

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

School plan is only the start of education

The Lake-Lehman School District recently adopted a new strategic plan, with some admirable new goals and many worthy old ones. Like all policy statements, it will be only as good as its implementation, no matter how impressive its words.

The two most significant additions are the requirement that all students produce a senior project, and each learn a second language well enough to communicate in day-to-day matters. In addition, a portfolio of each student's best work will follow him or her through the system. In theory, this will show what the student is capable of, and provide insight for each succeeding teacher.

The new plan doesn't make great changes in the priorities of administrators and teachers in the district, nor should it. It does incorporate the new "learning outcomes" required by the state, most of which are focused on proving a student's competence before graduation. The most important suggestion the state made was that the curriculum be responsive to the needs of the students and the community, providing them with an educational base suited to varying abilities and aptitudes. Along that line, new superintendent William Price says he would like to see typing courses include word processing skills, and bookkeeping add training in computer spreadsheet programs.

Public interest was curiously absent in the 30 days leading up to the board's vote on the new plan. Board member Patricia Gold, who was elected in part on the strength of her concerns about the new plan, was one of only three persons to view the plan prior to adoption, and one of the others was an official from the Crestwood School District. An informational meeting drew fewer than 20 people, according to Dr. Price.

That is quite a contrast to the chorus of criticism that greeted the introduction of outcome-based education a couple of years ago. At that point, you could be forgiven for thinking the proposed changes were the work of the devil, or at least of Communists. Yet, when the time came to actually learn about what was being proposed, only a handful of people could be bothered. Perhaps in the interim they have come to realize that OBE isn't the radical idea it was thought to be, or maybe opponents have shown their interest is only skin deep.

There's an old African saying that it takes an entire village to raise a child. Certainly it takes more than a shiny new plan and teachers to educate youngsters. Parents, other family members, business people and others must continually reinforce the importance of education in children's lives now and in the future, or all the planning will be of no value.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



We're just back from a week at Club Med in the Dominican Republic, and it was a great vacation. Every good thing we had heard about Club Med proved true, and nothing was disappointing, except having to leave. This resort had organized activities for children over the age of two, so Katie and Carl took the opportunity to make new friends and try new activities. One big hit was the flying trapeze — a real one complete with professional coaches and safety harnesses. It was not easy for a five and eight year old to overcome the fear of climbing about 30 feet up a shaky ladder, then swinging on a bar over the net, but they did it. So did Charlotte.

Club Med is truly an international destination, and we met and spoke with people from seven nations. I had a chance to try out my Berlitz-tape French and Charlotte was able to put her German to good use. We also met families from Canada, Argentina, Austria and Belgium, and GOs (gentils organisateurs) from Australia and New Zealand. The food — one of Club Med's big attractions — was generous and well-prepared. When's the last time you could fill a plate with as much escargot as you wanted?

We talked with a physician from Canada who was astounded at how his nation's medical care system has been misrepresented in the U.S. He expressed satisfaction with his job as an emergency room doctor, and said stories of waits for inadequate care were simply untrue. He, and another Canadian we met asked how Americans tolerate the level of gun violence that exists here. They simply couldn't understand our society's fascination with weapons and violence.

The Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispanola with Haiti, and as in most Caribbean nations, the majority of people live in poverty. A bus ride to a nearby beach took us past ramshackle dwellings of tin and wood, with a few animals in the dirt yards. One way to make money is selling items to tourists, and we bought a couple of wood sculptures to add to our collection.

Snorkeling was a highlight of the trip. Charlotte and I have snorkeled off several Caribbean islands, but this was the first time Katie had the chance to try it. We saw many brightly-colored tropical fish in our three excursions, but the coral did not seem healthy compared to other sites we had seen. I remember reading a few years ago that coral in the region was dying from unknown causes, and this may simply be part of a natural cycle of abundance and decay.

All in all, I can't think of a better way to spend a week in January.



Win scholarships for a course at PSU

Five Lake-Lehman High School students recently received scholarships to take a three-credit course at Penn State Wilkes-Barre this spring through funds raised from the local Penn State campus' Annual Fund Campaign.

Students are seated from left: Joel Toluba, Jen Dinger, Saranga Jain, Jennifer Feehan and Melody Sidorowicz; standing from left, principal John Oliver, Penn State academic advisor and assistant registrar, Mary Ghilani; director of academic affairs Dr. Paul Schwartz; guidance counselor, Flossie Finn. Ms. Jain's father, Dr. Ashok Jain, is a visiting professor of physics at the campus.

A Case for Conservation



Alene N. Case

I often wonder what happened to my friend Scotty. She was a pretty girl with long red hair and bright blue eyes. And, she was very intelligent. But, when we were in ninth grade, she quit school to marry a dashing young man who had just graduated from our high school. She was still 15 when their first baby was born. As far as I know, she never completed her education.

Where I grew up in the mountains of North Carolina, Scotty was not unusual. Many of my classmates dropped out for similar reasons before graduation. In fact, in our class of 47 students, four girls were married before they crossed the stage to receive their diplomas. I was the only girl to attend a university directly after high school.

As I contemplated these facts in light of recent concern over teen pregnancies - wed or unwed, I read a truly astonishing statement in a classic text by MacArthur and Connell entitled *The Biology of Populations*: "In a growing population, a woman who has her first child when she is 18, and has another child each year until she has five children, contributes as much to the rate of population growth as another woman who has her first child when she is 30 and has ten children in ten years." You may want to reread that statement because I am not going to give you the mathematical equation that describes it. Let us simply consider

Teen pregnancy - a global problem needing a solution

some implications of this biological fact for our human population.

My friend Scotty could easily be a great-grandmother by now if her offspring also tended to marry and have children early. My own mother, who had her first child (me) at age 35, is 81 years old and is not yet a great-grandmother. Assuming that Scotty and each of her offspring had only two children (which I doubt), she could be "mother" to 30 or more people by the time she is my mother's age!

MacArthur and Connell go on to say that if a population is not growing, the age of the mother has no effect. But, our human population is growing. That means that our birth rate is greater than our death rate. I do not think that any of us wish to revert to a time when life spans were 30 or 40 years. Therefore, we had better figure out ways to control our numbers by limiting the size of our families and extending the ages of first-time mothers. The only other alternative is to continue our population increase until we exhaust our resources and our population "crashes."

Appalachia and inner-city America are not the only places where early childbearing is causing problems. The entire developing world seems to be stuck in a wide variety of cultural habits that perpetuate this situation. At the root of most of these traditions is the low educational and economic status of women. Birth rates decrease dramatically when girls are given a chance to gain an education and when women are allowed to participate in the cash economy. In many cultures, a woman's only economic contribution is in marriage and child-bearing. Such activities as growing food, gathering fuel or water, caring for children and the eld-

erly, making clothes, etc. are not considered "economic" contributions.

Improving the educational status of women has a variety of beneficial effects. These effects include better family nutrition, healthier children, more attention to family planning alternatives, and fewer sexually transmitted diseases. One of the most devastating effects of the low status of women is to their personal health.

Women who have babies young tend to have more complications than more mature women. Young women also tend to seek illegal and unsterile abortions when they find themselves pregnant. They often become prostitutes, greatly increasing their risk of acquiring sexually transmitted diseases. In some areas of Africa and Asia, women have a 1 in 6 chance of dying before the end of their child-bearing years.

Dr. Nafis Sadik, the executive director of the UN Population Fund states that the "combination of poverty, rapid population growth and environmental damage is a powerful destabilizing factor driving urban growth and eventually international migration." In other words, if we who are affluent wish to address the immigration problem in a meaningful way, we should seek ways to educate all women, give them access to adequate healthcare, and encourage their participation in the economies of all countries. Only by doing so can the cycle of poverty, overpopulation and environmental degradation be slowed and eventually reversed.

I pray that Scotty's daughters used their intelligence to stay in school and to contribute more than children to their communities.

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

...DECEPTIVE PACKAGING? Our dog Robbie has "a mind of his own" just like the Westie books say they do. When he has finished with his business outside, he needs some inducement to come back inside. What usually does the trick is saying, "Here's a biscuit!" We go through an awful lot of biscuits.

Right now we are into a new box, and I'd like to quote from some copy on the outside: "Flavor Treats Introducing new Meaty Bone flavor treats...bite size treats your dog will love in four tasty varieties. BEEF. BACON. CHEESE. CHICKEN. Treat your dog to a New Delicious Flavor Every Day."

Sounds pretty good, doesn't it? Well I have counted 35 ingredients listed on the box in fine print, including potassium sorbate,

Jack and Robbie-dog take on the dog biscuit people

which they call a "mold inhibitor" and that is indeed good to know, but where are the instructions on just how one determines which biscuit has which delicious flavor?

The box says my dog will love me for the four tasty varieties if I treat him to a new one every day, and I want him to love me, but how do I do this when the biscuits contain no identifying marks whatsoever? Am I supposed to taste them first?

Okay, so that is no big deal. He will just think I mixed them up wrong if he has cheese twice in a row. But what about this, which is what is really bugging me, a statement which reads: "Contents filled by weight and not by volume. Some settling of contents may occur during handling."

So, here we go: Hand me the ruler please. Box height: 7-3/4". Height of contents inside the box: 3-3/4". By means of a simple mathematical calculation which I believe is called subtraction we get the following for height of air in box: 4"! I submit this is deceptive in the extreme. I do not, sir, pay for air.

"Settling may occur?" A whole

four d__ inches worth? Sorry, my mind is made up. I have instructed my attorney to prepare the papers forthwith. He has been told to sue those people for every biscuit they've got.

...GREAT LINES - from the Library Association. You will like them:

- Want to read more?
- Talk less. Keep a book in your briefcase by your bed
- Turn off the tube
- Tune into books
- Expand your horizons
- Read for Fun
- Read for information
- Use your library

...FROM THE NY TIMES CLASSIFIED An ad, word for word, just as it appeared recently: "JOE DIMAGGIO 1950 NY Yankee home game worn flannel 100% original, no restoration, 3 letters of authenticity. \$125,000. Call 516-482-2108."

Did I read that right, 125 big ones? 125 large? One more question then please, is that why they are striking, they need a larger clothing allowance?

Don't take me out to the ball game. Ever.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Feb. 8, 1935 STATE MUST PAY K.T. SCHOOLS \$10,000

A representative from the State Department of Education will come here to confer with officials of Kingston Township School District in an effort to clear up financial problems which have resulted from failure of the State to make a \$10,000 payment due the local district. Because of the delay, the district has been unable to pay \$4,500 due on January salaries and other obligations.

Flames threatened to consume the building of the H.L. Bottling Works early yesterday morning and caused a loss estimated roughly at \$5,000. Members of Daniel C. Roberts Fire Co. of Harveys Lake controlled the fire, but when it seemed likely that the blaze might spread to other buildings nearby, a call was sent to Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. which responded and stood by ready to give assistance.

50 Years Ago - Feb. 2, 1945 FIRST SOLDIER FROM ORANGE DIES IN WAR.

One hundred ten persons have contributed \$6,500 in an individual subscription of \$50 or more to the rapidly growing fund for a Back Mountain Memorial Library. Harry Ohlman, treasurer of the association announced of this amount more than \$3,500 has already been deposited into the library account.

William Snyder Frantz Mo MM 2/c died of wounds received in action somewhere in the Philippines area, according to Mr. and Mrs. F.A. Snyder of Orange. He is the first of the men in service from Orange to give his life in battle.

Pvt. John Laity, 31, medical corpsman with the 77th Infantry Division died on Leyte Island, Philippines Jan. 1, according to information received by his wife the former Margaret Cook of Idetown.

40 Years Ago - Feb. 4, 1955 ROBERTS WINS WITH ARTHUR GODFREY

Granville Sowden, co-owner of Back Mountain Lumber & Coal Co., announced the issuance of a state corporate charter for the incorporation of the local business. The charter, received Jan. 14, authorizes the new corporation to capitalize at \$600,000 for the purpose of dealing in lumber, coal, hardware, plumbing and heating supplies. Included in the corporation is the recently acquired Dallas Hardware & Supply Co.

Mrs. Bessie Jones of Shavertown watched her nephew, Kenneth Roberts, win the Arthur Godfrey Talent Show competition Monday evening with a baritone solo. However, judging by audience reaction to his appearances on Godfrey shows, he's going to be busier than ever on his way up the ladder to stardom.

Now playing at the Himmler Theatre "The Last Time I Saw Paris" with Van Johnson and Elizabeth Taylor.

30 Years Ago - Feb. 4, 1965 SIX YOUNG MEN NAMED EAGLE SCOUTS

Fifty four drivers from Commonwealth Telephone Company's General Office in Dallas were honored for safe driving records Tuesday by Pennsylvania Manufacturer's Association Insurance Co.

Richard Disque blasted away at the pins to the tune of 243-202-208 (653) as he set the pace for Gordon's Insurance at the Back Mountain Bowling alleys.

Lake-Lehman topped Dallas 89-73 on the Mounts home court Friday to close out the first half of North League competition. Both teams placed fourth with three wins and four losses.

Lake Troop 331 will fete six scouts from Lake, Noxen and Beaumont Area at a recognition dinner ceremonies Wednesday evening for the elevation of John Bozek, David Finn, Robert Johnson, Charles Lee Murphy, Peter Sarmonis and Barry West to rank of Eagle Scout.

20 Years Ago - Feb. 6, 1975 NEW AREA JAYCEES CHAPTER FORMS

Robert Miller Jr. family, after losing three children and Mr. Miller's grandmother in an early morning fire Jan. 25, have taken an apartment on Claude St., Dallas. They are without furniture, and clothing. A drive has begun to assist the family.

You could get - Round steak \$1.49 lb.; macaroni, 4/\$1.00; grapefruit, 5/79¢; Campbell Cream of Mushroom Soup, 5/\$1.00.

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