

EDITORIALS

It is time for teachers to help Lake-Lehman

As shocking as the Lake-Lehman School District's tentative 1996-97 budget seems, it may represent the future for many school districts. Lake-Lehman projects a 15 percent tax increase will be necessary to cover expenses next year, an alarming number by itself. Even worse, the district projects nothing in reserve at the close of the year, as the higher taxes serve only to cover a \$236,473 operating deficit.

The district faces such dire prospects in part because it failed to face the music in past years. This year's budget includes money to pay for early retirements; money that should have been in the present spending plan. But the new budget doesn't include funds to pay for next year's early retirees, so last year's error will haunt the district again.

Lois Kopcha, a school board member, has suggested that coaches volunteer their time to save Lake-Lehman about \$200,000. Actually, it's more than coaches who would have to volunteer; so would band directors, chaperones, ticket takers and all others who work on extra-curricular activities. Money could also be saved if participants in sports and other activities bought their own uniforms and other supplies. Athletic shoes have already felt the budget ax, cutting the supply expense for winter and spring sports by 35 to 40 percent. Fall sports shoes cost even more, but had already been sent for bid before the budget was completed.

Dr. William Price, superintendent of schools, says Lake-Lehman must focus on basic academic education if it is to remain viable. He's correct, but the path to that goal will not be easy. All the savings outlined above amount to about 1.5 percent of the district's projected \$16.6 million budget. While \$250,000 isn't chump change, it is less than should have been included to pay for next year's retirees.

One thing seems certain; students, parents and taxpayers cannot be the only ones contributing to Lake-Lehman's fiscal health. Students will see course offerings limited, and not just in the shop and business classes which have already been curtailed. Some honors courses, which attract few students, will probably be combined or eliminated, and other changes are being contemplated.

Parents may find themselves picking up the tab for extras that once were provided by the district. And all taxpayers will see their bills rise, although hopefully not as sharply as in the preliminary budget.

Teachers, who have enjoyed substantial salary increases in recent years, will have to help. Next year will be the last of the current contract, which granted annual raises of about 4 percent. That contract followed two successive agreements which provided about 8 percent per year. Thus, the three contracts combined to raise salaries by nearly 80 percent in less than a decade. That is a huge increase by any measure, and certainly far more than the typical private sector worker received. There was a time when teacher salaries lagged far behind similar careers, and catching up was justified. That time has passed; teachers are now among the highest paid professions of their type, with salary and benefit packages few others receive.

Lake-Lehman's teachers could make a grand and welcome gesture by volunteering to forgo the final year's increase. That's what teachers in Connecticut did a few years ago, when the slate was mired in recession and school budgets reached the breaking point. Such a move is unlikely here, however, since the state union has been so clearly focused on its own goals regardless of the public's ability to satisfy them. Still, we hope Lake-Lehman's teachers, who have been impressive in their commitment to their students, will consider such a sacrifice. If they did, surely the administrators would match them, and in the process they could begin together not only to restore a bit of financial integrity to the district, but to regain a chunk of the public esteem that has been lost.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Our new neighbor — who was our old neighbor when the newspaper office was in the 309/415 Plaza — earns commendation for saving a tree behind his office instead of cutting it down. Dr. Peter Kaminski, a podiatrist, moved in last week, but before doing so had parking spaces paved. An old white pine tree is smack in the middle of the parking area, and could easily have fallen victim to the penchant for clear cutting that has become evident lately. This tree is none too healthy, either, providing more incentive to dispense with it. Instead, the parking spaces now lie on either side of the tree, and, scrawny as it is, the tree will throw at least some shade on the cars and the rear of the building.

People who cut trees may not realize how valuable they are. When the summer sun is beating down, shade from trees provides welcome relief, as well as saving on cooling costs if it falls on a building. Trees also offer homes for birds and other critters, replenish the soil with dropped leaves and needles, and their root systems absorb water, helping reduce runoff. Last, but not least, trees add visual interest to the landscape, whether it's an individual lot or 100-acre hillside. So, follow Dr. Kaminski's lead, and save trees instead of cutting them down.



Recent hatchlings greet the spring.

A Case for conservation



Alene N. Case

After dinner in the evenings, I often relax by watching *Wheel of Fortune* and *Jeopardy* on TV. Over the past several months, these shows have promoted enthusiasm and financial support for the Olympic Games in Atlanta and for the US athletes who are training to compete there this summer. As we look forward to the high spirit and entertainment of the Atlanta Games, there are many people working very hard to improve Atlanta's urban forest by planting and protecting trees. This is not the first time that tree-planting activity has been linked with the Olympics — it also happened in Los Angeles in the early 1980s. Let's explore this bit of Olympic trivia in some depth.

In 1981, the City of Los Angeles drafted an Air Quality Management Plan in order to comply with the 1970 Clean Air Act. They called for the planting of one million trees and estimated that it would take twenty years and require \$200 million dollars. What they failed to take into account was the energy and resources of a group of L.A. citizens known as TreePeople. TreePeople mobilized politicians, government agencies, community groups, religious organizations and individuals and planted all one million trees prior to the beginning of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles! And, bet-

Trees and the Olympics

ter yet, it did not cost the city a single dollar!

TreePeople was begun by a teenager, Andy Lipkis, after he discovered that trees in the mountains near L.A. were being killed by air pollution. His first project was to plant 8,000 smog-resistant trees in those hills. More than twenty years later, Andy and his wife, Katie, are still working to create positive change in Los Angeles and throughout the world. TreePeople has planted 200 million trees to date and has an annual budget of \$1.6 million. They have trained more than 300 Citizen Foresters in the methods of tree planting and maintenance, species selection, and community organization. They are promoting ways of conserving water in the dry climate of California: planting drought-tolerant trees that hold soil and absorb water; using "green waste" (twigs, leaves, and lawn clippings) as mulch; and collecting rainwater in tanks and cisterns to use as irrigation water. In the words of Andy Lipkis, "our goal is to teach individuals to become managers of their piece of the ecosystem and to instill respect for our planet earth."

Just as in Los Angeles, tree-planting activities were already organized in Atlanta before the announcement of the Olympic site selection committee. Trees Atlanta, a group headed by Marcia Bansley, has been working since 1985 to get good tree ordinances in all the local communities and to see that these rules are enforced. Their impetus was a study that showed that metropolitan Atlanta was losing 30 acres of woodland each day. In spite of these and other efforts, Atlanta

rated last in a 1991 survey of the twenty major cities in the USA in terms of the number of trees shading its streets. This lack of tree cover was much more than an esthetic problem — downtown Atlanta and the Hartsfield Airport are often 9-12°F higher than in the surrounding countryside!

Obviously, small trees planted in the past couple of years will not be able to cool this urban heat-island much during this summer's games. But, the consortium of community groups that has been activated to address this situation will continue to work in Atlanta as the TreePeople of Los Angeles have done. Atlanta is now working with the Cool Communities program of American Forests in using low-tech solutions to their heating problem. These strategies include using light colors on outdoor surfaces such as roofs and parking lots as well as planting trees. If these activities continue, the city will not only feel cooler; its inhabitants will save lots of energy and the air will be cleaner. It has been estimated that each degree increase in temperature above 72°F leads to a 6% increase in the possibility of smog formation. Therefore, trees can contribute to clean air in more ways than one.

These stories from Los Angeles and Atlanta are inspiring. I am very glad that there are people who are concerned about the conditions in our Olympic cities as well as the conditioning of our Olympic athletes. But, I do have one question: Must we wait for the unlikely event of hosting these prestigious games in order to mobilize ourselves to care properly for our communities' trees?

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

We lost two musical giants recently. Each had the same first name, although spelled differently, Jerry Garcia for one, a rock guitarist whose music I cannot vouch for or describe; the other was Gerry Mulligan, jazz saxophonist, whose music I can.

Mulligan died on January 20th at 68 of complications following surgery. He was one of those ones-of-a-kind, who had chosen for his jazz improvisations a most unlikely instrument, the huge and ungainly baritone saxophone. (And he was a pianist yet!)

With the hordes of jazz saxophonists active today — altos and tenors — only a handful play baritone. The great Serge Chaloff from one of the Herman Herds comes to mind ... his "Body and Soul" remains a classic, even after many years. (Mulligan admits his influence.) Then Harry Carney of the Ellington band, freelancer Nick Brignola, and that's about it.

Two musical giants who will be missed

Peter Watrous in *The New York Times* describes Mulligan's playing the usually stiff baritone as "supple and elegant. His solos had grace and gentleness, whether a ballad or up-tempo, and were always warm and personal."

Mulligan's sense of jazz humor was always in evidence, in his playing and even in the titles of his own compositions.

Example: "Bike Up the Strand," an obvious takeoff on the chord changes of "Strike Up the Band," and once you heard his "Baubles, Bangles and Beads" you'll never hear it again without thinking of his version, which actually improved it!

Jazz histories will note the Mulligan impact on what is called the "Cool School," developed in the late 40s from his collaborations with Miles Davis. Then on the West Coast he and trumpeter Chet Baker formed their famous "pianoless quartet." Judy Holliday and Mulligan were an "item" and he was featured by TIME in 1953.

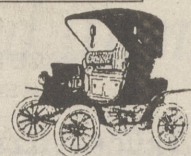
Mulligan groups toured Europe and he played at Newport Jazz Festivals. He recorded extensively

and became one of the top jazz concert draws, cutting quite a figure with his stylishly long white hair, neatly trimmed beard, and wonder of wonders — shirt, tie and suit! (He always claimed his music fun but he usually managed to look like a college professor about to lecture.)

You needn't rush out for a Mulligan CD, although that would certainly broaden your tastes. Instead, try your FM dial for a station which plays a lot of his records: Temple University's Public Radio at 91.1 frequency (WRIY). Depending on where you live, you may fare better with 94.9 (Wilkes-Barre) or even WRII (Philly) at 90.1 Try 'em all. They call themselves "JAZZ FM" and programming is superb. One segment, "Turn On the Quiet," features smooth jazz you don't hear anywhere else.

Dan Evans fans will think they've found a replacement, except they hire greenhorns. Their Tiffany Bacon refers to Sidney Bechet, the New Orleans soprano sax legend, as "Sidney Bechit!" But I forgive her ... she tries!

ONLY YESTERDAY



60 Years Ago - June 12, 1936

HIGHWAY PLANNERS

AGREE ON NEW ROUTE

Early construction of the second link in the long-neglected Dallas-Tunkhannock highway seemed likely this week as result of agreement upon the route to be followed. As originally planned, the route would have necessitated the removal of E.H. Ney's barn and Eatonville school house. This week Wyoming County Commissioners met with State engineers and agreed upon a course that would avoid these buildings.

In what was unquestionably one of the smoothest exhibitions of baseball skill ever seen in this section, Dallas Township broke the tie for first place in Back Mountain Scholastic League last Friday with a 2-1 victory over Kingston Township. In the seventh inning, Fred Stevens of Dallas, socked a record-breaking home run which soared past the auditorium and tied the score.

50 Years Ago - June 14, 1946

LABAR TO BREAK

GROUND FOR GARAGE

A contract has been signed between Dallas Township School District and the U.S. Veterans Administration for the opening of a Veterans Agricultural Training School in Dallas Township this fall. The school will present courses in general agriculture for former servicemen who are either working on farms or own their own farms and are working on them.

Caddie LaBar, athletic coach and former captain of special services in the Army Air Corps, expects to break ground along the Harveys Lake highway next week for the foundation of his new service station and automobile body shop. Mr. LaBar expects to do all types of automobile body and fender work and will have the agency for Sunoco gasoline and lubricants.

Rev. Fred M. Sellers, pastor of Shavertown United Methodist Church from 1933 to 1937, died at his home in Staten Island, NY, Monday.

40 Years Ago - June 8, 1956

THREE SCOUTS EARN

EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

Surrounded by friends, family and members of Squadron 151, Explorer Scout William Hall, Shavertown, became the third Scout in the history of the Squadron to receive the Eagle Scout award last Tuesday. Others who received the award were John Sheehan Jr. and Lee Ohlman, both of Dallas.

Mr. and Mrs. William V. Shedleski will celebrate their first anniversary as owners of Dallas Motel with the opening of their new \$100,000 20 room addition. The community is proud of the Shedleskis and of their motel which is spreading the fame of Dallas far and wide to the motoring public.

30 Years Ago - June 6, 1966

TOWNSEND TO STUDY AT

AIR FORCE SCHOOL

Walking across the platform at Irem Country Club pavilion Tuesday night to receive their diplomas were 208 members of the graduating class of Dallas High School. The pavilion was the only place in the area large enough to hold the throng, the school's auditorium long having been outgrown.

Jeffrey Townsend, Dallas Senior High School, will enter the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School in September. Jeffrey is one of a select few to enter the school in quest of an appointment to the Academy after a year's study.

20 Years Ago - June 10, 1976

SHAVERTOWN SCHOOL

IS UP FOR SALE

The Dallas School Board approved a motion made by Richard Hislop, chairman of the property committee, to advertise for bids for the sale of the Shavertown elementary building by a vote of 6 to 3. The building and 1.23 acres on which it is situated will be sold as a whole and in present condition.

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