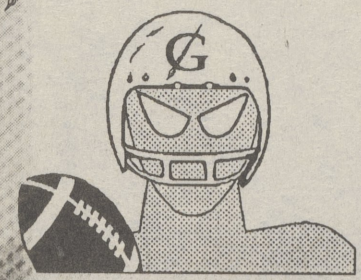


Ghostwriter



by Paul Rismiller

Rah! Rah! Rah! Go Coach, GO!!

so I'll never buy this "my boy (or girl) would never do this", or "my boy (or girl) shouldn't have been treated like this" crap. My kids just might do this, and if they did, they deserve exactly what they get.

I sincerely hope young Aaron isn't considering a tour in the military. It might strike him as excessive punishment to be told "Drop and give me thirty, dud!" for about the tenth time that day. (I certainly thought it was excessive.)

When you show up with an Esquire in tow, it will lead to embarrassment (not to mention a blanket party) for the boy, and will certainly lead to gales of laughter at the NCO club that night.

My advice as a professional: keep your lawyer in your pocket until you really need him. See below.

The Player: First he's giving lip to a teacher, which started the whole mess, then he blows off a game, further aggravating his problem. Maybe because his big brother is co-captain of the varsity squad, he thinks he's one of the anointed. There's a lot of maybe's involved, but I think it's obvious the boy has an attitude.

Hmm, maybe you should consider sending him into the service, dad!

The Lawyers: Unnecessary leeches whose presence in any situation is guaranteed to confuse, obfuscate, and bury facts, for years, if not decades. (And incidentally, generate generous paychecks for themselves.) As a general rule: utterly useless.

The Coach: Ted Jackson had every right to defend his assistant, and everyone would have been disappointed had he left Brady dangling in the wind.

However, suggesting you and the rest of your staff might miss the homecoming game over this was a bum call.

Wah! Wah! If you don't play my way, I'm taking my ball home!

Gee, what an inspirational message that is to teach the team!

And speaking of inspiration, if Brady did indeed lean on Pietraccini too hard, I wonder where he could have picked up that kind of an

attitude? From his boss and former coach, perhaps?

A lot of players and Gridiron Club members used the phrase "discipline and respect" in their defense of Brian Brady. Ted Jackson's grandstanding showed a grandiose lack of self-discipline, and a disgraceful lack of respect for the school board, the students, and yes, even his team.

Personally, I think you should beat feet and clear the way for someone who will teach the Dallas football team "discipline and respect" by their example, not just their words.

I've little doubt that my opinion is in the minority, and that there are many who will vehemently disagree, so I might as well go all the way and state my underlying problem with this sordid scenario.

I do not dispute the importance of team sports to those who take part, but I am frustrated and offended at the emphasis so many attach to what are, after all, just games, in the face of far more serious issues involving our schools.

I was really frosted that students were dismissed early to attend the Dallas homecoming game. First of all, I, for one, send my children to school to attend class and learn. Only the kids on the field learn anything from a sporting event.

Secondly, because of the weather, the game had to be postponed to a school day afternoon. Excuse me, but DUH!, don't you think it might be reasonably expected that the weather, or perhaps the arrest of some star player, might end up delaying the game?

So why not have a backup date set aside on a WEEKEND!?

But no, this would be too much to expect from people with such twisted priorities.

While districts across the country lavish so much attention and money on their athletes, the rest of the student body are reduced to a herd, useful for filling the stands, but otherwise allowed to drift along into drugs, sex, and trouble.



Members of the Back Mountain Land Trust who attended the national land trust rally in Vermont are, from left, Ellen Alaimo, Doug Ayers VMD, Will Conyngham, president, and Linda Thoma, administrator.

Rally recharges Land Trust members

By ALENE N. CASE
Post Correspondent

BACK MOUNTAIN - Along with some new information, four members of the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust brought back renewed spirits from the National Land Trust Rally.

Ellen Alaimo, Doug Ayers, Will Conyngham and Linda Thoma were among 1,100 people from 37 states and four countries who attended the annual National Land Trust Rally in Burlington, Vermont, Oct. 17-20. The Vermont Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy of Vermont, which co-hosted the event, expected around 800 people to attend. Instead, they were forced to close registration when more than 1,000 people had registered more than a month before the Rally.

Doug Ayers, a local veterinarian who has attended the past three national rallies, found Vermont to be an excellent location for such an event. He says that "the populace is clearly behind the concept" of land trusts in Vermont. The governor, Howard Dean, addressed the gathering, as did a Republican U.S. Senator from the state and the mayor of Burlington. According to Dr. Ayers, Vermont has successful programs to preserve farmland "because they know that the farmland is their bread and butter, literally, because people come there to look at that."

"A Land Trust is a necessary component of any progressive community."

Will Conyngham
President, Back Mountain Regional Land Trust

October 17 was a day devoted to field trips. The two men joined a group of 40 persons who canoed seven miles of the Lamoille River, a scenic stream which empties into Lake Champlain. The women visited the town of Stowe and the Trapp Family Lodge where they were guided by Johannes von Trapp, the youngest of the children made famous in the musical *The Sound of Music*.

His family has recently placed a conservation easement on 1,100 acres of their property to ensure that it will remain in its natural condition forever and to retain the scenic value of the land.

During the next three days, the participants attended workshop sessions and seminars on topics ranging from organizational management to fundraising to the "nuts and bolts" of conservation easements to the protection of watersheds. Each of the four local representatives attended dif-

ferent sessions so they could bring as much information as possible back with them to the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust. Many of these ideas were already being discussed and implemented at the regular monthly meeting October 24.

But, when asked what they considered the most important thing they brought home with them, the unanimous response was "energy and enthusiasm." Will Conyngham, president of the local organization, used the word "empowerment" and emphasized that, "A Land Trust is a necessary component of any progressive community."

The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust is currently working on two conservation easements which will bring the total acreage protected to more than 100. They need people who can advise the board on matters as diverse as law, surveying, ecology and wetlands management, and environmental education. They also are in the process of setting up committees to handle publicity, finance, activities, etc. Volunteers who are willing to donate some time and expertise are most welcome.

If you are interested in catching the spirit of this land trust and participating in any way in their future projects, please contact Linda Thoma at 675-2274.

LETTERS

Student council president praises advisor

Editor:
On behalf of the Dallas High School Student Council and the entire student body, we would like to thank Mrs. Sprau, Student Council Advisor for her leadership, tireless efforts, enthusiasm

and guidance in helping our Student Council develop and present a 'great' Homecoming program for our school. Dallas High School has an excellent faculty and it is exemplified by Mrs. Sprau.

I also need to recognize and thank the many students who worked so diligently decorating, planning and participating in our Homecoming activities.

Aaron Getz
President, Student Council

GUEST COLUMN

Save other guy's life — don't drink and drive

DEATH OF AN INNOCENT

I went to a party, mom, I remembered what you said
You told me not to drink, so I drank soda instead.
I really felt proud, mom, the way you said I would.
I didn't drink and drive, even though the others said I should.
I know I did the right thing, mom, I know you were always right

Now the party is finally ending, mom, everyone is driving out of sight.

As I got into my car, mom, I knew I'd get home in one piece, because of the way you raised me, so responsible and sweet.

I started to drive away, mom, but as I pulled into the road, the other car did not see me and hit me like a load.

As I lay here on the pavement, mom, I hear the policeman say... the other guy is drunk, mom, now I'm the one to pay.

I'm lying here dying, mom, I wish you'd get here soon.
How could this happen to me, mom, my life has burst like a balloon.

There is blood all around me, mom, and most of it is mine.
I hear the medics say, mom, I'll die in a short time.

I just wanted to tell you, mom, I swear I didn't drink.

It was the others, mom, the others didn't think.

He was probably at the same party as I the only difference is, he is drunk and I will die.

Why do people drink mom? It can ruin your whole life.

I am feeling sharp pains now, pains just like a knife.

The guy who hit me is walking, mom, and I don't think it's fair.

I'm lying here dying, and all he can do is stare.

Tell brother not to cry, mom, tell Daddy to be brave and when I go to heaven, mom, put "daddy's girl" on my grave.

Someone should have told him, mom, not to drink and drive.

If only they had told him, mom, I'd still be alive.

My breath is getting shorter, mom, I'm becoming very scared.

Please don't cry for me, mom, you were always there.

I have one last question, mom, before I say goodbye.

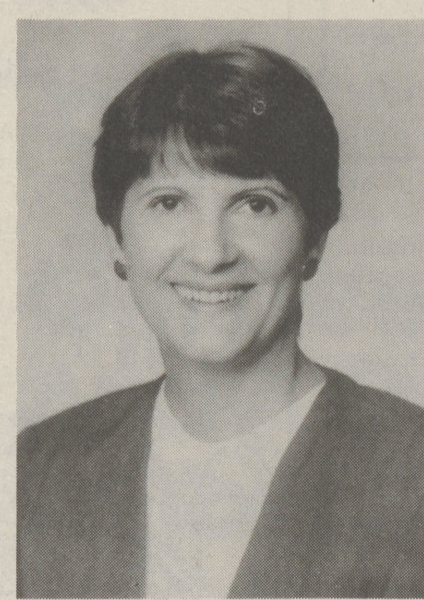
I didn't drink and drive, mom, so why am I the one to die?

Former Dallas Post employee Linda Smith submitted this poem, which she received on the Internet from a friend who, like Linda, is concerned about people who drink and drive.



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PHYLLIS MUNDY IN A WORD — EFFECTIVE.



Bringing back home the tax dollars you send to Harrisburg. Fighting to create new jobs and save existing ones. Listening to you at countless one-on-one sessions, forums and town meetings. These are the hallmarks of State Representative Phyllis Mundy's service.

All her constituents in the Back Mountain know Phyllis Mundy feels everybody across the 120th District should be heard and ... helped.

She's dedicated herself to serving full-time the people she represents.

Phyllis Mundy started the wheels in motion with economic development officials to relocate 100 new jobs here from New Jersey. She helped save rail service for four major employers. There are now traffic lights at dangerous intersections in Kingston, Exeter, West Pittston and the Back Mountain because of Phyllis Mundy's persistence. She had PennDOT erect sound barriers along the Cross Valley Expressway. In short, Phyllis Mundy gets things done.

Friend of working families. Advocate for senior citizens. Promoter of economic growth. Full-time legislator. Endorsed by both labor and business — the state AFL-CIO and the Chamber of Commerce.

