

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Orchids and onions

From time to time this column will take note of actions or achievements in and around the Back Mountain that might not otherwise receive comment. If you know of someone who should be recognized or chastised here, send a note along with your name and a phone number at which to reach you.

ORCHID to Harveys Lake councilman Fran Kopko, who suggested the council take no further action on a resolution to suspend a section of the zoning ordinance. The section deals with non-conforming uses in the shoreline area, and had been proposed by another councilman who is in the midst of dispute over just such a situation.

ONION to the young people responsible for defacing and destroying property around the Back Mountain. It's fashionable these days to blame one's shortcomings on someone else, but the sins of your parents or other role models are not a viable excuse for criminal activity. If you don't learn now to take responsibility for your own actions, you are facing a difficult life.

ORCHID to the volunteer emergency personnel who serve in the Back Mountain's fire and ambulance squads. Whether it's squelching a fire like the one at Countryside Inn or intervening to save the life of an elderly fall victim, your efforts are truly appreciated.

ONION to Fred Searles, Sr., who has for years decorated his property along Mount Olivet Road in Kingston Township with broken-down garbage trucks, some clearly on the township's right-of-way. But the council has had enough, and last week authorized the solicitor to take legal action to force a cleanup.

ORCHID to the Dallas High School field hockey team, which earned a spot in district playoffs for the 10th consecutive year. By the time this is read, there may be four more local high school teams in playoffs, and the cross country and golf teams will have wound up excellent seasons as well.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



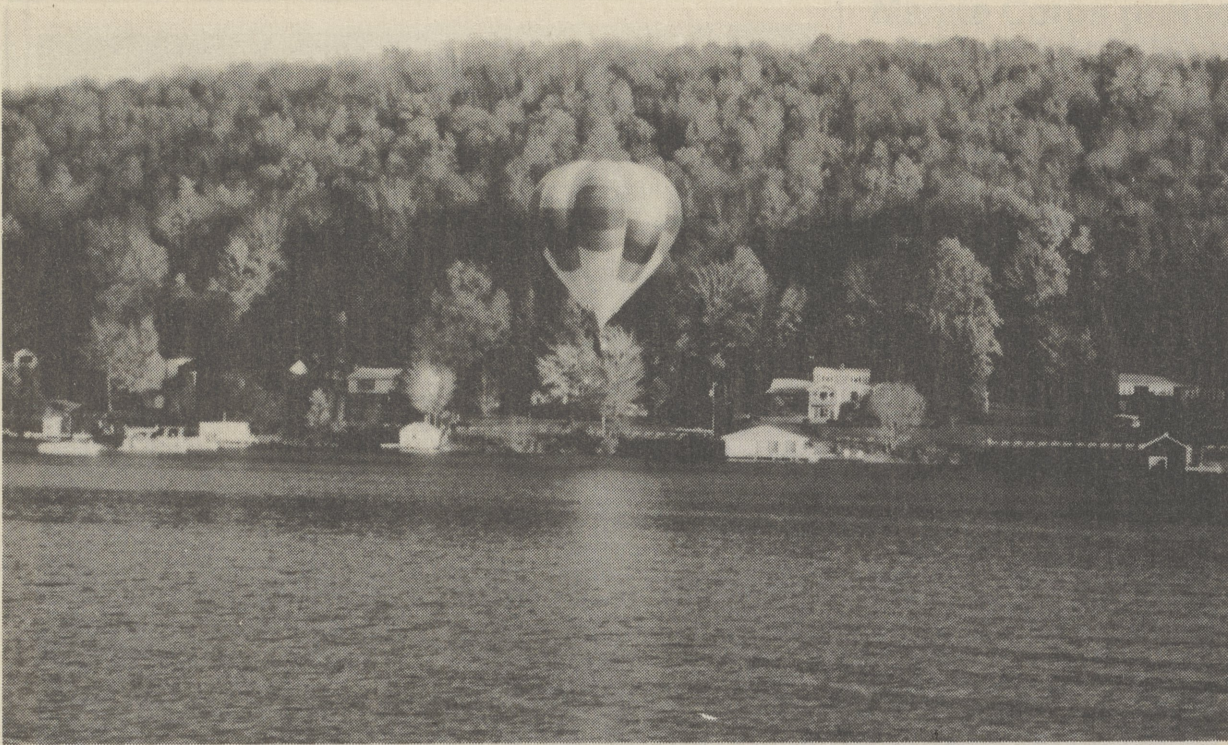
I am shocked that CNN agreed to postpone airing an interview with a woman who claims O.J. Simpson threatened to kill his wife just weeks before her murder. Two other news organizations received the same request from the judge in the case, and respectfully turned it down.

CNN apparently bought Judge Lance Ito's argument that publicizing the claim could prejudice potential jurors. But how does CNN justify hiding information that may be harmful to Simpson when the network has aired the views of so many defenders? And, since the accusation comes in a book that is now on sale, what does the network think it will accomplish by failing to both air the claims and challenge them? Finally, if CNN is so sensitive to O.J. Simpson's plight and the damage unsubstantiated accusations may cause him, why have they aired so many wild allegations about President Clinton's past behavior? Perhaps it's because O.J. is one of their own — a media celebrity — and Clinton is just the President of the United States.

I believe the media has a responsibility to use good judgement in deciding what to publish and what to withhold; the sheer volume of information available forces us to do so all the time, and we take into account the suggestions of others. If I was CNN's editor, for example, you would see only a fraction of what airs now on this admittedly sensational case that bears so little relevance to most people's lives — thank goodness.

The controversy swirling around a countywide 911 emergency service dispatching system is growing more heated as its proponents sense defeat. In an article in last Wednesday's Times Leader, Kevin O'Brien the county coordinator of the project, resorted to blatant fear-mongering, warning ominously that "...it could cost somebody his life." He was speaking about the few seconds it takes for call-forwarding 911 systems, like the one here, to connect to a dispatcher, and the additional information an "enhanced" 911 system would provide. Later in the article, Dallas Borough resident Ted Wright blamed resistance to the county plan on "politics," claiming that people on the local Comm Center board are buying votes by handing out jobs. But a week earlier, in a column published in The Post, Wright said at least two employees don't live here, including the chief dispatcher. Besides, no fan of the county system should want to get in a comparison of who has cleaner politics, the county or the Back Mountain.

One thing that really bugs me is people who pick up a newspaper from the rack in a store, read it, then put it back down without paying for it. That often leaves a sloppily folded paper on top of the pile for the next person who looks at the display. Last week, I saw an employee of a food store leisurely reading a paper at the display. I wonder how the store manager would like it if I sampled an apple, then put it back without paying for it.



A beautiful fall day at Harveys Lake Photo by Marion Attanasio

O'Connell on sabattical: Dallas Post editorial cartoonist Jim O'Connell is tied up with other projects, so he'll be taking a break from drawing his weekly cartoon. He's expected back soon.

A Case for Conservation



Alene N. Case

Some of my best friends have complained that I am "apolitical." By that they mean that I do not join them on phone banks or in leafleting campaigns on behalf of particular candidates. This is not likely to change. But, these same friends know that I have voted regularly, and that I tend to let our elected officials know my views on the issues. That is not likely to change either. However, the lack of emphasis on conservation issues in this election year has prompted me to air my views in a somewhat uncharacteristically public way.

The first indication that something was wrong came when I took part in a telephone survey in late summer. The interviewer read a list of concerns that voters might have and asked me to tell her how these concerns should be ranked. Environmental issues were not even included in the list! I insisted that she add them. Then, I began to notice that environmental issues were being totally ignored in campaign advertisements (well, there was one ad about a recycling plant but it was more about small business than about conservation).

As I recall, at least 90% of all Americans claim to be concerned about their environment. So, why aren't we calling for open debate among candidates for public office on this issue? Why aren't we demanding that they explain why three major issues remained unresolved when the U.S. Congress adjourned this fall? Those issues involve the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the "Superfund." Do we suddenly not care?

Where political figures stand on environmental issues

Most of the candidates for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and Governor have established voting records from which we might draw a few conclusions. The League of Conservation Voters publishes a scorecard at the end of each session of Congress. The most recent one gives records to the first session of the 103rd Congress (1993). It also compares each congressperson's record in that year (as a percentage) to their records in the two previous Congresses. The House held votes on 20 environmental issues ranging from wildlife refuges to grazing reform. The Senate held 16 votes on similar issues. Let's see how the candidates compare.

In 1993, Senator Harris Wofford had an amazing 94% conservation voting record. His only blemish was that he had not co-sponsored the Arctic National Wildlife Protection Act. In his first year in office, he had a respectable 76% record. Since our other Senator, Arlen Specter, has been steadily declining in his support for environmental concerns (64% in '89-'90, 45% in '91-'92 and 38% in '93), I think that Wofford would do well to emphasize this strength. Wofford's opponent could also claim some improvement: Santorum has jumped from an abysmal 9% in the 102nd Congress to

25% in 1993. I took special pains to notice whether or not this deplorable voting record was the result of absences (since many ads have accused him of not showing up for votes), but he actually voted on all the recorded issues.

Representative Paul Kanjorski has begun to think that his constituents no longer expect him to support environmental legislation. At least it appears that way when his record has slumped from 83% in '89-'90 to 60% last year. If we continue to allow our representatives to ignore these issues, other congresspersons may also begin "sitting on the fence." Kanjorski may be a comfortable incumbent, but we should begin to ask him some tough questions about local and national issues.

Both Mark Singel and Tom Ridge have written position papers on the state of environmental enforcement in Pennsylvania. On the surface, the summaries I have read look quite reasonable. Singel is safe from League of Conservation Voters' scrutiny. But, Ridge had a worse record (20% than Santorum last year and he missed three important votes! He, therefore, cannot claim to be the best person to overhaul our state Department of Environmental Resources.

We, as voters, have the responsibility to demand that candidates speak the truth about all issues — not just those that are currently popular. Otherwise, our politicians will continue to oppose environmental actions, and we will be blissfully ignorant until some problem surfaces that directly affects our community. We need to put environmental concerns back on the list!

Letters

Soccer should be fun, not dangerous

Editor:
We would like to thank the doctors and nurses who volunteered assistance at Newman Field on Saturday, October 8, when our son Robbie was injured during a soccer game.

Of course we would be remiss in not publicly thanking those who are so often forgotten, after the crisis has passed — the paramedics, the Dallas Volunteer Ambulance crew responding to the call, and the Nesbitt emergency room staff.

A very special thanks to Rob-

bie's coaches who were by his side until the ambulance left the field. The head coach even waited outside the emergency room through the anxious hours until he knew Robbie was out of danger.

We also wish to alert the Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association of a potentially hazardous situation. We realize all contact sports carry an element of risk, but for an opposing team member (not a Back Mountain team, in this case) to intentionally trip a player from behind is not acceptable nor in the spirit of sports-

manship.

We feel that red carding is not enough. He should be sidelined for the remainder of the season for the continued safety of all players in the region.

Fortunately our son was not seriously injured. He could have been paralyzed at the age of 13 during a recreational game. This is a very high price to pay for participating in a sport he loves, because someone else forgot it was only a game.

Bruce and Judy Neil
Dallas

Who ya gonna call? Ghostwriter

Editor:
I thoroughly enjoyed Paul Rismiller's Ghostwriter debut in the October 19 Dallas Post. His characterization of Mike McGlynn from the Citizens' Voice was extremely kind hearted. Mr. McGlynn's columns are so full of hyperbolic obfuscation and pedantic vitriol that they ought to be used in writing courses as examples of

how not to become a newspaper columnist.

I'm looking forward to more of Mr. Rismiller in the future and can only hope that he avoids the pitfalls of self proclaimed fame which has effected so many other local writers.

While we're passing out compliments, please include John W. Johnson on the list of entertain-

ing and informative columnists The Dallas Post has seen fit to print. This is not an afterthought, I've been one of the silent supporters of J.W.J. since his first appearance in a much improved and highly readable Dallas Post. Keep up the good work.

John P. Bergevin
Dallas

Federal Officials

Representative Paul E. Kanjorski (PA 11th District) (Democrat)
Wilkes-Barre: 825-2200
Washington: (202) 225-6511
Address: 10 E. South St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18701-2397
or 2429 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515

Senator Arlen Specter (Republican)
Wilkes-Barre: 826-6265
Washington: (202) 224-4254
Address: 116 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18701

Senator Harris Wofford (Democrat)
Telephone
Scranton: 347-2341
Washington: (202) 224-6324
Address: 116 N. Washington Ave., Suite 3K, Scranton PA 18503

State Officials
State Sen. Charles D. Lemmond (R)

(717) 288-3925 or 287-0475
701 West Market Street, Kingston PA 18704-3496
Lemmond's district includes the Back Mountain.

State Rep. George Hasay (R)
287-7505 or 542-7345 or 474-2276 or 477-3752

369 South Mountain Boulevard, Mountaintop PA 18707
Hasay's district encompasses: Harveys Lake, Lehman Township, Jackson Township, Lake Township, Franklin Township, Ross Township, and Dallas Township's north voting district.

State Rep. Phyllis Mundy (D)
283-9622 or 655-3375
Suite 107, 400 Third Avenue, Kingston PA 18704
Mundy's district encompasses: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township except for the north voting district, and Kingston Township.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Nov. 2, 1934 LEHMAN VOTERS TO VOTE ON LIQUOR SALE

A poll on a local option in Lehman Twp. and the vote on a proposed \$25,000 bond issue in Dallas will be the major feature of the general election here next Tuesday. Lehman Township, one of six Luzerne County communities, will decide whether the sale of intoxicants will be permitted in their confines.

Complaints that Dallas Water Co. has failed to supply adequate service to homes in Dallas Borough and Dallas Township were upheld by the Public Service Commission. Herman J. Goldberg, member of the Commission ordered the company's engineers to prepare a plan for relieving the situation and to present it to the Commission within 30 days.

50 Years Ago - Oct. 27, 1944 NULTON WRITES HOME FROM GERMAN PRISON

Two postal cards in his own handwriting and arriving on the same day are the first direct information Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nulton of Beaumont have had from their son Paul Jr. since he was taken prisoner by the Germans on July 17.

D.A. Ide, manager of the Montrose District of Commonwealth Telephone Co. has been named manager of the Dallas District, to succeed Harold Payne recently promoted to assistant general manager of the company.

You could get - Stewing chicken 35¢ lb.; veal rump roast 29¢ lb.; lettuce 10¢ hd.; 50-lb. bag \$1.59.

40 Years Ago - Oct. 29, 1954 KOCHER SAVES CHILD

Ted Kocher, trash collector, formerly of Shavertown rescued two year old Larry Spaciano, who had fallen into a pond while playing with a playmate, Raymond Sulger who called his mother. Kocher, who had just finished his collection, pulled him out immediately and applied artificial respiration which he had learned while in Navy boot camp. Nesbitt Hospital reports Larry is resting well.

Caroline Davis, daughter of Mrs. Alice Davis, Trucksville, has been missing over two months. There is no suspicion of foul play. Caroline went voluntarily and alone, taking a bus to Wilkes-Barre and to the Greyhound Bus station and taking a bus to New Jersey, where she planned to take a job as a waitress. Mrs. Davis asks that anybody who may have knowledge of Caroline's whereabouts get in touch with her, not holding back vitally needed information from any misplaced feeling of loyalty.

30 Years Ago - Oct. 29, 1964 TRUCKSVILLE FIRE HALL BITES THE DUST

Trucksville Fire Hall will soon be among the memories of yesterday as workmen began tearing down the structure. Equipment will be housed in the new Kingston Township Building, which serves as a combination official meeting spot, fire hall and civil defense storage basement.

Well over 1,000 spectators thoroughly enjoyed the Womanless Wedding sponsored by Dallas Kiwanis Club at the Dallas Senior High School. The cast, made up of members and community friends, presented three performances in hilarious fashion. Surprise of the night was Robert Dolbear in a platinum wig who sang the wedding music with gusto.

Mr. and Mrs. Seth Howell, Roushey St., Shavertown celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary Oct. 28. They are the parents of Mrs. Geraldine Pope and have two grandchildren.

20 Years Ago - Oct. 31, 1974 HALLOWEEN PARADE IS A BIG SUCCESS

College Misericordia's newly formed Circle K Club was formally inducted into the Kiwanis organization last week in ceremonies conducted at Irem Temple Club by the Dallas Kiwanis Club. The club has already completed two projects since its formation at Misericordia.

Over 3,000 people turned out for the Halloween parade Sunday in Dallas. Six hundred youngsters lined up at Dallas Township Elementary School for the beginning of the march which ended in the Acme parking lot in Dallas, for the awarding of prizes.

Crystale Barber, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Barber, Harveys Lake, a patient at St. Christopher Children's Hospital in Philadelphia is receiving hemodialysis treatments. She received a kidney transplant with her father as donor. The success of the transplant is still not known.

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VOTED 3rd BEST SMALL WEEKLY IN THE U.S., 1993