

# The Dallas Post

## EDITORIALS

### Time to pull the plug on National Utilities

No company treats its customers with as much contempt as National Utilities. But no matter how frequently it fails to provide even minimal service, this pariah of a water supplier continues to hold its license, to collect payments, and to have its profits assured by the Commonwealth. It is a ridiculous and disgusting condition, and one which ought to be remedied by yanking the company's privilege to do business in Pennsylvania.

From Shickshinny to South Abington to Lehman to Harveys Lake, this company has left a trail of destruction and ill-served customers in its wake. The water it provides — when it is able to fulfill its responsibilities at all — is inferior, it doesn't maintain its facilities, and when National Utilities does attempt maintenance it invariably leaves a sloppy mess behind.

The latest outrage occurred at Harveys Lake, where the company refused to own up to a leak that damaged a home after being ignored for months, even as other customers went without water all spring. This follows by mere months complaints in Lehman that the company failed to properly repair a roadway that had been dug up several times as the company incompetently attempted to fix a leak in Oak Hill. People with longer memories will recall that National Utilities was the delinquent owner of the Shickshinny-Mocanaqua Water Company, until the state forced it to sell after years of poor service.

It is time to end this farce. Representative George Hasay should begin proceedings to strip National Utilities of its remaining holdings, but only after it has been forced to contribute the funds necessary to put them in decent shape. And the shameless principals of this worthless enterprise should be barred from ever again owning or managing any enterprise that could affect public health.

### Hooray for George Isaacs' 'recycled' building

Three cheers for George Isaacs and his architect Lynn Wallack, who are in the process of having the former "Duke" Isaacs auto dealership building recycled. We usually think of soda cans and newspapers when talking about reusing materials, but this is the same principle on a grand scale. The metal-frame main building will be taken down and reassembled in Wyoming, by a building contractor who sees the wisdom — and savings — of putting a perfectly good structure to use. Wallack says the new owner plans to reuse the wiring, insulation and other items inside the building as well as the steel frame and shell.

Perhaps we Americans finally are learning that there are alternatives to the slash and burn approach we have taken with outdated structures. While this building had no particular esthetic value, the materials and energy that will be saved in this process are impressive. It may all come down to economics, but it makes good sense to use bottles and buildings again whenever possible.

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As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

The old *New Yorker* magazine used to have a department called "The Clouded Crystal Ball" which they used to chronicle touted events which turned out wrong. Not the new *New Yorker* — an utter disaster — but the old one with Peter Arno and James Thurber cartoons. I miss them. But I digress.

My crystal ball is far from clouded. It tells me we are in the formative stages of a "Colin Powell for President" sell. This campaign is there if you want to look at the facts.

Fact #1: A recent *Time* cover said, "Will he run? If Powell has the nerve, he could change America." (Jeez let us hope so 'cause it sure needs changing.) A professor McCawley at the U of C said, "Presumably *Time* didn't want to

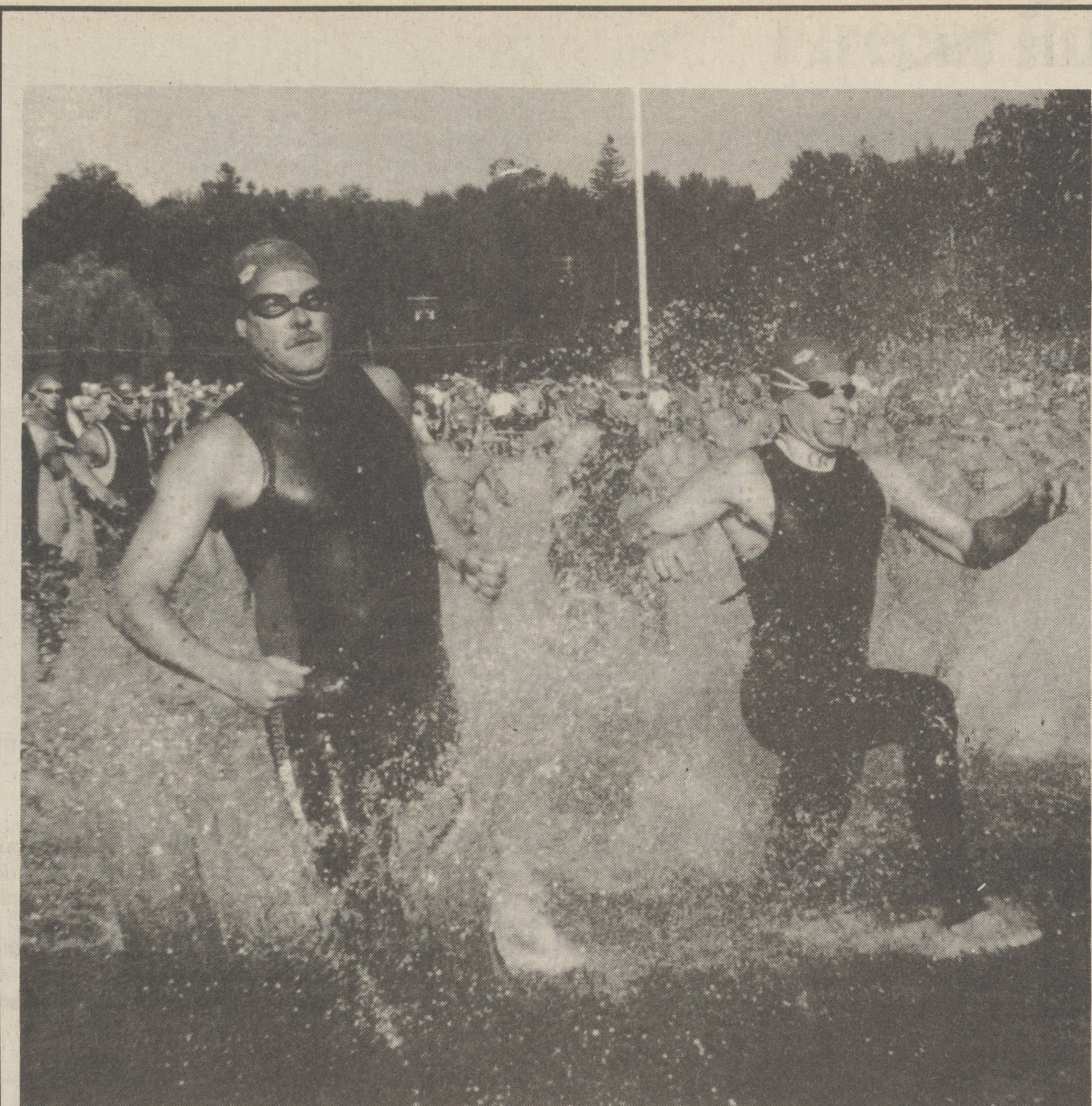
### Powell dropping hints of run for presidency

insult Powell by presupposing that he doesn't have the nerve, so they said "has" instead of "had."

Fact #2: A *Daily News* pix showed Powell and his wife over the caption: "Will he be like Ike?" And they added, "Officially he says he doesn't plan to decide his political path until after a publicity tour for his September book, *My American Journal*."

Fact #3: After this background lead: "He owns a sprawling home in a white Washington suburb, loves tinkering with old Volvos and enjoys the image of a leader whose skills have nothing to do with skin color," a *June Newsweek* piece says Powell would like to be the first broadly popular black candidate for national office.

A friend says he is a practical guy and he wouldn't make racial themes an issue. "He wouldn't have to, the symbol of his presence would be enough." But if he does run, Powell will have to discuss those issues in detail, and *Newsweek* says America will be listening carefully.



The start of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Triathlon Sunday was a mad dash into Harveys Lake.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## LETTERS

### Harveys Lake's no wake speed limit all wet

Editor:  
As a fisherman and boater on Harveys Lake for many years, I was thrilled to read in your August 9th edition that I am not alone in wishing for the demise of the night speed limit on Harveys Lake. Not that I don't feel the need for a limit, but the solution posed by the Fish and Boat Commission and Harveys Lake Borough is a cruel joke. Having fished and boated extensively in Canada and New York, it is a crime to return to have a "no wake" speed inflicted upon the night fishermen of Harveys Lake. This is a speed that is generally reserved for areas where damage could be done by the wake created by a boat.

I don't know if our Fish and Boat Commission is aware of it but there are speed limits somewhere between "no wake" and "No limit." Have they considered the possibility of a 25 mile per hour limit, which would allow most boats to get on plane. I have traversed the lake for years at night, limiting myself to that speed for safety's sake and never had a

problem. I could even live with a 5 mile per hour limit, which is about double "no wake" speed but would allow a fisherman to cross the lake at night and return to the marina before it was time for work the next morning.

This speed limit exists in New York on the Oneida and Seneca Rivers, where boaters must navigate in a narrow restricted channel often occupied by much larger vessels. I have traveled these waterways for miles and this speed is certainly more reasonable and just as safe. It seems to me that the greatest problems at Harveys Lake are the ones not being addressed. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that on a typical Sunday afternoon, the lake becomes a playground for people under the influence of alcohol, inexperienced boaters on ski machines who do not know of or care about any rules, and children who have not been taught rules and are too young to operate motorized watercraft without supervision.

At one time, I had the consolation

of knowing that I could get away from this madness by shifting my fishing and boating hours to evening and night. But alas, the Fish and Boat Commission has seen fit to punish me for this, making it so time consuming to legally return to the marina that it is no longer worth the effort. As long as they refuse to consider all users of the lake and recognize that a "middle ground" exists, many fishermen like myself will be forced to pursue our sport elsewhere and, perhaps spend our fishing license fee in another state. Hopefully they will wake up and convert "no wake" to 5 mph or perhaps 25 mph to at least allow boats to achieve planing speed.

At the same time, I would hope that efforts would be expanded through education and enforcement to assure that all other rules are followed at all hours on the lake, without penalizing law-abiding citizens who wish to enjoy the lake at night.

David K. Thomas  
Shavertown

### Weed control oil spraying pollutes the water

Editor:  
What's the deal?  
This week our community witnessed three oil spills, two accidental and one pre-meditated. Granted, the oil truck that returned and the rupture of a resident's home heating oil storage were probably unavoidable, but

when Dallas and Lehman Townships plan, budget and condone oil spraying along our roadways as a weed control measure, I sense a lack of understanding of our environment and our effect on it.

Let's not kid ourselves. The Chesapeake blue claw crabs that you enjoyed, as the triathlon

contestants cycled over the oily Back Mountain roadways had just a little taste of home.

Who knows, maybe some of those international athletes were impressed by the think-tank at work in the Back Mountain.

Kevin Santry  
Harveys Lake

### Triathlon volunteers were good representatives of region

Editor:  
I was one of those who "did" the triathlon — but as an artist, I did it in my own way: with a paintbrush, from start to finish.

While painting at the intersection by the Hayfield Farm sign at Penn State, I was extremely impressed by the patience, dedication, and fortitude of several of the volunteers stationed there. I never before realized the difficulties associated with closing off those two roads and the intersection. I never before realized the verbal abuse, insults and split-second decisions that comprise the job of triathlon traffic volun-

teers. At that intersection, those volunteers (and, I am sure, the volunteers at all the other intersections as well) exhibited a professionalism that impressed me so much that I want to verbally and publicly commend them, and also thank all the volunteers who made the triathlon work.

No, I'm not an athlete. But I'm proud of the Back Mountain, and very proud of the people who live, work and volunteer here.

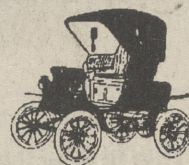
Thanks to all of you!

Sue Hand  
Dallas

### Do you agree? Disagree?

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post, and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. 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.

ONLY YESTERDAY



### 60 Years Ago - Aug. 23, 1935 WORK STARTS ON NEW HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX

Contracts for the erection of a one-story annex to Dallas Township High School were awarded this week by township school directors. Execution of the contracts will be speeded so work can be started within the next few weeks. It is expected the addition will be ready for use before the end of the year.

The fifth annual field day of Shavertown Chemical Co. will be held at Shavertown school grounds beginning at 1 p.m. Firemen have planned a program which is expected to attract a large throng. The Ladies Auxiliary will serve a baked ham supper in the dining room of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

### 50 Years Ago - Aug. 24, 1945 TEXTILE FIRM EYES AREA LOCATION

An old established textile industry operating four large plants along the Atlantic Seaboard, three in New York State and one in New Jersey is definitely interested in establishing a new plant in the Back Mountain Area, to handle the dyeing and finishing preferably in the vicinity of Dallas for their other operations. According to present plans the plant will employ at least 200 persons on three shifts and have an annual payroll of approximately \$350,000. Plans also call for considerable future expansion.

With cessation of hostilities in the Pacific area, price control has become doubly important to Dallas War Price & Rationing Board officials, for it was after WWI that prices went "sky high," then dropped to an all-time low, causing panic and depression. Ceiling prices will remain for some months to come, on all foods, clothing, furnishings and other necessities of life.

### 40 Years Ago - Aug. 19, 1955 COLLEGE PLANS EXPANSION PROJECT

College Misericordia, spurred by increased enrollment and consequent need for expansion, plans to erect three ultra-modern buildings at an approximate cost of \$500,000. This is the most important building projected for the Back Mountain area this year. A Science Building, Music Building and Club House will face the auditorium. Contracts for the new buildings will be awarded shortly and construction is expected to start late in September.

Whitesell Brothers have laid foundation for a new warehouse at their yards at intersection of Rt. 115 and Memorial Highway. Of concrete block construction it will be 50x100 feet. A truss roof will afford ample room for the storage of all types of building material.

You could get - Cantaloupes 2/33¢; ground beef, 3 lbs./\$1.19; chuck roast, 29¢ lb.; sweet potatoes, 3 lbs., 29¢; Virginia Lee Dutch Apple Pie, 39¢ ea.

### 30 Years Ago - Aug. 19, 1965 CARVERTON ROAD IN 'DEPLORABLE SHAPE'

Contrary to rumor that the death of Dominic Piledggi put an end to plans for a 165-acre golf course on the Raymond Goeringer property at Lake Louise, Mr. Goeringer reported on inquiry by this paper, that plans are still intact. A permit was granted last week by the Luzerne County Planning Commission for the \$250,000 course in Franklin Twp.

Deplorable conditions of Carverton Road was discussed by residents and supervisors alike at a meeting of the Board at Kingston Township Building last week. Jacob Harrison said the thoroughfare is a disgrace and with gas pipeline installation adding to dust and difficult terrain, motorists complain of discomfort and inconvenience.

### 20 Years Ago - Aug. 21, 1975 LAKE-LEHMAN MILK CONTRACT FINALLY LET

Contracts totaling \$27,000 were awarded to three area milk suppliers by the Lake-Lehman School Board, but not without difficulty. Deciding how to split contract took three motions. When final ballot was cast, Purvin Dairy had been added to the list of suppliers for the school district.