

EDITORIALS

Does Dallas need a pool? What's your choice?

Should a pool be built at Dallas High School? That question has been nagging the Back Mountain for nearly 30 years, when the present Middle School went up. That building was designed to accommodate a pool, but the school board at the time voted against including one, probably because of the expense. That was 1969, this is now, but the benefits of adding a pool must still be weighed against the considerable cost to construct one.

There are lots of good reasons to have a swimming pool that would be available to students and the larger community. Swimming provides stress-free exercise for people of all ages and fitness levels; all children — adults, too — could learn to swim, perhaps averting a drowning death; swimming teams provide another outlet for the athletic talent of students and adults. The list could go on, we're sure.

Counterbalanced against all those good things is the cost of building and maintaining a pool. Construction costs for a regulation-size facility with a diving area are likely to reach or exceed \$1 million. Superintendent of schools Gerald Wycallis estimates annual maintenance at \$50,000 to \$100,000, which is not really a lot of money in a \$15 million school budget, but isn't pocket change, either.

One thing is certain; if a pool is to be built at a Dallas school, it should be designed for use by the entire community. It would be a shameful waste of resources to lock up such an asset when the school day ends. Public use might also help offset expenses, if swimmers paid a nominal fee to use the pool. There is also a real chance that swimming clubs would form, and be willing to pay for training and meet time.

There are other funding options. In the Abington Heights School District, a community foundation is raising money that will be used to upgrade the district's aging athletic facilities.

The prospect of a pool at Dallas High School is little more than a gleam in the eye of proponents right now, and it's too soon to suggest a course of action. But we certainly think the idea is worth exploring, in all its dimensions, so that when the time comes for serious consideration everyone understands the potential benefits of so large and expensive an addition to the community, and the school budget.

If you have a preference, take just a minute to fill out and send in the coupon below, so your opinion is added to those who already have done so.



The geese were marching two-by-two in Lehman. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

The old New Yorker had a "page filler" headed "The Clouded Crystal Ball" where fatuous pronouncements of famous folk were reproduced with no further comment. The result was always amusing, for the reader would recognize some happening which the pompous speaker proclaimed would never happen.

With no apology to that magazine, here are some clouds in a crystal ball as collected by the Digest Association, whom we thank for furnishing a column on an otherwise dull day.

CONGRESS IN 1875 - "We do not foresee the development of gasoline-driven horseless carriages

In 20-20 hindsight, regrettable statements

would ever displace the use of horses, which would wreck our agriculture."

HORSELESS AGE JOURNAL IN 1896 - "The vast majority of people would prefer a smooth-running, reliable steam engine...to the evil-smelling, dangerous, wasteful, and at best uncertain and unreliable gasoline engine."

A DAIMLER-BENZ SPOKESMAN IN 1936 - "There will probably be a mass market for no more than 1,000 motorcars in Europe. There is, after all, a limit to the number of chauffeurs who could be found to drive them."

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER - Rejected "Gone With the Wind" saying, "No Civil War picture ever made a nickel." And a reader at 20th Century Fox said, "To think they could hoodwink me with rot like that!" And the picture's director refused producer David O. Selznick's offer to share in the profits, saying, "This picture is going to be one of the biggest white elephants of all time." ("Gone With" was only the highest gross-

ing film ever made.)

SURGEON ALFRED VELPEAU IN 1839 - "The abolition of pain in surgery is a chimera. It is absurd to go on seeking it today. Knife and pain are two words that must forever be associated in the consciousness of the patient. (Eight years later the properties of ether and chloroform were discovered.)

RADIO CRITIC REX LAMBERT IN 1936 - "Television won't matter in your lifetime or mine." Another radio personality said, "TV won't last. It is a flash in the pan." And newspaper editor C. P. Scott said, "Television? No good will come of this device. The word is half Greek and half Latin."

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION IN 1975 - Declared from its Geneva headquarters, "Malaria has been licked" Later that day their deputy general was sent to the hospital where his diagnosis was malaria.

A MUNICH HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER - "He will never amount to anything." Her pupil was Albert Einstein. And Charles Darwin's

father told him "You care nothing but shooting, dogs and rat catching, and you will disgrace yourself and all your family."

SCIENTIST ERNEST RUTHERFORD IN 1919 - "Anyone who looks for a source of power in the atom is talking moonshine."

THOMAS EDISON'S FIRST TEACHER - "His father called him a dunce. In 1915, Edison himself described his phonograph invention as "not of any commercial value."

THOMAS WATSON, IBM PRESIDENT IN 1958 - "There is a world market for about five computers."

NEW YORK TIMES IN 1920 - "Rocket pioneer Robert Goddard seems to lack the knowledge ladled out daily in high schools. He believes a spacecraft would operate in a vacuum!" In 1969 when Apollo 11 landed on the moon, the red-faced Times issued a posthumous apology to Goddard.

One hopes he saw it somehow, and chuckled.

Dallas Pool Survey

Please check the desired response:

1. Would you support an aquatic facility in the Dallas School District?
a) Yes b) No

2. If you have answered yes to No. 1, please check what activities you would support.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) Age group swim/dive program | <input type="checkbox"/> f) Recreational swim |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b) Youth swim instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> g) Aquatic certification course |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) Adult swim instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> h) Swim Instruction in school PhysEd classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d) Aqua aerobic classes | <input type="checkbox"/> i) Water Polo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> e) Sport injury/rehabilitation programs | <input type="checkbox"/> j) Other _____ |

3) Additional comments _____

4) Optional:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

5) Would you like to become part of this committee? Yes No

Respond by May 6, 1996 to:
Dallas Pool Survey
c/o The Dallas Post
P.O. Box 366
Dallas, PA 18612

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



It's hard to believe that a serious debate is taking place over whether or not to treat a six year old as a criminal. The question has come up in the case of a California child who sneaked into a neighbor's house and beat a month-old baby nearly to death. No one could disagree that this was a horrible act of violence, or that it can't go unpunished, but I am equally horrified that anyone could suggest a six year old be considered in the same class as adult criminals, or even teenage juvenile delinquents. On the other side, an official of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco made the ridiculous statement that the child should simply be sent home unless there's evidence of drug problems or abuse there.

The fact that a child of any age could behave this way is proof enough of problems in the household, and maybe in the wider community. The people who must be held accountable for this youngster's crime are his parents, who have clearly failed to raise him to respect other people and their property. The only acceptable excuse for them is if the child suffers from a mental disorder that makes him want to hurt others. In either case, this kid belongs in a setting that offers emotional or medical support that has a chance at reversing his perverted sense of reality, not in a criminal facility that is likely to enhance his sense of alienation.

J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

Channel surfing the other evening, I stopped when a memorable scene from the movie Forrest Gump leapt from the screen. You know the one—where he's dragging his buddy Bubba from the Vietnam jungle in his simple, heroic, superhuman way.

The Salon was half full, but quietly busy the next day when I wandered among the manicures

Manipulated photos raise questions

and sets. One of its employees, Candor, who likens himself to RuPaul (but who has better moves) offered: Gump "overcame impossible odds."

"And did so while maintaining his innocence," said a woman rising up from the rinse hose.

Hanna, another employee, beckoned the lady with the just painted nails to put them under a dryer, and hesitated before finally saying she felt "sorry" for Gump.

On more than one level, Forrest Gump was an excellent film. It was a moving and tastefully done example of cinematic melodrama.

Yet it causes pause in one significant area. During the film, Gump has encounters with John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Rich-

ard Nixon and John Lennon. It matters not that none of these events acutely occurred, and it was all just entertainment, right?

However, integrity of news photography has always been in the image itself. Writers can, if they choose, manipulate your vision by slanting the presentation. Not so with pictures.

Until now. Perhaps now more than ever the integrity of news photography is less than embraceable. We now see how easily it is to include a fictional Forrest Gump into the reality of news film...and to diminish the concept of truth in news pictures, making it (as is the work of its wordsmith brethren) entirely dependent on context, rather than the public being able

to depend on what they see.

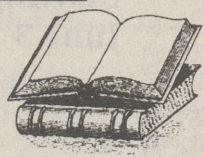
Will this, in fact, elevate the discriminatory abilities of TV news viewers, or denigrate the idea, as Gump would put it, that truth is as truth does?

Later that day I asked my 13-year-old daughter what she thought of the film. "Interesting," she replied, "but not phenomenal."

"Why?" I wondered. "Because most of the stuff in the film I couldn't relate to. That stuff happened back when you were young...you know, back during the Flintstones."

And before I could retort, she sauntered into the living room, sauntered on the television and began watching the news...at least that's what I think it was.

LIBRARY NEWS



The Back Mountain Memorial Library has had two book drop receptacles in the parking lot on the library grounds for the past 11 years.

The winter of 1996 with its record snowfall and the clean-up required had caused some damage to the drops. One had to be completely removed and sent out for repairs; the other one needed some adjustment.

We are glad to report that both

Book drops get fresh coat of paint

book drops are back in good condition and will be very visible in the future. They are both painted bright red.

These drops are used for dropping off books when the library is closed or when the weather is such that it would be easier to drop them, rather than come into the library. This is just one of many conveniences for our library patrons.

The 8th annual Luncheon With A Special Author was held at Newberry Appletree Terrace on April 25. The program was presented by June Nelson, which was very well received. The lunch was delicious, the atmosphere was perfect and the people were so

friendly. There were 140 in attendance.

A special feature was a basket auction, in which decorated and filled baskets were chanced off. This was new and exciting. The luncheon is sponsored by our "Friends of the Library": one of their many projects for the library.

New books at the library: "Firestorm" by Nevada Barr is the story of Anna Pigeon, when she returns to face the ultimate assault on her career and her life. Anna is part of the army battling the Jackknife fire in California. A last-minute rescue of a firefighter with a broken leg detains Anna and the San Juan crew. Deadly weather conditions are created for

a firestorm. They seek fire shelters in individual silver fire shelters.

"That Day the Rabbi Left Town" by Harry Kemelman begins when America's most unorthodox detective deserts his old haunts for new challenges. But the more things change the more they stay the same, especially where murder is concerned. Rabbi Small is delighted to accept the newly created post of Professor of Judaic Studies in Boston, which is just what he wanted. An elderly professor disappears during a snowy Thanksgiving weekend and turns up dead. The body is found in a snowdrift near the new Rabbi's home.

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