

LETTERS

A way for the school district to save money

Editor:
This is a copy of a letter I am sending to Governor Ridge.
Again our school taxes were raised here at Lehman School District. The schools have about 1,200 in elementary, 400 middle and 600 in high school, totaling about 2,200 students.
They raised the taxes 23 mills, which is an actual 12.3 percent increase. The only problem is that this increase is not for any special needs, (building, upgrading the curriculum, improving maintenance), just the "minimum" cost - now almost \$8,000 per student.
We were informed the increase was due to high teacher's salary and medical benefits (up to \$12,500 per teacher) for whoever works there and early retirement. (Bus drivers are not included.)
Here is my point. As I understand, the state and federal governments give the schools \$2,500 per student, which does not include special programs, reim-

bursements or even more. Why not explore the home schooling and give those the monies - or at least a fair part per child of it - to them? It would be a savings for the state too. You do not need a teacher's degree to teach your kids. Most home teachers state they home-school due to religious reasons. That may be so, but there should be and are other reasons.
The public school copes with a minimum of 15 kids and maximum of 22 kids per class of students with IQ 71-119. Below 71 is retarded, above 119 is gifted.
As a parent, you must cope with your very own child/children and their learning abilities.
Also, you do not have your kid subjected to all these sicknesses and contagious illnesses, some deadly. Also your child does not have to leave the house, it's truly home. Now they leave by 7 a.m. and return not much before 4 p.m., making it a very long day, about nine hours inside the school.

Also, your child will eat better and more. After all these hours in school they have only a 30 minute lunch break to gulp down a home lunch bag or commercial lunch, where ketchup is considered a vegetable.
Mothers could stay home again and even get paid a little to create a nice atmosphere of learning. The whole family could get involved. It could mean more jobs for fathers again, especially those with kids in the early elementary grades.
The state could supply the basic school materials and have, once or after each quarter, some actual testing required and done. Less schools would be needed, putting less of a burden on the taxpayers.
At first it may sound complicated but it should not be. Think about it. Some states have this option (to pay also).

Karin Schreyer
Harveys Lake

Meadows' annual flea mart was great success

Editor:
Each year the success of the Meadows Auxiliary's fund raiser, "Market on the Pond" depends on a strong dose of good weather, the support of our local media to publicize our event, booth sponsors, and our hard working auxiliaries, community volunteers, families, staff and friends. It's a real team effort and it works!

We thank *The Dallas Post* for the excellent coverage of this event. With your help our auxiliary was able to raise over \$5,000 to benefit our residents.
Several community groups that I would like to give special mention to are the Dallas Kiwanis who did a great job with parking, the GFWC Harveys Lake members who worked in our food booth and

kept the wimpies, hot dogs, and sodas flowing; and Scout Troop #4, who helped with parking, flyers, set up and clean up (they were also our "runners" during the day).

Marilyn Gregorski
Director of Resident and Community Services
The Meadows

A Case for conservation



Alene N. Case

Introduction: Smoking is the single largest preventable cause of human disease and death in the United States. This statement is repeated in so many articles on the effects of cigarette smoking that it no longer requires quotation marks. Four hundred thousand Americans die of smoking related illnesses each year. That's 16 times as many people as die in automobile accidents! And the most amazing statistic of all is that fully 40 percent of smokers are ignorant of the damage that they are doing to their bodies. The next two articles in this column will deal with this issue of indoor (and internal!) air pollution. The first is the following true story told by my husband and colleague, Professor Michael Case of Wilkes University. A. Case.
In 1984 I had the good fortune to extend my interests in environmental health issues in humans by teaching an undergraduate course at a regional community college. The students were "non-traditional" in that they had families, jobs, and were older than 25 years. All of them were struggling to complete 12-18 hours of class in a weekend program that met every three weeks. The pace was grueling, and it came as no surprise to me that at break time in the two-hour sessions the hallways would fill with cigarette smoke! It seemed ironic that students in an environmental health course would be compelled to smoke at break time. Of my 11

A graphic demonstration of smoking's dangers

students, seven were heavy smokers.
I do not smoke. In fact, I have never tried a cigarette in my life. But it was interesting to get to know these students for four months and to learn that they knew they were addicted but could not muster the will power to quit. I am trained in science, not in drug intervention techniques. But, it seemed an interesting challenge to educate these students objectively about the hazards of smoking using the scientific method. So, I designed the "Smoking Machine Experiment."
The design was simple - a holder for the cigarette connected to a plastic tube which led to a pre-weighed five micron filter and thence to a water extraction solution. A vacuum pump served as the "inhalation device." Two groups built replicate devices. The results from "smoking" one cigarette on the machine astounded the students. The filter clogged with a wet, foul-smelling tar-like substance while the water extractor rapidly turned the color of tea. Despite the two experimental filtration barriers, copious amounts of fine smoke particles smaller than one micrometer still passed through the machine.
The reaction of the students can only be described as "stunned." They realized the bronchial trees of their lungs were the extraction devices for the tars and nicotine; and, the alveoli of their lungs where life-giving oxygen gas is exchanged becomes clogged with the fine smoke particles with their sticky tar coatings.
Of course, any good professor after having stunned her/his students will give it to them again before they can recover. I just

happened to have brought with me a carbon monoxide (CO) tester. We went out to the parking lot and tested some of their auto exhausts and found that most of their cars were producing very little carbon monoxide emission (<1 ppm) because of functional catalytic converters. Most of the students were aware of the dangers of CO - that it binds almost irreversibly with hemoglobin in the blood resulting in asphyxiation at levels above 5 ppm. When we returned to the lab, I asked one of the students to light a cigarette for me so that we could test the CO from the tip of the cigarette. Curiously, even the smokers refused at this point: I had to use my smoking machine. As I eased the intake of the CO testing device toward the "side-stream" smoke of the smoldering cigarette, the reading went rapidly off scale (>20 ppm). The reaction from the students was electric. They did not know that cigarette smoke contained so much CO. The only reason a few cigarettes do not kill you immediately is that the CO is diluted by the air as the smoker inhales. Cigarette smokers poison themselves chronically with carbon monoxide. They carry a carbon monoxide burden that can take up to two weeks to dissipate if you stop for a while. It is this carbon monoxide that gradually kills the heart muscle.
Toward the end of the semester, I discovered that four of my seven smokers had quit smoking - not a bad track record for a scientist practicing drug addiction intervention. I learned that no amount of lecturing or reading is an adequate substitute for the truth packaged in a vivid, objective, hands-on experiment.

Luzerne County Fair invites entries for queen contest

The Luzerne County Fair invites young women between the ages of 16 and 20 by June to represent their community at the Fair Queen competition September 7.
Each contestant must write a one page essay titled "What My County Fair Means to Me and My

Community and will be judged on the essay and a two minute public service announcement delivered on stage based on the theme "Here's Why You Should Come To The County Fair This Weekend".
The winner will receive a \$500 scholarship from Pepsi Cola of Wilkes-Barre, a portrait sitting at

the Dallas Photo Shop and a gift certificate from Tovan and Co., in Dallas and will represent the Luzerne County Fair at the State Fair Queen event in Hershey in January 1997.
Call 675-FAIR or 696-4755 for an application. Entrants must reside in Luzerne County.



60 Years Ago - July 10, 1936 NEW WAVE OF BUILDING BEGINS IN AREA

Contractors, lumber dealers, and carpenters in this section are riding on the crest of a new wave of building and remodeling which is contributing to the steady upward trend of economic conditions here. It is estimated that the volume of building has doubled in the last year. Dallas Borough Council has already taken steps to control the long-expected building increase and is making preparations to establish a permanent zoning commission which will fix strict building regulations.
You could get - Chuck roast, 18c lb.; watermelons, 49c ea.; plums, 3 lbs. 25c; tomatoes, 2 lbs. 19c; Ivory Soap, cake, 5c.

50 Years Ago - July 12, 1946 TEST BORINGS MADE FOR NATIVE LACE PLANT

Sprague and Henwood have a crew of drillers on the ground making test borings for the new Native Lace Co. plant, which will be built shortly on the plot of land purchased recently from the Warden Estate along Harveys Lake Highway, northwest of Dallas. Construction of the \$475,000 modern plant has been held up for several months pending Civilian Production Administration approval of the project.
T.A. Williammee, former principal of Dallas Borough schools and for the past year supervising principal of Falls-Overfield Vocational School in Wyoming County,

has been appointed supervising principal of the new consolidated school at Millville, Columbia County.
Representatives of a New Jersey firm manufacturing physician and nurses gown and uniforms were in Dallas this week looking for available locations for their plant. The firm employs between 40-50 women and has a nationwide distribution for its products.

40 Years Ago - July 6, 1956 LIBRARY GETS FORD'S THEATER PLAYBILL

Jack Heidig, chairman of the Idetown Civic Association, announces Open House at the new playground on the Gilbert Ide property adjacent to Oak Hill on Saturday July 4 starting at 4 p.m. The public is invited and families are asked to bring box lunches. There is a ball field, volley ball court, swings and equipment for children. Games will be played.
Dallas Legion, undefeated in six starts, was downed 8-6 by the Hanover White Sox in a hard fought battle lasting 11 innings. Dallas plays West Wyoming away on Sunday and with Fosko, fresh from a no-hit victory over Buttonwood, throwing for West Wyoming, a good game should be in the offing.

A copy of the Ford's Theatre playbill for April 14, 1865, the night Abe Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth, has been given to the Back Mountain Memorial Library by Mrs. Paul Bedford of Wilkes-Barre.

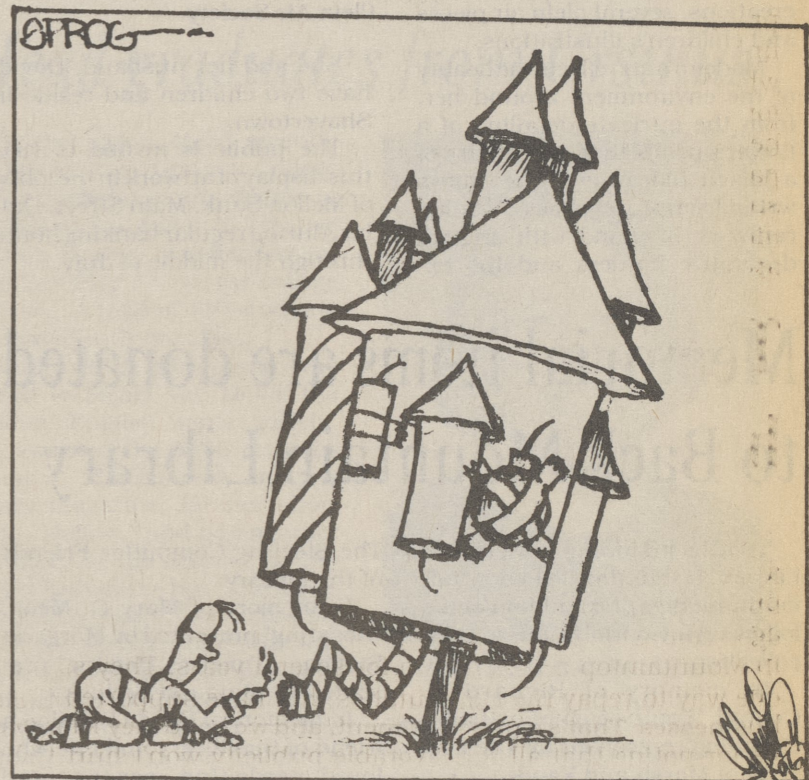
30 Years Ago - July 7, 1966 RECORD HEAT AND DROUGHT HIT AREA

Blistering heat over the weekend topped off the driest June on record, causing the residents of the Back Mountain to congratulate themselves for not living in New York, where the temperature soared to 107 degrees instead of a modest 102.

Lake Township Supervisors on Friday agreed to contact the State Health Department Sanitary Engineer about the new Pennsylvania Sewage Act, after receiving a letter from a consulting firm asking for the job. The new act sets up requirements to be met by July 1, 1967. Chairman W. Hoover announced the old dump must be covered by July 15. The new landfill site on Rte. 29 will be open Wednesday from 12 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

20 Years Ago - July 8, 1976 L-L BOARD VOTES DOWN TWO FURLOUGHS

A resolution to furlough two guidance counselors and one elementary teacher died for lack of a 5-vote majority despite the presence of all nine of Lake-Lehman's school directors at a special meeting Tuesday evening. The measure had been considered necessary to balance the district's \$3.5 million budget.



Bible school at Fellowship Church

The Fellowship Evangelical Free Church on Hildebrandt Road, Dallas will hold Vacation Bible School July 15-19, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Children ages five through 6th grade are welcome to attend. For more information, call 675-6426.



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