

EDITORIALS

You don't have to look far to find a hero

Before you take your kids to see *Space Jam* or *Star Wars*, you might want to tell them the story of a real hero who lives and works right in their own backyard. Kingston Township police officer James Ibbotson is credited with probably saving the lives of six occupants of a home that burned last weekend. By kicking in the front door and helping evacuate the James Miller family and a houseguest, Ibbotson joins the ranks of people who have honored their profession and their humanity by acts of bravery.

Egged on by commercial interests, modern society has confused heroism and celebrity to the point that many observers don't know the difference. But Ibbotson's actions early Saturday morning were a graphic illustration of real courage; one man's determination to risk his life to save others. Some might say he was only doing his job, and that is true as far as it goes. What goes unsaid is that he has trained for his job as long and hard as actors or athletes have practiced their crafts, preparing for the day when his skills would be put to the test. And no one's job description requires that they race into burning buildings when there's no one else around to help them out.

Rescuing a family from fire won't get James Ibbotson a \$20 million Nike contract or make his face recognizable around the globe. His heroism won't get him the best table at fancy restaurants or draw screams from fawning groupies. But his bravery should give him the satisfaction of knowing he has lived up to and beyond the responsibilities of his chosen profession while setting an example for his associates and the community he serves.

LL wrestlers rate a 10

Wow! There's not much left to be said about the Lake-Lehman wrestling team, which captured the first District 2 Class AA Dual Meet championship Saturday. The Black Knights came out ahead in three matches that day, winning each by a margin of at least 50 percent each time.

Anyone who follows Lake-Lehman wrestling is not surprised by this performance, given that the Knights have been undefeated in their conference six of the past eight years. But let's not take that kind of record for granted; co-coaches Phil Lipski and Tom Williams have molded a winning tradition that is second to none, building on experience gained in fine junior high and youth squads.

It's interesting to also note the fine academic performance turned in by team members, seven of whom were named to the honor roll for the most-recent marking period. That shows their coaches and families are keeping the competing aspects of student life in perspective.

Now it's on to regionals and state competition, where we wish the 1997 Black Knights well. We look forward to reporting on more fine performances to come.

Publisher's notebook

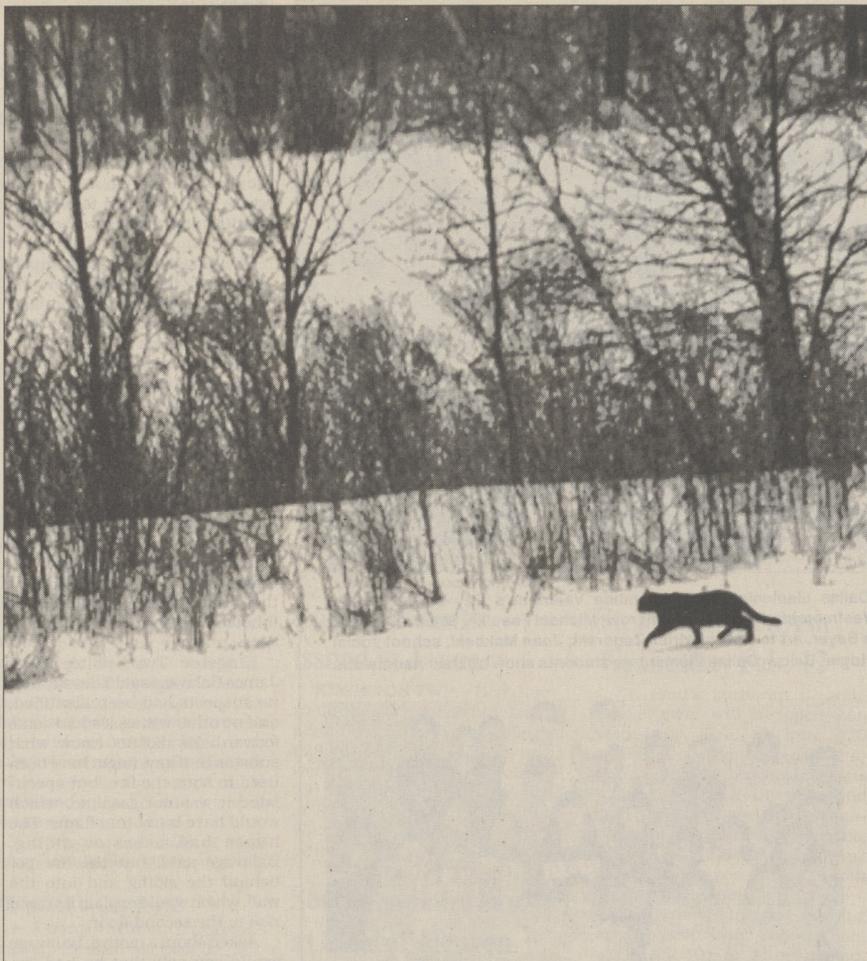
Ron Bartizek



I used to consider myself more liberal than otherwise, but now I'm beginning to wonder: Have I changed or has politics moved more to the extreme on both sides? The latest idea that raises questions in my mind is President Clinton's plan to reward good grades in college with tax credits or deductions. You've probably heard about the plan; to give families with college students in their first two years either a \$1,500 tax credit or a \$10,000 deduction from income, as long as they earn grades of B or above. I'm not sure if that's a B average or no grade below B, but that's not what concerns me. I worry that once this scheme's in place, most everyone will get a B, especially if they have a good enough sob story for their instructor or the school is desperate for students. There's also this possibility; schools will increase their tuition by, say, \$1,000 a year knowing that it will come from the tax subsidy. This also is one of many arguments against vouchers for private schools, and I think it's a legitimate concern.

Not that I oppose paying for grades. It's a tactic I use, but only for outstanding performance. (And in amounts a lot lower than Clinton's talking about!) I'm just concerned that grade inflation often sets in whenever there's a pile of government money on the table. The \$1,500 figure sounds a lot like the amount in a Pell grant, a program that has been cut back in recent years, but which has a good record of rewarding deserving students.

We need to do a better job of educating our youth, but I doubt this is the way to do it. But then, I don't have any brilliant suggestions either, except to be involved with your kids' schooling as much as they'll tolerate.



Cat camouflage fails on a snowy day. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

If the school ain't broke, don't fix it!

Editor:
You've heard the old adage "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" I feel this applies to Westmoreland School. Not in the literal sense, of course, because I realize there are renovations needed (although I am unclear of the details) I'm referring to the fact that everyone involved with Westmoreland is happy: the teachers, the parents and most importantly, the children. In this fast-paced, ever-changing world, Westmoreland is "a constant", "a familiarity", "a comfort zone" for our children and because they are comfortable they do better academically. Isn't that

the bottom line?
My dad graduated from high school there, my siblings and I attended Westmoreland as did and are my children. As a matter of fact, Westmoreland is the only reason I kept my younger children in the Dallas School District because of the good experiences I and my older children had while attending that school. Besides taking away a wonderful school, the children will be losing the playground in the neighborhood. With no sidewalks, the playground is used for biking, walking and rollerblading not to mention just playing some ball or

using the playground equipment. Just check it out any evening or weekend once the warm weather hits. Do our children have to lose this, too?
I feel the walls of this great school will outlast any new construction built (remember the leaks of the new high school wing?) both physically and through good memories. Education should not be a business measured by dollars and cents, but by the smiles and accomplishments of our children.

Please, put them first.
L. Gross
Trucksville

You can't judge a nurse by her uniform

Editor:
I am writing in reference to an article which was published in the December 18 issue of *The Dallas Post* entitled "What would Florence Nightingale think?" by Mr. Jack Hilsher.
In the article, Mr. Hilsher stated that Florence Nightingale, who he irreverently called "Flossie", "single-handedly transformed nursing from a lowly, thankless chore to a skilled and respected profession". He continued his article by stating that "the lady with the lamp" was affected by "profound psychoneurosis" without any references to his apparently extensive research into nursing history.
He stated that "data entry clerks from billing look nearer than most nurses do today" and that by updating their uniforms nurses have lost their "angelic" appearance. It is preposterous to assert that educated and professional nurses

should dress as angels to gain public trust.
Over the past few decades nurses have diligently worked to gain a higher degree of professionalism and autonomy in our male-dominated health care field. Through higher education and dedication to quality patient care, nurses have worked to break the demeaning stereotypes Mr. Hilsher reproduced in this article. Although he stated many ways in which his fictitious "Mrs. Jones" was annoyed by nurses, Mr. Hilsher neglected to mention what sort of nursing care was provided for "Mrs. Jones." He neglected to mention whether "Mrs. Jones" understood the purpose and risks involved in her surgery; if her vital signs were monitored post-operatively; was her incision checked for bleeding, drainage and evisceration; was her abdomen distended; what was her oral intake;

had she been taught deep-breathing and leg exercises to prevent the formation of blood clots; was her pain controlled; did her analgesics have side effects; was her IV solution correct and infusing at the correct rate; was her IV site patent; was there edema, redness or pain at the site; was her Foley catheter patent; and depending on the type of surgery, I could continue extensively.
Maybe Ms. Nightingale wouldn't recognize today's nurses in their updated uniforms, but certainly she, unlike Mr. Hilsher, would recognize quality nursing care.
Although nurses have worked very hard to overcome the age-old stigmas surrounding their profession, it is opinions such as Mr. Hilsher's which make nursing seem like a "lowly, thankless chore".
Patricia L. Moyle, R.N., B.S.N.



60 Years Ago - Feb. 19, 1937

PETITIONS OPPOSING ROOSEVELT SENT TO POST

A number of petitions which will be forwarded eventually to the Senate and House opposing President Roosevelt's bill proposing changes in the Supreme Court have been sent to The Post by Frank E. Gannett publisher of Gannett newspapers, with the request that they be made available to those persons who oppose the proposal. Anyone wanting copies of the petition may call at The Post.

The gas station bandits who have been striking with serpent-like swiftness here in the last month have stolen \$55 in three robberies. Split among the four, nets each one a little less than \$14 for three stick-ups not to mention the occupational risks of their profession and the threat of imprisonment hanging over them.

50 Years Ago - Feb. 21, 1947

WORKMEN BUILD 124 FT. BRICK STACK IN BOILER

Workmen yesterday completed the 124-ft. brick stack in the boiler room at Natona Mills. The stack has a 5 ft. diameter at the top and will provide the draft for the two big boilers, one high pressure and the other low pressure, which will be installed in the boiler room as soon as the floors are laid. Both boilers will be fed by stokers and burn anthracite coal.

40 Years Ago - Feb. 15, 1957

SCHOOL BOARD DISCUSSES SEPARATING SCHOOLS

Dallas Area School Directors balked Tuesday evening at taking a vote on the proposed separation of the Junior and Senior High School students, holding that advantages and disadvantages must be weighed. Reallocation of three classes of elementary school children is the probable price of separation as Junior High School enrollment is higher than the Senior High School and the Township school is already crowded.

There is nothing Dallas Township can do to influence the State Department of Highways to approve a 35-mile speed limit on Overbrook Avenue. This was explained by Dallas Township Supervisors to members of the Back Mountain Citizens Committee at a meeting Monday night in Dallas-Franklin-Monroe High School. The State has refused to permit the supervisors to post the road in spite of a petition asking for a 35-mile limit. The State also refused to permit Dallas Township to erect a traffic light at the intersection of lower Main Street and Memorial Highway near the exit to the new Linear plant.

30 Years Ago - Feb. 16, 1967

TIGER CAT THAT ATTACKED WOMAN CAPTURED

Trapped in a garbage can, the dark grey tiger cat which bit Mrs. Edward Gensel three weeks ago at her home in Lehman was picked up by the SPCA and the head sent to the Harrisburg laboratory for examination. No report on the findings has been released. Mrs. Gensel whose finger was badly mangled spent eight days at Mercy Hospital. Her son, Charles, who had been badly scratched on the neck when the terrified animal darted about the room, was also hospitalized.

20 Years Ago - Feb. 17, 1977

ROBERT POST APPOINTED MAYOR OF DALLAS BORO

Robert Post of Dallas was appointed mayor of Dallas Borough at the borough council meeting Tuesday evening. He will fill the position left vacant by the recent death of Stephen Hartman and will serve until Jan. 1978. Post is a former councilman of the borough.

Dallas School Board members Monday voted to reduce the commission rate paid to tax collectors of the municipalities within the district in order to establish a fair compensation. A base pay compensation is required by the Pennsylvania School Code but finance chairman Earl Fritzges stated that since all of the municipalities have elected tax collectors it would not be fair to establish a base salary since some of the officials serve areas larger than others.

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Ronald A. Bartizek
PUBLISHER

Charlotte E. Bartizek
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Dennise Casterline
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC

Kylie Shafferkoetter
REPORTER

Paul Rismiller
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Olga Kostrobala
CLASSIFIED/TYPESSETTING

Jill Gruver
OFFICE MANAGER



LIBRARY NEWS



By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library announces some upcoming events for February. The 'Friends of the Library' will meet on February 14 at 1 p.m. in the community room of the library. Anyone interested in becoming involved with this group is welcome to attend. The first auction meeting for the 51st auction will take place in the community room of the library on Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. Interested community members and willing workers are invited to attend this kick-off event for the

Kick-off for library auction

1997 library auction. Joseph Stager will serve as chairman of the 51st auction.

New books at the library: "Falsely Accused" by Robert K. Tanenbaum is the story of Butch Karp who is not working for the City of New York anymore. Instead he's fighting City Hall. New York's chief medical examiner, Murray Selig, has been summarily fired without due cause, and Butch, now in private practice, is suing the city for all this case of administrative malfeasance is worth.

"The Dancer Upstairs" by Nicholas Shakespeare is a story of love and terror, of the fragility of human lives caught in the crossfire of politics. A South American country has just put behind bars its most notorious rebel leader, the man known as Ezequiel, whose bloody war against the state has cost 30,000 lives. The police of-

ficer responsible has been pensioned.

"Death in Lovers' Lane" by Carolyn Hart is the story of 'Henrie O', a character creation, compassionate, resourceful, unparalleled sexagenarian sleuth. Beautiful, ambitious and abrasive Maggie Winslow approaches her with an idea for an investigative series, a look at three unrelated unsolved crimes she urges the tenacious budding reporter to pursue the story with vigor.

"Small Town Girl" by LaVyrle Spencer is about young Tess McPhail, who left tiny Wintergreen, Missouri, for Nashville and never looked back. She is now one of country music's brightest lights. She is a millionairess many times over, whose career is her life. She has no time for marriage, children, or kinsfolk—until she goes home to help care for her widowed mother.