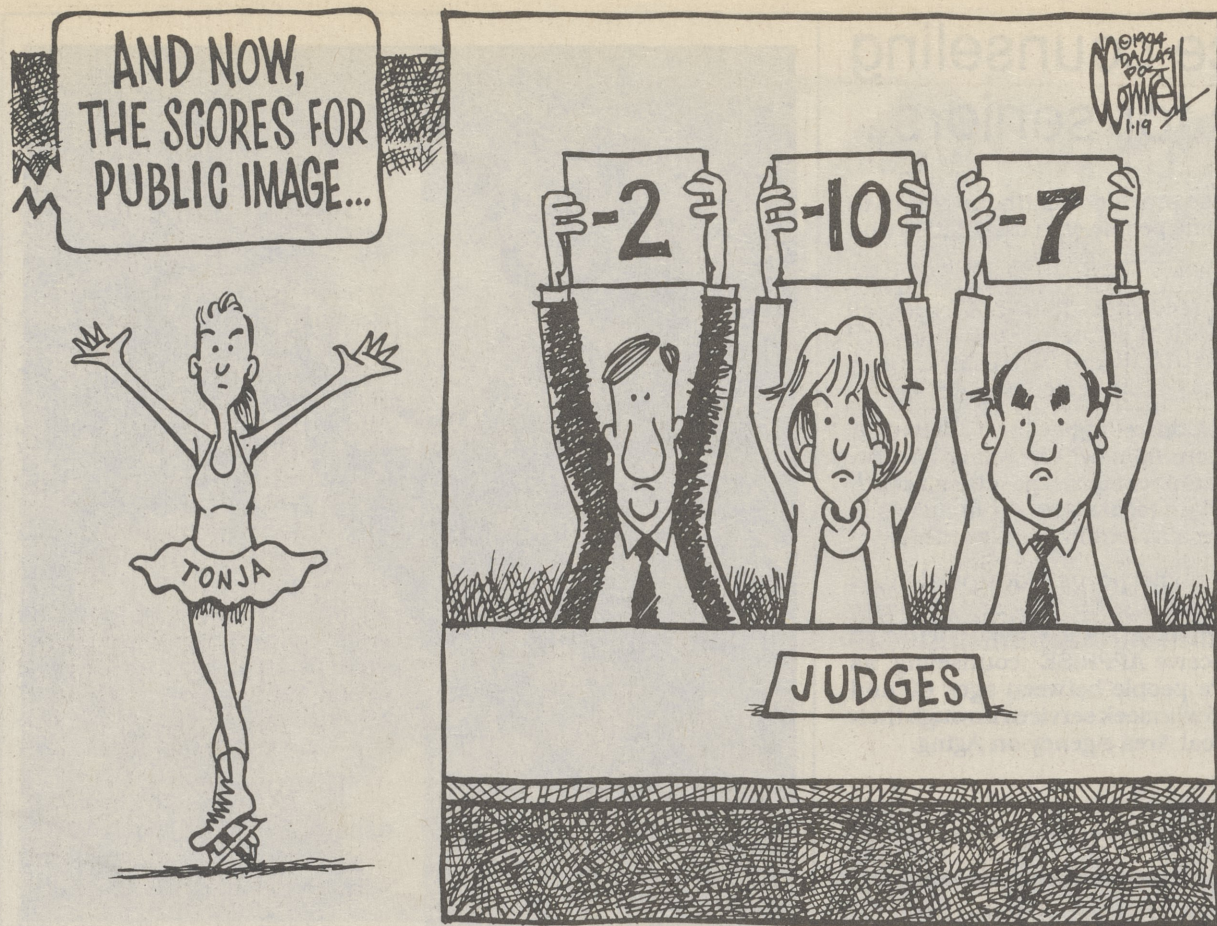
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A. Case for conservation

Nature has many examples of cooperation

By ALENE N. CASE

"The widespread acceptance of Darwin's idea of 'survival of the fittest' as an important means of bringing about natural selection has directed attention to the competitive aspects of nature. As a result, the importance of cooperation between species in nature has perhaps been underestimated." Thus begins a short discussion of symbiosis in a famous text on ecology by Eugene Odum. It appears that Dr. Odum spoke the truth. In fact, I scanned a wide variety of books on the subject and found that cooperation among the species was often ignored altogether or only represented by a few "classic" examples.

Symbiosis is defined as "the intimate living together of two kinds of organisms." This relationship can be beneficial to both organisms (mutualism), to one of the organisms without injury to the other (commensalism), or to one organism at the expense of the other (parasitism). Such relationships can be between two different plants, two animals, one plant and one animal, or between bacteria or fungi and some plant or animal. One eminent ecologist states that "most conspicuous symbiosis is between very diverse kinds of organisms."

Let's look at some examples that might illustrate the importance of such relationships. It has recently been discovered that various kinds of plants with long roots pull water from deep underground during the night and spread that water through the surface soil. In that way, smaller plants with shallow roots are aided by this "watering" instead of competing with the tree as one might at first suspect. The reason for keeping the soil moist around a tree such as a sugar maple may have very little to do with its fortunate neighbors. The roots of many trees maintain an intimate relationship with fungi known as mycorrhizae. And we all know that fungi, such as mold, mildew or mushrooms, need plenty of water to thrive.

The mycorrhizae associated with land plants have probably been there since plants first tried to colonize rocky shorelines along primeval seas. They aid the roots in obtaining nutrients—especially phosphorus—from the soil. In return, they obtain sugars that are manufactured by the plant. Some plants are so intimately associated with their fungi that they have lost the tiny root hairs that plants generally use to get water and minerals from the soil. The mycorrhizae function as root hairs.

Plants are also often closely associated with animals. They provide nectar in exchange for pollination. Flowers are often shaped specifically to ensure that a visiting insect or bird will pick up pollen and deposit it in the proper place. Some flowers are exclusively visited by one type of pollinator. Other plants attract animals that help disperse its seeds. If seeds are to be scattered by birds, fruits are often colorful. (Birds have no sense of smell, so odor would be of no value.) Since bats feed at night, plants attract them by having fruit with strong musty odors. The birds and bats gain a meal and the plants are propagated.

Cows and termites have one-celled organisms in their guts that make it possible for them to digest plant material. Otherwise, we would have no milk to drink and our forests would soon fill with undecayed trees.

As is so often true, the oceans contain many examples of all kinds of symbiosis. One of the most important is that of various kinds of algae that live in the tissues of corals and other inver-

tebrates. These algae are known by the general scientific name *zooxanthellae*. The coral polyps provide protection from being eaten, from too much UV radiation, and from being swept below the level where sunlight reaches. The algae provide the coral with food and oxygen. In fact, some corals have become so dependent on their zooxanthellae that they appear to stop feeding on other particles floating in the water.

Sometimes one species will hitch a ride on another. Usually this is only a benefit to the "hitcher" because they gain transportation and sometimes food scraps from the host. But, I imagine you would think twice before picking up a crab that was transporting a sea anemone! So would the other animals that might like a crab dinner.

One of the most fascinating stories of mutualism in the oceans regards the habits of "cleaner" fish. Small species of fish and the young of other types of fish seem to "set up shop" cleaning other fish. They station themselves in one area of a coral reef, advertise for business by doing a little dance, and then clean the fish that come by. They eat small parasites and loose scales that are on the body of the larger fish. These larger fish could easily eat the cleaners but they don't. They must recognize that the smaller fish are doing them a service. Some cleaner fish actually make "house calls" They go around the reef cleaning fish that are so territorial that they will not go to the usual cleaning areas.

As you can see, nature provides wonderful examples of cooperation. Scientists are only beginning to understand these relationships and their origins. Any theories about how ecosystems work must take such close relationships into consideration.

As I was saying...

Stamp collecting 101: how to get started

By JACK HILSHER

As promised here are some "hows and wheres" which could get you started collecting stamps. Assuming many of you did not collect as pre-teens, some of this will have to be basic.

For example, the album, where you will mount your stamps individually with small adhesive paper "hinges," can be a 3-ring binder with plain white paper if you wish. (Old fashioned "ledger" books used to be the rage.) Problem with plain pages is you'd have no "guide" to follow as you would with modern stamp albums specially designed for the mounting and display of stamps.

You should be able to tell where to mount a stamp, what stamps you are missing, and how your collection is progressing. Most modern albums have black and white illustrations of stamps in actual size, enclosed in a neat ruled box. Some are printed on both sides of the paper, which usually makes for a less-expensive album but less aesthetically pleasing. You and your budget

will soon decide what to get.

You'll need to select a country, or a topic (planes, trains, birds, etc.) and you should learn where to get stamps, that is, besides asking your relatives for their hoards or envelopes from their mail. You'll be surprised what'll turn up if you ask.

To browse locally there are only two places...BOSCOV'S hobby department on the second floor, and the Anthracite Coin and Stamp shop at 496 Main Street in Edwardsville. Both have enough variety to get you started. Buy what interests you most, plus hinges and tongs, the latter to handle stamps...never with the fingers!

Next I strongly recommend that you consider subscribing to a stamp journal. "LINN'S STAMP NEWS" is the best. It comes out weekly and its 72 pages are packed with informative news and articles, and - most important - ads by the ton. You can spend days deciding what to send for first. You're certain to be doing business by mail, and wait until you get your first batch of "approvals!" These you look over and either

buy what you want or need, then send the rest back. Great fun, don't take my word for it...try it once and you'll be hooked.

A sample issue of LINN'S journal is yours for the asking; this has been a long-standing policy of theirs and I have confirmed that it is still in effect; no strings, no obligation. Write to Linn's Customer Service, 911 Vandermark Road, Sidney, Ohio, 45365. Or, if you'd rather phone, (513 498-0801.)

Later on you should consider a Scott catalog; they print the "bibles" of the hobby, illustrations and listings of most every stamp of every country ever issued, along with a numbering system in wide use, and a "catalog value" which, discounted, is the basis for what a dealer will charge for a stamp, or what you should sell for.

One day soon I'll have to give you some interesting countries to collect, and the pitfalls of others, but in the meantime if you have any problems or questions, write to me c/o The Post enclosing an SASE and I'll try to help.

Happy Collecting!

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Jan. 26, 1934 MANY IN BORO OWE PROPERTY TAXES

One of the few log cabins in this section which once was dotted with such pioneering homes has been built by Neil Henry, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Henry with the assistance of three helpers on a wooded hillside on East Center Street, Shavertown. This unique home promises to be one of the show places of the community.

According to a recent announcement of the Dallas Borough Taxpayers Association, land returns on school taxes in Dallas borough for years 1927-1932 inclusive amounted to \$15,916.06. Of this amount, \$3,207.06 is all that has been collected. Liens have been filed in the amount of \$11,200 which is exclusive of the current unpaid taxes. These taxes do not apply to borough taxes but are applicable only to school taxes.

You could get - Center cut chuck roast 10¢ lb.; rump of beef 25¢ lb.; carton of Lucky Strike cigarettes \$1.19 carton.

50 Years Ago - Jan. 21, 1944 LANSBERY TO START AREA FARM AUCTION

The 4th War Loan Drive had a bang-up start in Dallas Tuesday, with \$1,925 in war bonds being bought at the Dallas Senior Women's Club booth in the post office, according to Mrs. Nelson Thompson. She says that if returns keep up at that rate, this district will more than surpass the quota of \$7,500 by February 1.

Following the leads of other communities where established farm auctions have become important factors in agricultural life, Lawrence Lansbery of Idetown has leased the farm owned by the Robinson Estate, near the Castle Inn with an option to buy and with cooperation of New Jersey interests plans to open a weekly farm auction there in four to six weeks.

Deputy collectors of the Internal Revenue Department will be at First National Bank, Dallas, Feb. 14, 15 and 16, to assist taxpayers with preparation of their income tax return for 1943.

40 Years Ago - Jan. 22, 1954 SCHOOLEY MEMORIAL FUND HELPS HOSPITAL

Dr. Sherman P. Schooley Memorial Fund Committee, which last year raised \$2,830.20 as a memorial for the late Back Mountain physician, has turned over \$2,000 to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital for use in renovating a third-floor wing of the hospital, to be known as the Dr. Sherman R. Schooley Memorial Wing. The balance of the fund, \$830.20, will be turned over to the Back Mountain Memorial Library as a memorial to the doctor for the preservation of historical data and material pertinent to the Back Mountain region, where his forebears were early settlers.

30 Years Ago - Jan. 23, 1964 NEW A-FRAME HOMES ARE BUILT IN AREA

A fire of unidentified origin gathered force on strong breezes and demolished the 4-level brick home of Thomas Metz, high on the hill above the old mill site in Carverton early yesterday afternoon. The new home has been occupied only since October. None of the six members of the family were home at the time.

The Dallas Post's hanging sign has been refacilited. Leonard Selingo repainted it, and brought the lettering up to date. Many people have inquired about it while it was in the workshop.

Two A-Frame homes, identical in structure, are under construction in the Back Mountain, the first along Memorial Highway in Shavertown and the other in Harveys Lake. Considerable interest has been evidenced in the residence by many motorists passing the site of erection across from Purcell's Gas Station below the Center Street intersection.

20 Years Ago - Jan. 24, 1974 T. NEWELL WOOD SEEKS REELECTION

Many Dallas Borough taxpayers are receiving summary criminal complaints for neglecting to file statements of their 1% earned income tax. H.A. Berkheimer Associates, the boro's collection firm, has filed complaints against residents who did not return the community tax portion of their W-2 forms. Council president Jerry Machell explained that many residents do not realize that the tax form must be filed even though an individual's employer may withhold the 1% tax for him.

State Sen. T. Newell Wood, Harveys Lake banker and businessman, announced last week he will seek re-election to represent the seven counties comprising the 20th Senatorial District.

Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?

A: Only in The Dallas Post