

# The Dallas Post

## EDITORIALS

### Congratulations, academic achievers

We are proud to present the honorees from the Dallas High School Academic Awards Banquet in this week's issue of The Dallas Post. These students are the "best and the brightest" of the graduating and lower classes, having shown outstanding achievement in a variety of subjects or on standardized tests. Included are the members of the school's National Honor Society, students who have carried a 3.2 average (of a possible 4.0) while taking part in extra-curricular and community service activities and displaying positive character traits.

Last year The Post decided to publish as many photos of award winners as we could get, as opposed to the handful that had appeared in previous years. When we made that commitment, we didn't know what we were getting into, and it took three issues to fit them all. We wanted to again publish them all, but in a more useful, enjoyable form. The tabloid in this issue is the result.

We know the students are proud of their achievements, as are their families and friends. So are we, but we seldom get the opportunity to show it. Since there aren't weekly academic games with winners and losers, playoffs and state titles, students who excel at what schools are fundamentally about seldom receive the recognition they deserve. That's not a slap at athletics — a good number of the faces in these photos have appeared on the sports pages — but an acknowledgement that school is first and foremost a place to prepare for higher education or a career, and that takes place in the classroom.

Congratulations to these outstanding students and any that may have been left out. (Lake-Lehman handed out their awards Tuesday, too late for this issue.) You are a credit to your families, your school, your community and to yourself. Enjoy your achievements, and use them well in the future.

### Limits on firearm discharge a wise idea

The shots rang out along Lower Demunds Road. The police arrived. No weapon, victim or suspect was found. In the end, though, if there had been no harm there would have been little the police could do, since Dallas Township has no ordinance restricting the discharge of firearms.

Chief of Police Carl Miers thinks it's time the township had rules limiting the "wanton" discharge of firearms. That is a sensible recommendation, especially given the increased density of houses and people in Dallas Township.

Ballistics experts say the bullet from a .22 rifle can be lethal from a mile away. The June 6 incident involved a much larger caliber, more powerful weapon, possibly an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle from which two bursts of fire left 11 holes in the ground. This took place less than a quarter mile from the Orchard View Terrace subdivision, so if the gun had been pointed up instead of down, there might have been serious consequences.

This issue isn't about limiting the right to own arms; that is a separate subject. The township clearly has an obligation to do what it can to protect citizens against reckless use of firearms, or any other device that has the potential to cause great harm. At the very least, use of guns should be prohibited within a certain distance from occupied buildings, much as spelled out in hunting regulations.

There's no reason to think township supervisors won't accept the chief's suggestion and move quickly to set some limits on dangerous activity. Passing laws alone won't prevent irresponsibility, but will give the police a framework in which to take action against anyone who puts other people's lives at risk.

### Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Both Dallas and Lake-Lehman seniors will receive their high school degrees Friday, and head for higher education or the world of work. They embark on their journey at a confusing time, when the developed world is mostly at peace but murder and mayhem wrack many undeveloped nations. As Americans and Europeans fret over a half percent boost in interest rates, Rwandans are hacked to death by roving bands of government soldiers. As "Generation X" worries about making enough money to buy new ripped jeans, many Middle Eastern and African people work for less than \$100 a year and watch friends and family members starve.

None of this is new, but the wonders of modern communications bring us daily reports of brutality and massive inequity worldwide. In truth, it's likely that more of the earth's population is now free, healthy and at peace than ever in history. Should that be reason to sit back with a satisfied smile? Far from it; at our best, the human species is far from laudable, and there won't be a time soon when we can dwell on our universal benevolence.

What can the class of '94 do about the world's fate? Not much, you might say, but that wouldn't be true. Progress is made in small increments, one day and one family at a time.

# The Dallas Post

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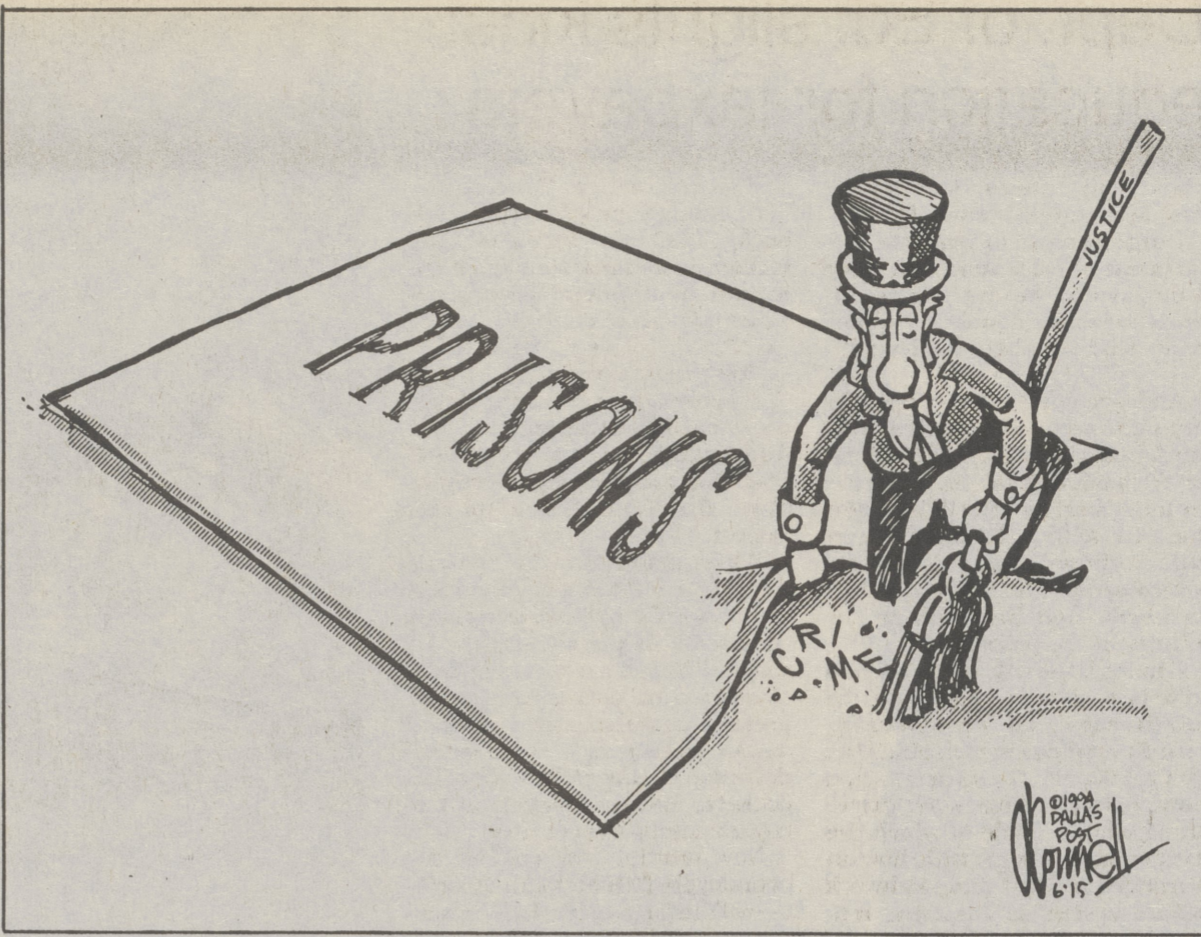
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### Only yesterday

#### 60 Years Ago - June 22, 1934 TANNERY CUTS BACK WORK AS PROTEST

George T. Kirkendall, acting postmaster of the local office for the past few months, received notification from Postmaster General James A. Farley of the confirmation of his appointment as postmaster of the Dallas office.

Ten tanneries of the State including the J.K. Mosser Co. plant at Noxen have curtailed production in protest against the action of the State Emergency Relief Board's recent action of awarding contracts for more than one million pairs of composition shoe soles to factories outside of Pennsylvania.

You could get - Preserves, 16-oz. jar, 15¢; Chase & Sanborn coffee, 1 lb. tin, 30¢; cream cheese, 19¢ lb.; Franco-American spaghetti, 3 cans, 25¢.

#### 50 Years Ago - June 16, 1944 AREA MEN REPORTED KILLED, MISSING

Summer season at Harvey's Lake is exceeding expectations and businessmen are delighted after experiencing one of the worst seasons in history last year. They attribute the improvement to better bus schedules and the removal of pleasure driving restrictions which were in effect most of last season.

Mr. and Mrs. Biagio Galletti received word that their son, Pvt. Sam Galletti was killed in action on an Italian battlefield.

Reported missing in action were Robert A. Girvan, since May 12 on the Italian front; Peter Skopic, since May 29 over Austria.

Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. purchased another \$500 War Bond from Dallas Woman's Club Committee making a total of \$2000 in Relief Association Funds now invested in war bonds.

#### 40 Years Ago - June 18, 1954 CIVIL DEFENSE DRILL IS A COMPLETE FLOP

Dallas Borough, Dallas Township, Shavertown and Trucksville were wiped out Monday morning by a mythical hydrogen bomb without a chance to duck for shelter. Yellow signal, red alert and the all-clear were never received and the National Civil Defense experiment was a total flop. Forty Fort was supposed to relay signals by telephone to Dallas and Kingston Township.

Lake-Noxen graduated 38, while 53 seniors finished at Lehman-Jackson-Ross High School.

Dallas Legion team, defeated Honeycot 5-4 on Jenkins Field. Swyersville will meet Dallas Sunday at Dallas.

#### 30 Years Ago - June 18, 1964 LEHMAN HIRES TWO FEMALE POLICE

Kingston Township Supervisors at a special session approved the rezoning of Carverton Road (between the Harveys Lake Highway and the Lehman Valley Railroad trestle) from a residential to commercial area. The motion paved the way for Solicitor Mitchell Jenkins to draw up an ordinance to that effect and give the final go ahead to F. Gordon Mathers to erect a building housing Gavy's Market and Trucksville Pharmacy in that area.

Two policewomen were appointed for Lehman Township at the Supervisors meeting on the request of Police Chief Joseph Ide. The policewomen will accompany regular officers in any case where a woman is involved to help and act as witnesses.

A crowd watched Dallas School District faculty members defeat the WARM team 7-6 at Dallas Junior High School athletic field. Proceeds of the game were donated to the Fred Hennebau Fund.

#### 20 Years Ago - June 20, 1974 BORO RESIDENTS FLOUT ZONING LAW

A number of Dallas residents are not aware that a building permit is necessary for repairs or alterations to homes which cost \$100. A few in the borough know the law and are consciously and flagrantly violating it. If people do not take out permits for this work we will have to stop them said Dallas Borough building inspector Richard Disque. The law carries a fine in these cases and if cooperation is not forthcoming it will be levied in certain instances.

College Misericordia's older student program, initiated last semester, has been extended to include summer session courses. Area residents 55 years or older may enroll in courses at Misericordia without tuition charges.

You could get - Round roast, \$1.38 lb.; peaches, 39¢ lb.; Keebler Pecan Sandies, 14-oz. pkg., 59¢; fresh eggs, 39¢ doz.

### As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

I am a "Notch Baby!" There are probably hundreds of us in the Back Mountain because there are millions nationwide. We were born in the so-called "notch years" of 1917-1926, and because of a faulty formula used to calculate our Social Security benefits, we receive 10 to 20% less than other seniors with equal work records but who were born in other years. The "notch mistake" did not affect their benefits.

This inequity took a while to show up. In 1983 someone wrote the "Dear Abby" syndicated newspaper column; she wrote about it, and suddenly over a million protestors wrote in, all claiming they were getting lower payments - totaling billions - than they were entitled to, all yelling "foul" and "unfair."

For over five years various bills eventually came and went before Congress, all proposing to correct the inequity to various degrees. Some would have restored the cut, which averages \$660 per year, and provided a lump retroactive payment of up to \$1000. An example, recent Bill H.R. 917/s. 567 is shown in the box.

However before voting on any bill takes place the powerful House Ways and Means Committee has to release it, and who is that group's chairman who holds up all bills? The one who violently opposes any notch corrections whatsoever?

None other than Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, that's who, the notorious Democrat from Illinois currently in the national news. Federal prosecutors have been

### Rostenkowski: the Notch Babies' Public Enemy #1

What 'Notch Babies' are missing

YEAR OF BIRTH	ANNUAL BENEFIT INCREASE*
1917	\$552.00*
1918	\$768.00*
1919	\$996.00*
1920	\$1,056.00*
1921	\$864.00*
1922	\$708.00*
1923	\$564.00*
1924	\$360.00*
1925	\$180.00*
1926	\$192.00*

\* Notch benefit increases based on retirement at age 65 as estimated for Notch Consensus Solution, bill HR 917/s. 567. Source: 1990 Social Security Trustees' Report and National Committee to Preserve Social Security.

investigating Danny Boy for more than two years and recently released a monster 17-count indictment which one lawyer said represents a "severe pattern of corruption." (Love the way these lawyers talk!)

Prosecutors say at least a half-million dollars is involved, claiming Rosty defrauded taxpayers by, among other things, making improper purchases of gifts and furniture from his official account. (This surely was true because he has already reimbursed the House \$82,000, a mere bucket drop to him as you will soon see.)

There were also, says the indictment, "ghost" employees hired and paid for. Now according to a Chicago Tribune political writer,

some of his activities were normal political actions, but others, such as converting a stamp fund into dollars, were termed "serious criminal activity."

So after 40 years in Congress, Rostenkowski seems to be headed for the hoosegow. There go the lucrative speaking engagements (in one year alone: 51) and those lovely honorariums. There too, go the celebrity golf tournaments, including the Chrysler Classic with Bob Hope, where everything is on the cuff. And there go those dandy things called "campaign contributions." If not used, a congressman once could take remaining contributions along when he retired, a tribal rite Congress cancelled in 1980. However, if elected before 1980 this stipulation does not apply, and you can take the fund along when you quit. Not too many years ago our Dan had \$800,000 in his fund, and it must be well over a million by now.

Dan won't plea bargain so he seems certain to go down in flames. Too bad Jimmy Roosevelt didn't live to see it. For years this ex-president's son headed up the "National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare" and spearheaded dozens of petitions for notch correction for seniors. Today that committee is headed by Martha A. McSteen, who spent the last three years of a 39-year SSA career heading the administration as Acting Commissioner, and who should be listened to when she claims the present Society Security surplus will support any reasonable corrective action.

But to my point: I must caution all you seniors eagerly awaiting a Rosty guilty verdict and believing a speedy notch correction bill would then be passed. Fellow notchers, my own belief is that a familiar and ancient saying applies here: "Don't count your chickens until they fully emerge from their shells!"

### Another questionnaire and answers from Joe McDade

the world. However, the finest health care in the world is not available to everyone, either because of inefficient delivery systems, or not enough doctors in not enough places, or both doctors and health care being just too expensive. The issue is not availability; the issue is access.

3. From what you've heard or read, will you and your family pay more, pay less, or pay about the same for routine medical care under the Clinton plan as you do now?

Most accounts of the Clinton plan suggest that we will have to pay more...but is that so surprising? Covering many more people will, naturally, mean many more dollars.

4. Do you support the President's proposal to raise federal excise taxes on tobacco products by 75 cents per pack to help finance national health care reform.

This is perhaps the Clinton Administration at its schizophrenic best. On one hand, you have an administration actively, almost viciously, trying to prevent smoking in public places...any public place; and, on the other hand, want to raise taxes on smoking to pay for health care...is someone in the Administration smoking something other than tobacco?

5. Should federal funding of abortion be included as part of

national health care reform.

Yes.

6. Do you support legislation to eliminate welfare, food stamps, Medicaid, and other public assistance for non-citizens?

Elimination of such assistance begs the question of having to provide it in the first place. A person here illegally should be removed to his or her place of origin immediately upon being discovered...and that nation's government should be billed for the cost of transportation AND housing of that person while he or she is here. It's not that America should cease opening its arms to the less fortunate; it's that America should deal with its own less fortunate first.

7. Do you support requiring able-bodied persons, including single parents with preschool children, to perform work in return for welfare checks.

The most valuable thing will quickly lose its value if the person who receives it must simply open his or her hand. So-called welfare legislation MUST be passed in this state and nation. Day care should be provided for single parents who then must work to receive welfare...but that every able bodied person should work in order to receive welfare, is an idea long overdue.

The balance of Rep. McDade's questionnaire...and responses to it, will be published next week.

### J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

He's back!

That is, Rep. Joseph McDade (R-10th) has issued yet another questionnaire which as regular readers know, is answered here each time one is issued...and to the issue at hand.

1. From what you've heard or read, do you support or oppose President Clinton's health care reform plan?

From this chair, Clinton's plan has been proposed the same way salary proposals are made during union negotiations—Clinton knows he's not going to get what he's proposed, so he's set the sights so high, in order to get what he really wants: universal coverage and portability; everyone being covered by health insurance, and with the ability to take that coverage from job to job...as such, and as far as it goes without knowing how such a plan will be paid for, yes the idea is supported here.

2. On the whole, are you satisfied with the health care available to you and your family?

This question perhaps more clearly defines the issue here. The U.S. has the finest health care in