

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Let's face up to state, national challenges

No matter who came out the winner in Tuesday's elections, it is time for legislators in Harrisburg and Washington to pull back from the partisan bickering that has been a drag on America's psyche and progress. The recent Congressional gridlock is living testament to the Founding Fathers' fear that political parties would muck up the works of good government. How prescient they were.

A conservative friend (he says he's really quite liberal, but the definitions have changed over the years) points out that the essence of political campaign talk is an assertion that one candidate can do more for us than the other. I've listened closely, and he's correct. Even the most right-wing candidate assures people that if only he's elected, he or she can make our lives better. Is this really what we hold elections for?

There are a number of issues of great importance facing this nation, many of them economic concerns that spring from the massive baby boom generation which followed World War II. We are approaching a time when there will be fewer workers providing tax money to pay for Social Security and other programs that will balloon to record levels simply because of the number of people eligible to collect benefits. Advertising in the race for Harris Wofford's U.S. Senate seat addressed this looming crisis in the most divisive terms. And this is only one facet of an inevitable clash of generations if we fail to act.

Wise observers of the coming crises say relatively minor adjustments taken now will avoid draconian action later. Meaningful reforms, whether they be tax increases or spending cuts, will come only from a Congress and executive branch working together instead of at cross purposes. Our \$5 trillion debt is the frightful legacy of decades of cowardice in Washington. We can't afford many more years of such irresponsibility.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



It was a serious matter when 30 or more youths, most students at Dallas schools, congregated at the Westmoreland school, some of them engaging in a fight. While primarily of concern to the parents of the young people involved, because the ruckus took place on school property it was important that the school district take action. But, really, the whole thing has been blown way out of proportion by a succession of news stories and columns that have portrayed attendance at a teenage rumble as though it was the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

The greatest disservice has been done to young men who were part of the melee and who also happen to be football players. *Times Leader* columnist Steve Corbett apparently holds football stars to a different standard than anyone else, since he devoted an entire column last week to two players said to be involved. Not content simply to toss mud, he went out of his way to identify them as clearly as possible while not printing their names.

But Corbett's not alone. The first question on many people's lips was whether or not football players were involved. I'm not a great football fan and have said many times in this space that athletics probably get too much attention in our schools. But I see no reason to single out and attack students who play a particular sport. Did anyone wonder if honor students were there? I'll bet dollars to doughnuts there was at least one. How about band members? Why, there might even have been a nerd or two hanging around.

At one point, Corbett remarks about the level of immaturity displayed in the incident. Perhaps he is surprised that high schoolers aren't fully mature. The next step is for Corbett to appear on the Fred Williams radio show and join the host in verbally bashing young people for a host of perceived shortcomings, none of which, apparently, are shared by people above a certain chronological age no matter how lame-brained their thoughts. If Corbett was such a high-minded public citizen in his own youth, it certainly wasn't apparent in the tone of his scribbles last week.

I'm not yet a geezer, but in my day, scraps between high-school age kids weren't all that unusual, and most people took the view that when a youngster (we weren't yet called youths) got out of line, the parents were to be notified and were expected to deal out appropriate punishment. Not anymore, apparently. Now, a teenage fight seems to be the launching pad for sanctimonious pronouncements about the failings of people who are too young to vote. Perhaps this overblown reaction is a cover for the insecurities of members of an older generation who must find fault with anyone handy in order to feel better about themselves.

Should the fight have taken place? No. Should weapons have been present? No. Should the participants be punished? Sure, by their parents, not by mean-spirited commentary in the press.



No Problem

It's unlikely this horse-drawn carriage will exceed the limit on Sutton Creek Road in Franklin Township. Photo by Ron Bartizek.

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

In 1865 a war ended in which Americans killed each other by the thousands - 600,000 to be exact. Yet generations later very little about that bitter struggle is remembered. Even less was known in later years about survivors.

A half-century later would have made the year 1915, so not too many around today will recall celebrating that anniversary. Then Civil War veterans were becoming fewer in number and, when seen in Armistice Day parades - riding, seldom marching - were frail and wrinkled but spruced up in their Sunday best.

Several wars later, America went overseas for a massive conflict called World War II and our current year marks its own 50th anniversary celebration. Again, generations are largely unaware of its importance. Again, its surviving veterans are getting scarcer by the day, and wrinkled, and marching less.

Remembering veterans

I found this out the hard way, by trying to find some for interviews. My Post editor had suggested I try a feature article for the June 1st issue, which would commemorate D-Day, that June 6, 1944 date when American, Canadian and British troops invaded the continent of Europe to end the Nazi threat to the world.

That commemoration was appropriate, and a Post editorial from that issue, Vol. 105, No. 22, says it better than I can. I wish I had written it, for here is one paragraph:

"We are now two full generations away from World War II and in a few years there will be no one left to tell of its horrors and heroism. As the participants leave us, events like the 50th commemoration of D-Day become important reminders of the source of our present-day comfort and security. We must never forget that our parents and grandparents truly saved the world, whether on the beaches of Normandy or Anzio, or in the jungles of the South Pacific. Were it not for their bravery and skill we might be living under the thumb of a mad despot. At the very least we would be facing such a foe across one or both oceans."

Well, it took some doing but I finally found my first vet - Emmett Hoover of Troxell Switch Road, and my first vet feature appeared in print. Thinking I might surprise him, early that Wednesday I took some extra papers out to him (he is loaded with both kids and grandkids!) only to find a daughter had beaten me to it. As I walked up his drive, Emmett appeared and called out, "Gee, you're making me as famous as Dan Flood!"

Others showed up, one seemed to lead to another, and in a few more months five other veterans were featured: Ed Smith of Harveys Lake, a POW in Germany; Lamar Sharpe, Trucksville, a B24 flight engineer; Al Brown, Shavertown, another German POW; Bob Bayer, Shavertown, a B17 tail gunner; and Bill Smith, Orange, a USS Princeton radar technician.

Now it just might be, as complete coverage as we attempted, we may have missed someone, somewhere in the Back Mountain, whose WWII contribution needs to be noted. Easy remedy - that someone, or that someone's relative, can call or write the Post and I'll be in touch. Have notebook. Will travel.

There are fewer voices left to tell us the importance - and horrors - of war

The Back Mountain's World War II Honor Roll

The following is the list of area servicemen who died in World War II, as it appeared in The Dallas Post in 1947.

WE REMEMBER

Killed in Action

- Richard Wellington Cease, January 29, 1942
- Keats Poad, March 3, 1942
- Donald Freeman, March 31, 1942
- Walter Cecil Wilson, June 28, 1942
- Harold Thomas Kepner, December 19, 1942
- John P. Gleason, March 30, 1943
- John E. Fritz, May 7, 1943
- Clifford S. Nulton, November 26, 1943
- Elwood Blizzard, March 1, 1944
- Robert Ressigue, April 20, 1944
- Robert A. Girvan, May 14, 1944
- Samuel Galletti, May 23, 1944
- Otto W. Harzdorf, June 1, 1944
- James DeAngelo, June 22, 1944
- William Stritzinger, July 9, 1944
- Herbert C. Culp, July 12, 1944
- Elwood R. Renshaw, August 20, 1944
- James B. Davies, August 25, 1944
- Frederick Loveland, September 12, 1944
- Harry Bean, September 13, 1944
- Edward Metzgar, October 12, 1944
- Charles Kinsman, November 5, 1944
- Donald J. Misson, December 11, 1944
- William J. Garey, December 12, 1944
- Paul S. Kocher, December 17, 1944
- Joseph Yanek, December 22, 1944
- John E. Reese, December 26, 1944

- George H. Ray, January 9, 1945
- Chester Gorczynski, January 10, 1945
- Theodore Scouten, January 12, 1945
- Harry S. Smith, January 15, 1945
- William Snyder Frantz, January 22, 1945
- Edison Walters, February 1, 1945
- Lester L. Culver, February 9, 1945
- Joseph Rushinko, March 11, 1945
- Donald J. Malkemes, March 16, 1945
- Arden R. Evans, March 19, 1945
- Daniel T. Morris, April 11, 1945
- William Phillips, May 4, 1945
- David Decker, May 14, 1945
- Richard E. Jones, May 27, 1945
- Burton E. Bonell, August 28, 1945

Died in Service

- George Utrich, May 6, 1942
- Howard A. Cosgrove, July 3, 1942
- Robert F. Reilly, June 10, 1943
- Thomas Clark Lloyd, July 4, 1943
- Evan J. Brace, February 15, 1944
- George S. Race, October 26, 1944
- John Laity, January 1, 1945
- Raymond H. Loveland, January 8, 1945
- Joseph Polachek, January 22, 1945
- Roy G. Schultz, February 19, 1945
- Lawrence Gavek, February 26, 1945
- Howard E. Lynn, April 1, 1945
- Charles Billings, April 3, 1945
- Francis Sidorick, June 17, 1945
- Francis Grey, June 25, 1945
- Ralph Flowers, October 13, 1945
- Michael W. O'Boyle, December 29, 1945

Federal Officials

Congress

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

Senator Arlen Specter (Republican)
Telephone: Wilkes-Barre: 826-6265
Washington: (202) 224-4254
Address: 116 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre PA 18701

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

Have a bright idea?

Share it with your neighbors by writing to The Dallas Post. We welcome letters to the editor and longer pieces that may run as guest columns. Send yours to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612, or drop it off at our office at 45 Main Road, Dallas (across from Offset Paperback). Be sure to include your name, address and daytime phone number.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Nov. 16, 1934 SCARLET FEVER HITS BACK MOUNTAIN

An outbreak of scarlet fever in Dallas Township was reported by Elmer Kerr, district health officer. Five children have been stricken and two cases are under investigation. An effort to bar progress of the contagion is underway.

Quick action by members of Henry M. Laing Fire Co. assisted by the Shavertown Chemical Corps, prevented a serious blaze on Wednesday morning when papers around the chimney in the residence of Lewis Stritzinger, Lincoln St., Fernbrook, ignited.

You could get - Sugar, 10 lbs., 51¢; Porl loin roast, 14¢ lb.; smoked hams, whole or shank half, 19¢ lb.; Bokar coffee, 1 lb. can, 27¢; Scot Tissue, 3 rolls, 20¢.

50 Years Ago - Nov. 10, 1944 LEHMAN SCHOOLS SET WAR BONDS RECORD

Lehman Township schools have achieved the distinction of being the first schools in Luzerne County where 90% of the student body is buying War Bonds and Stamps. Shortly the schools will receive a Minute Man Flag which will be flown beneath the American Flag on the school flagpole.

First two carloads of a shipment of 1/2 million gas masks and chemical containers purchased from the U.S. Government by Mountain Evergreen Co. for salvage purposes and shipped here from the Boston Chemical Warfare Procurement District arrived at the Lehigh Valley freight depot in Dallas this week.

Now playing at Shaver Theatre, "Two Girls and a Sailor" with Van Johnson, June Allyson and Gloria De Haven.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 12, 1954 GAYS NAB 300-LB BEAR ON THEIR FARM

George Gay, Tunkhannock, and son George Jr., 14, shot a bear estimated at 300 lbs. at their farm in Sugar Hollow early Monday morning. The bear, according to Mr. Gay, had killed five sheep and torn apart beehives on his farm since early last month.

Miss Miriam Lathrop, Back Mountain Memorial Library librarian and Miss Emily Goldsmith, librarian, for the past six years at Dallas-Franklin Township Schools, spent three days at Buck Hill Falls last week attending the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Library Association.

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church bazaar hung up a new record of \$1,400 Friday and Saturday of last week, exceeding its quota in all departments. As the purchaser who found a big silver dollar in a 50¢ surprise package, remarked, "That's what I call getting your money's worth"

30 Years Ago - Nov. 12, 1964 HEDDEN LOW BIDDER FOR POST OFFICE JOB

Low bidder on the proposed post office and federal office building to be located on the site of Dallas depot is Raymon Hedden & Co. of Dallas. *The Post* learned this week. Hedden confirmed this yesterday and said he still is awaiting word of contract from the government.

Fire scorched a bedroom at the Wolcicki's Westmoreland home around 3:30 p.m. Bobby Wolcicki, 7 years old, home from school, ran to his mother and told her, her bedroom was on fire. Smoke and water damaged much of the rest of the new split level. Trucksville Fire Co. and Shavertown Co. assisted in holding the blaze to the single room.

You could get - Boneless round roast, 75¢ lb.; seedless grapefruit, 6/49¢; Virginia Lee Raisin bread, 29¢ loaf; Ideal applesauce, 4 #303 cans 59¢.

20 Years Ago - Nov. 14, 1974 CROSS VALLEY MAY BE ON HOLD - AGAIN

At press time Tuesday, *The Post* learned from unconfirmed reports that the Back Mountain portion of the proposed North Cross Valley Expressway may be deferred for another six years. The project, long overdue, has remained a high priority with PennDOT for years and portions of the major artery are in construction stages. The new highway would link the Back Mountain area with I-81 near the Veterans Hospital in Wilkes-Barre. Striking Newspaper Guild workers of Wilkes-Barre Publishing Co. will meet with state mediator A. Andreoli and company spokesmen Thursday at 10 in Gus Genetti's Hotel, Wilkes-Barre. Striking Guildsmen have been without a contract since Dec. 1, 1973. International Typographical Union employees have worked without a contract since last month.

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