

# The Dallas Post

## EDITORIALS

### Greco is not a victim at Harveys Lake

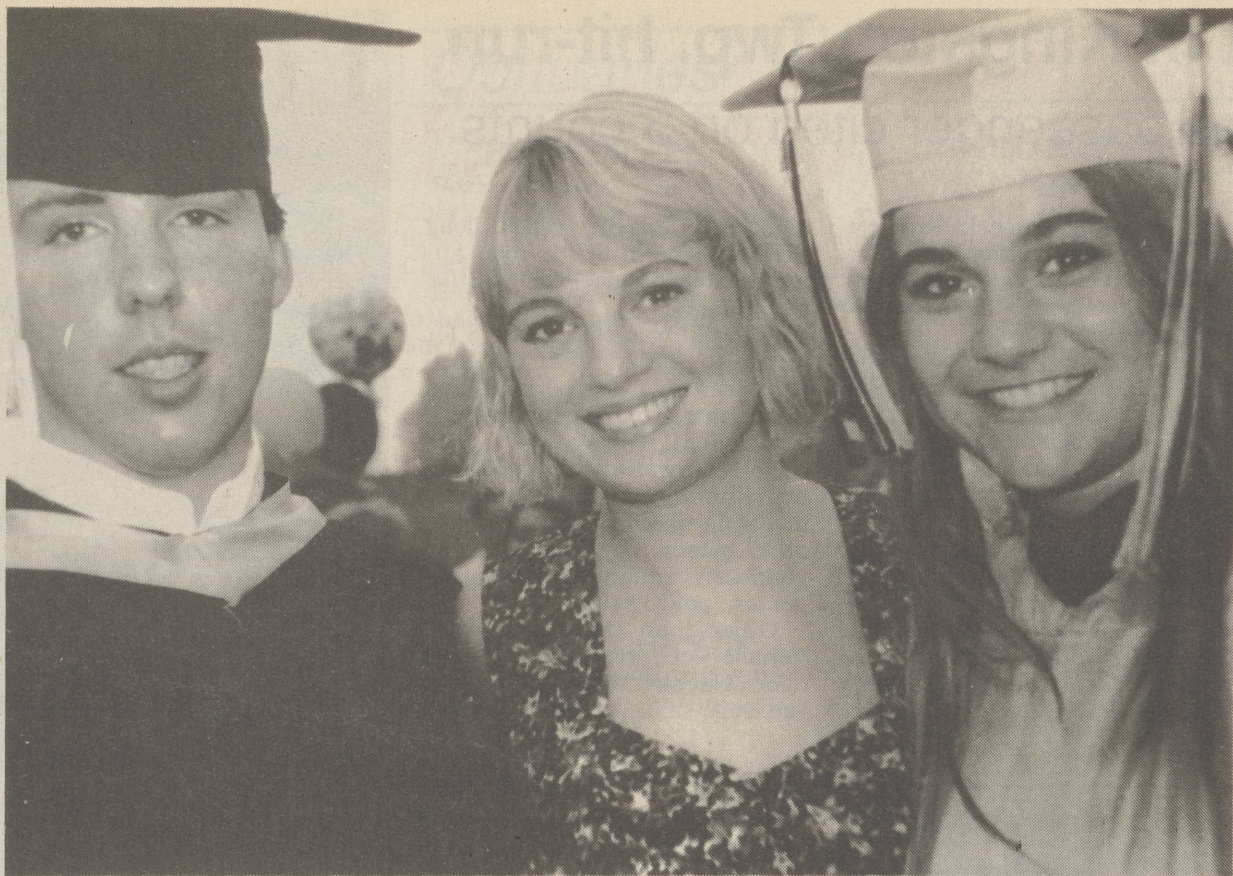
Poor Thom Greco. Despite his altruistic motives, "some reporters," the people, the mayor, and the borough council of Harveys Lake have conspired to bring on the demise of his entertainment complex.

"I have gotten a raw deal here, when all that I have tried to do is improve the quality of life in the area," he said last week. That's also what he said two years ago when the amphitheater project was launched; no one believed it then, nor should they now. And they certainly shouldn't accept the notion that obstructionists are the prime reason the complex lies fallow today.

If there was money to be made at the amphitheater or its associated facilities, you can bet Greco's ads would be assaulting your ears from every rock radio station around. Instead, he's found greener pastures at the Montage Mountain amphitheater, which can comfortably hold three times the crowd — and conceivably generate at least three times the profit — as the Harveys Lake stage.

As for complaints and complainers, the amphitheater and its shows weren't the target of most of them. The Tijuana Bar was, and with good reason, with loud music blaring long into the night several times a week. Concerts at the amphitheater generally ended by 10:30 and, while neighbors weren't thrilled with them, they didn't interfere with a decent night's rest. Yes, there were traffic and parking problems and occasional unruly behavior, but those could have been solved if a real effort had been made to do so.

The image of Thom Greco, spurned philanthropist, is about as accurate as Mother Theresa, grubby union-buster. The bottom line, as the saying goes, is that if Thom Greco knew how to make money at Harveys Lake you couldn't remove him with a crowbar.



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

### Happy grads

Lake-Lehman graduates Andy Sickert and Marikena Etchegoncelay, an exchange student from Argentina, flanked Holly Sickert after ceremonies June 17.

### Letters

#### Cleaning up litter will help our communities

**Editor:**  
We are Westmoreland fifth grade students in Trucksville and are studying our local government and its problems. The fifth grade chose littering as our main problem.

To help solve this problem we are making 70 posters to put in local community spots like grocery stores, department stores and

restaurants. The League of Womens Voters gave us a grant to have a poster contest.

Littering is bad for us, animals and our community.

In Mrs. Aldrow's homeroom we were planting trees and we saw garbage behind the school. People riding buses on Carverton Road on their way to school see litter on the side of the road.

When we walk around our neighborhood we see more and more litter every day.

In Toby's Creek by Pizza Perfect there is a lot of litter.

Littering can be stopped if everyone helps clean up.

Nicole Higdon  
Denise Kovaleski  
Brad Balutis  
Tony DeMarco

#### A few more questions and answers from Joe McDade

out begging the intelligence of those lucky enough to still be alive.

9. Do you support legislation banning the future manufacture, transfer, and possession of semi-automatic weapons?

Agreeing with the NRA, the issue here is not the weapon. Disagreeing with the NRA, the issue is one of decreasing odds of death if a weapon—any weapon—is used indiscriminately...in other words, for the same reason we have stop lights at intersections, we need greater control over other means of death, in particular, assault weapons which bring death so indiscriminately and rapidly...and I'm hard pressed to find practical civilian uses for weapons which are specifically designed as weapons of war...and as those weapons might fall into the wrong hands, they must be more strictly controlled from manufacture to distribution.

10. The Clean Water Act is to be reauthorized this year. Would you support higher water quality standards if they resulted in higher prices or taxes?

As with laws governing gun ownership and use, we need to enforce current laws, before imposing even more expensive ones.

11. Do you support the United States establishing normal diplomatic relations with Vietnam?

Yes...it's time to heal those wounds, and get on with the business of life...not wallow in

the relics of death...the Middle East could learn some lessons here.

12. In general, do you support the idea of the United States sending troops to participate in United Nations peacekeeping forces under U.N. command around the world?

It's often said, you can't influence the outcome of anything by hearing about the results later. Whether or not, we should become involved in all U.N. activities, and whether or not U.S. troops should be under U.N. command are different questions...which can only be answered given the political realities and circumstances of each situation.

13. Do you believe we are spending too little, too much or about the right amount for national defense and military purposes.

Loaded question, Joe...to a constituency which owes a great deal of its livelihood to the military/industrial complex.

14. On the whole, do you feel that the United States is headed in the right direction, or are we on the wrong track?

Would that be the track at Steamtown, Joe?

15. What is the top domestic issue facing the nation?

Health care, welfare reform, economy, environment, deficit reduction, crime...in that order, Joe.

### Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Former State Supreme Court judge Rolf Larsen got off easy last week, when he was sentenced to two years probation and 240 hours of community service after being convicted of conspiring to obtain tranquilizers and other mood-altering drugs in the names of his office employees. Convicted on two of 16 counts, Larsen still faces 27 counts of misconduct before the Judicial Conduct Board, including lying to a grand jury and sitting in judgement on cases involving his friends.

Larsen could have received a 20-month jail term for his convictions, but was given a lenient sentence partly on the grounds that he harmed no one. In the narrowest definition, that may be true, but the judge's infractions and his indulgent punishment do great harm to the concept of even-handed justice, especially in the eyes of anyone convicted of less reprehensible crimes but sentenced harshly because they had no friends in power.

The death of Angela Lakeberg drew attention to the best and worst qualities of the American medical "system." While it may have been nearly miraculous that baby Angela lived nearly a year after being separated from her conjoined twin, the whole exercise cost well over \$1 million and the time and attention of dozens of highly-trained medical specialists. Since her parents lacked health insurance, Illinois public assistance programs will be \$600,000 short after they pay that much of the bill. The hospital will "absorb" the balance, passing it on to everyone else. All that money could have provided basic health care to 300 families over the time of Angela's life.

It's not just a question of money. Was Angela's life improved by living in intensive care for a year, poked and prodded day and night? Was the slight chance that she could have survived — optimistically set at 1 in 100 — worth the investment? I think not, given that she would never have enjoyed anything approaching a normal life even had she lived. On the surface, the health care debate may be about financing and choice of doctors, but our irrational system will never be brought under control until we realize that when we expend resources and talent on the highest-risk patients, we also are taking care from those with much greater chances for survival. Like it or not, some people really are better off dead. And their survivors are better off letting go than clinging to false hope based on overwhelmingly long odds.

### 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.

## The Dallas Post

Published Weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc.  
P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612  
Telephone: 717-675-5211

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### J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

Continuing with answers to Rep. Joseph McDade's latest questionnaire, the balance of that exchange follows:

8. Do you support legislation to impose a "three strikes and you're out" mandatory life imprisonment for three-time repeat offenders of violent felony crimes?

This is the dumbest criminal justice idea to come down the pike in a long time. The only thing a two-time violent felony crime offender is going to consider when faced with killing or not killing his current victim is: "what the hell, why not, I'm going to go away forever, anyway...so why not just ice this..." Well you get the picture. The certainty of punishment for FIRST TIME felon offenders is what's needed, not this theoretically rehabilitative and more humane approach, while more and more innocent victims die at the hands of violent criminals...and I'm almost persuaded that the best defense for this society is rapid and certain capital punishment for violent felony offenders. That resolves the issue of repeat offenses with-

### As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

There are times when exposure to the names of today's popular music groups (the music itself I don't listen to) becomes almost more than I can stomach. In the words of Dorothy Parker, I feel like frowning up. And the artist's (?) names themselves aren't much better. Who the devil is "Snoop Doggy Dog" and why would he want to be called that? For that matter, who is Dr. Dre, and why is he becoming a millionaire?

A fellow I know was forming a rock band for some local moonlighting from regular jobs told me his group was planning to call itself "The Fuzzy Green Comode." I could not bring myself to hear his answer if I asked why, so I kept quiet. (Up to that point I had always thought him reasonably well balanced and intelligent, but my opinion quickly changed.) So you don't miss my point,

### Weird names: The Grateful Dead meet Rippling Rhythm

glance over these current titles from the top 50 on the charts: THE CRANBERRIES, FOURPLAY, ANTHRAX, BLIND MELON, INXS, CONFEDERATE RAILROAD, SPIN DOCTORS, COLOR ME BADD, ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT...I could continue but won't. What are they trying to say? Or do? Are these names simply to get attention, or shock, or both? If so are all record buyers in need of brain transplants?

And yet, **NOT SO FAST!** Upon sober reflection, perhaps every age must have its - what should they be called - foibles? Mine certainly did now that I come to think about it. In the thirties we weren't all that clean, for example, we had Spike Jones and the CITY SLICKERS; Red Nichols and his FIVE PENNIES; Al Katz and his KITTENS; Art Landry and the CALL OF THE WOODS (really); Ted Fiorito and the ORIOLE TERRACE orchestra.

That last was like many popular bands of that period, being named after the hotel which employed them the longest. For example, Xavier Cugat and his WILDORF ASTORIA orchestra; Bernie Cummings HOTEL NEW YORKER orchestra; Art Hickman and the HOTEL ST. FRANCIS orchestra, Abe Lyman and the

AMBASSADOR; and Herb Wiedoeft (California's Favorite!) and the CINDERELLA ROOF orchestra.

Then came Shep Fields and RIPPLING RHYTHM; Homer Guenette and the WASHINGTON SYNOCATERS; Guy Lombardo's ROYAL CANADIANS with "The Sweetest Music This Side of Heaven"; our very own SCRANTON SIRENS featuring Russ Morgan on trombone with "Music in the Morgan Manner"; Jan Savitt's TOPHATTERS; Andy Kirk's CLOUDS OF JOY; Gray Gordon's TIC TOC RHYTHM; Lloyd Huntley and the ISLE O'BLUE orchestra, and Glen Gray's CASA LOMA.

There were many bands with Pennsylvania in their title, but none more famous than Fred Waring's PENNSYLVANIANS. There was also Terrig Tucci's LATIN AMERICANS, whose claim to fame was that they recorded La Cucaracha twice. Finally, the DON VORHEES orchestra, who once recorded the longest song title on record: "When The Morning Glories Wake Up in the Morning Then I'll Kiss Your Two Lips Goodnight." There is no record of it having made the top ten.

Did I prove my point? But, we had nothing like THE GRATEFUL DEAD!

### Only yesterday

#### 60 Years Ago - June 29, 1934 STATE HELPS BORO PAY ITS TEACHERS

The annual supper and lawn social of St. Therese's, Shavertown will be held July 11 on the grounds adjoining the rectory. Rev. John J. O'Leary, pastor and his curates look forward to a party that will even surpass the successful affair of last summer.

Receipt of \$4,500 from the State Emergency Fund was announced this week by Dallas Borough School Board, which will be able to pay teachers' salaries as a result of the State's help.

You could get - Scott tissue, 3 rolls 20¢; Chase & Sanborn Coffee, 1 lb. tin, 32¢; vinegar, qt. bot., 10¢; Palmolive Toilet Soap, 2 cakes, 9¢.

#### 50 Years Ago - June 23, 1944 SHAVER RETURNS FROM GUADACANAL

Willard Shaver, veteran of five months on Guadalcanal, returned to Dallas a few weeks ago, after a year in hospitals at San Diego and Fort Worth, Texas. Eleven months overseas with Marine engineers, he took part in five major battles at Guadalcanal for which he received five stars on his Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbon.

Fifty members of Civilian Defense in the Back Mountain area who are working on the soldier ballot canvass expect to complete their work and make final reports to the Judge of Elections July 7.

Now playing at the Shaver Theatre, "Cross of Lorraine," starring Gene Kelly and Jean Pierre Aumont.

#### 40 Years Ago - June 25, 1954 AREA BAWDYHOUSE RUMORS UNFOUNDED

Vicious rumors of the type that destroy personal character have been spreading throughout the Back Mountain Region for several weeks, concerning supposed State Police raids against bawdy houses and motels in Dallas Township and Shavertown. The Dallas Post has investigated these malicious rumors which have been spread without investigation and finds they are entirely unfounded.

This year's running of the historic and thrilling Giants' Despair Hill Climb and Bryn fan Tyddyn Road Races, scheduled for July 22-24 will benefit Wyoming Valley Hospital. Last year's race benefited General Hospital.

A baking contest will be a feature of Gate of Heaven's Fiesta June 30 and July 1. Contestants are invited to bring their favorite product either day. Anybody is eligible. Ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded.

#### 30 Years Ago - June 25, 1964 CHICKEN BAR-B-Q KICKS OFF AUCTION

The Library Auction will start its activities with a Chicken Barbecue at the Gate of Heaven School parking lot, July 9. Legionnaires of Post 672 will provide efficient services and Phil Shalanca, Plymouth will prepare the chicken for the barbecue.

Enormously popular Rev. Richard E. Frank, assistant pastor of Gate of Heaven Church, leaves for Scranton where he will be assistant pastor of St. John the Baptist on South Main Street. Rev. Frank has been in Dallas the past 11 years, almost from the birth of a parish, which was once a mission from St. Therese's but attained individual stature when the parochial school was started.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Culp, Overbrook Road, Huntsville, will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary June 28. The couple are the parents of seven children and eight grandchildren.

#### 20 Years Ago - June 27, 1974 DAMA REASSESSES LOTS AT END OF LINE

Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. and Dallas Ambulance Association have merged and will be known as Dallas Fire and Ambulance Inc.

DAMA voted to reassess all end-of-the-line properties for sewer-line front footage. The "Case Four Assessment Rule" states that anyone at the end of a sewer line will be charged full front footage, not to exceed 75 feet for their assessment. Several of 400 property owners involved have objected to paying the front footage assessment because they only had a few feet of sewer line in front of their property. These objections have been investigated by DAMA and after much study, it has been decided to reassess and rebill those involved in the "Case Four Assessment".

Dallas Recreation Center is in full swing for the summer. The Center will sponsor a hoagie sale proceeds to go towards new equipment and expenses for special events and trips.