

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

High time to put my curmudgeon hat on. To refresh your memories, a curmudgeon (from here on, "curm" for short) gets ticked off at people and things and events. He can't control something so he debunks or mocks it. He sometimes waxes sarcastic. He never, however, waxes wroth. As Senior Curm Groucho Marx said, "Let Roth wax himself."

Curms have been with us for centuries. Some became famous, both in and out of their fields like pianist and quipster Oscar Levant. Levant barely fits one of curm's milder descriptions, that of being as soft-hearted as anyone else but hiding it under vitriol. Curms supposedly poke fun at the middle-class in order to preserve their sanity.

In Levant's case it didn't work. In his later life he was so far off the deep end you couldn't fathom him at all. (Hey how's that for a play on words?) Before that however he was one of the funniest men on the planet. He once said of Doris Day, "I knew her before she was a virgin."

Jack Paar gave Levant national

Curmudgeons near and far, old and young

TV exposure, when Levant had been in and out of mental hospitals. ("I was once thrown out of a mental hospital for depressing the other patients".) He chain-smoked Newports when his hands shook so badly he had to have them lit for him.

Paar said, "What do you do for exercise?" Levant answered, "I stumble and then I fall into a coma." Curm authority Jon Winokur said, "Levant was at once pathetic and brilliant, witty and helpless, the essence of curmudgeonry in one enthralling package, a raw nerve of vulnerability eloquently lashing out at the sources of its torment." (Some day I'll write like that.)

A noted local would-be curm is Commissioner Jim Phillips, who probably still has outdoor plumbing because that indoor stuff ain't here to stay. He called columnist Steve Corbett (no surprise they are buddies) and Corbett reports he asked Jimbo about the LCCC flap, which takes up more space in his paper than Bosnia. Phillips answer: "Anymore, I close my eyes whenever a broad walks by my office." (Is this guy for real?)

Speaking of Prince of Darkness Corbett, the Misdemeanor sent him off to La-La land in January to cover the Simpson matter. After three days and three columns they hastily called him back, probably because his expense account reached them for a pasta festival at the famous something-Luna restaurant!

I ran his three-column production through my word processor with the mode key on duplication. It picked up three rather strange uses of the adjective "soft," to wit: 1) "Located at the soft corner of North Rockingham and Ashford..." 2) "A soft wind blew past the lime tree in the yard..." and 3) "Wearing a soft, white beret..." Showed up once in each of three columns.

Poor Steve. This is an affliction called, "Infatuation With the Sound of One's Own Words," and there is no cure. His editor brags about his use of "short punchy sentences", but that's because he flunked Paragraphing 101.

Speaking of the Misdemeanor...when they headlined the imminent collapse of Wilkes-Barre civilization because females were not allowed in to the Friendly Sons dinner, I decided to conduct a survey where I work. There are scads of ladies volunteering there too, and I deliberately picked those whose names began with "Mc", asking each one if she were upset over not being allowed to attend the St. Pat's affair. My scientific results, subject to no error whatsoever, are as follows...one "What dinner was that?", two "Are you kidding?" and 17 "Heaven's no!" Total of those upset: Zero. None. Nada. So...what was all the fuss about?

I shall leave for another column the question of whyinell that broad wants to get into an all-male military academy.



Named OPM's Employee-of-the-Quarter

Debbie Mitchell was recently named Offset Paperback Mfrs., Inc. Employee-of-the-Quarter (January, February and March). Since Debbie's employment on August 23, 1976, she has worked in Offset's Customer Service Department and is currently a senior accounts representative. Debbie was chosen Employee-of-the-Quarter for her excellent attitude, work ethic and follow-through ability. Her personality and knowledge help her handle any situation that requires special attention, quick turnaround and/or unique instructions. She always puts forth whatever extra efforts are necessary to insure publisher satisfaction. As Employee-of-the-Quarter, she received an Employee-of-the-Quarter certificate, preferred parking for the quarter, a dinner gift certificate and a \$200 savings bond from Adam C. Crahall and Nancy Lavan.

Library news

First meeting is held in Community Room

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Book Club of the Back Mountain Memorial Library met on Monday, April 24 in the community room for the first time. The room will be dedicated in the near future, as it is almost complete. The treasurer reported a membership of 184 members and total dues collected of \$1,089.79 left as a balance in the bank account. Book purchases are made each month for the special book club shelf in the library. The May meeting will be held on Monday, May 15, and interested visitors and all members are invited to attend.

The project which the library runs with the cooperation of the Dallas Rotary in loaning wheelchairs and other equipment to needy people is a very popular endeavor. At the moment, there are 32 wheelchairs in use to the Back Mountain residents. There is also available crutches, walkers, canes and other equipment, which may be borrowed from the

library.

New books at the library: "Orchids and Diamonds" by Rosalind Laker begins in 1907 when Juliette Cladel, beguilingly pretty and refreshingly innocent, arrives in Paris to be launched by her sister into the world of haute couture. Beginning at the famed House of Landelle, she meets and falls in love with a dashing young Russian count who is living la vie boheme as sculptor. They are separated by circumstances when he is called home to take up family duties.

"Liz" by C. David Heymann is a biography which tells Elizabeth Taylor's remarkable story as it has never been told before. She is an icon, one of the most watched, photographed, and gossiped-about personalities of our time. Childhood sensation and youthful object of desire who was controlled by her mother and M-G-M, Oscar-winning actress, seductress and eight-time wife, champion of funding, purveyor of perfumes and jewelry. Her greatest role is her

self.

"Let Me Call You Sweetheart" by Mary Higgins Clark is about sweetheart roses—the traditional gift of lovers. Yet they had been an important clue in the murder ten years ago of strikingly beautiful Suzanne Reardon, whose husband, Skip, is now serving a life sentence for the murder. Kerry had only begun to work in the county prosecutor's office at the time of the infamous, "Sweetheart Murder Case" yet she remembers being impressed by the ability of her new boss.

"Jump" by Mike Lupica is a candid expose of what goes on behind the scenes in the billion-dollar business known as professional baseball. It's an inside look at the insanity of today's media, its sharklike frenzy to get the big story. And above all, Jump is a searing vision of the life of a modern-day sports hero, with all its glory, danger and potential for tragedy. It's about Mike, a respected and entertaining sports columnist.

Tell our advertisers you saw them in The Post. They'll appreciate it, and so will we.

PTC Summer



SAT Review

Professional Tutoring Center Summer SAT Review are the best preparation for juniors and seniors for the fall exams. No other service offers the range of SAT preparation that we do. PTC will offer two sections with 35 seats for our Summer SAT Workshop. One class will meet exclusively on Sundays. Call now if you would like to reserve a place now or need additional information. Sunday workshop class reservations are being taken.

655-6766

located at the Oblates of St. Joseph.

Attention Golfers!

Golf Instruction 12 months a year at my indoor range

Custom Clubs - Clubs Repaired Clubs Regripped

Call John Antosh: 10 am to 5 pm 836-2546 or 6 to 9 pm 836-2393



THE POWER TO BUILD YOUR DREAM BACKYARD!

All the 1995 TROY-BILT Line "Always Below Factory Prices"

The Famous TROY-BILT MULCHING MOWER

"The one that really works"

Starting at \$359
 • Dedicated Mulching Deck
 • Optional Collection System
 • Push and Self-Propelled
 • 5 models to choose from
 • Aluminum Deck
 • Easy height control
 • 7 year warranty



As Low as \$20 per mo.

WIDE CUT MOWER

Starting at \$1299⁰⁰
 • Front-mounted, 2 blade dedicated mulching deck
 • Differential steering, pivots 180° within its onlength
 • 4 forward speeds & 1 reverse, self-propelled
 • 8.5 VC Briggs & Stratton Engine, electric start available
 • 7 year warranty



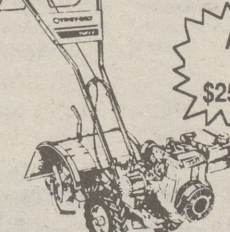
As Low as \$40 per mo.

TROY-BILT TILLER

Featuring

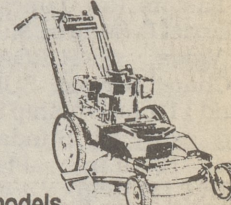
3 HP "Tuffy" \$499⁰⁰
 5 HP "Pony" \$1099⁰⁰
 • 6 models to choose from
 • Geared transmission
 • No-time-limit warranty

As Low as \$20 per mo.



HIGH WHEEL MOWER

Starting at \$739⁰⁰
 • Self-propelled 5 & 8 HP models
 • Three forward speeds & one reverse
 • Cut that higher, rougher, wilder growth
 • 7-year warranty



LAWN TRACTOR

Starting at \$1899⁰⁰ with deck (List \$2119)
 • Full-size seat and step-through design, yet only 22" turning radius for maneuverability
 • Available in 13 HP or 15 HP Briggs & Stratton engine
 • 7 year Warranty (3 years on engine)
 • Hydrostatic or gear drive



As Low as \$55 per mo.

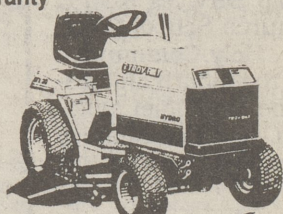
GARDEN TRACTORS

Starting at \$3999⁰⁰ with deck (List \$4700)
 • Full-size step-through design with 22" turning radius
 • Available in 16 HP or 18 HP Briggs & Stratton engine
 • Hydrostatic drive
 • 7 year Warranty

As Low as \$100 per mo.

GTX NOW \$5656

with deck (List \$6699⁹⁹)
 • 18 or 20 HP Kohler engine
 • All shaft-driven (transmission and attachments)
 • Hydrostatic drive & hydratic lift-power steering, cruise control
 • 7 year Warranty



As Low as \$140 per mo.

• Financing: No down payment or interest due until July 4th, 1995
 • All models - Set-up, Serviced and ready for use
 • Delivery available in PA & NY



Don't buy anywhere - until you call us! Factory Authorized Dealer for Sales & Service Since 1974

HOMESTEAD EQUIPMENT CO.

Hack Road, Fleetville, PA • 800-222-3635

*Important information for qualified customers regarding credit terms: After July 4, the APR, based on your state of residence, is as follows: AK-18% on first \$1,000 of balance, 7.92% on excess; AR-7.92%; AL, CT, FL, LA, MA, ME, MN, NC, ND, PA, RI, WA, and WI-18%; KS-18.96% on first \$1,000 of balance, 14.4% on excess; NE-18.96% on first \$500 of balance, 18% on excess; SC-16.92%; TX-17.64%; WV-18% on first \$750 of balance, 12% on excess; DC and all other states-18.96%. Minimum finance charge is \$50 for each billing cycle in which a finance charge is payable (except for residents of AR, CT, DC, HI, ID, KY, LA, MD, NE, NM, ND, OR, and RI).

To Mother with Love!

"Honor thy Mother" with affectionate Mother's Day Gifts from the West Side Mall.

Register Mother as your "Best Mom" - she may win valuable free gifts and prizes at the West Side Mall. No purchase necessary.

Awards include:

- \$50. in West Side Mall Merchants Association Gift Certificates, redeemable at all Stores and Services.
- Dinner for two at Ollie's Family Restaurant.
- Family Portrait by Rygiel Studio of Photography.
- A Bagel Basket from Bagel Builders.
- Tone 'n Tan Salon Gift Certificate.
- A Large Pizza from Pasquale's Pizza & Subs.
- 2 Free Meals at Big E's
- A Camille Beckman Gift Set from Trader Tom's Port.
- A Gift Certificate from Waldenbooks.
- 5 Free Bingo Games at West Side Mall Bingo.

Pick up "Best Mom" registration forms at West Side Mall Stores and Services. "Best Mom" to be selected in a public drawing.

Presentation: Saturday, May 13. *Mother's Day - Sunday, May 14

COMING EVENTS - SATURDAY, MAY 13
 Jolly Joe and The Bavarians - 1:00 to 2:30 P.M. • Cub Scout Pack No. 247 Bake Sale
 Retired Senior Volunteers with Souvenirs • Carrousel to benefit Back Mountain Kiwanis

MALL HOURS: Open Daily 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. Sunday 12 Noon to 5 P.M.

WEST SIDE MALL
 At the Narrows, Wyoming Avenue, Route 11, Edwardsville, South of Kingston Corners