

EDITORIALS

# Library Auction: Great fun for a good cause

There is no better example of community spirit in the Back Mountain than the annual library auction, and the institution it supports. Months in planning, and critically important, the auction is run entirely by volunteers who understand the vital role a free library fills in our modern age. The constant stream of news about the Internet, cyberspace, virtual reality and space travel sometimes obscures the fundamental building blocks of progress, one of which is reading. Computers are tools which must be programmed and used by thinking humans, and the best way to learn to think is through reading and writing, whether ink on paper or pixels on a screen.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library will take a giant step forward at the close of this year's auction when construction begins on the new children's wing. Triple the space of the present children's room, the new wing will incorporate up-to-the-minute technology alongside traditional bookshelves, and will allow more children to use the library more conveniently, insuring that the next generation has the tools they need to make the most of the new century.

Before the first shovel of soil is turned, though, it's time for some fun. Come to the auction, meet old and new friends, sample the food, tour the booths, make a bid, and support the Back Mountain Memorial Library, our connection to the past and future.



51st Annual Library Auction  
July 10 • 11 • 12 • 13

## Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Here's a revealing sign of the state of our nation. A study of health care bills passed recently by the U.S. House and Senate estimates that each would fall far short of the goal of guaranteeing health care coverage to one half of the America's 10 million uninsured children. That the bills don't meet their own expectations is unsurprising. What's most telling is that the goal was to reach only half the children who lack coverage. That says a lot about how low our national standards have fallen.

There was a time when government set high goals, whether it was to reach the moon in the 1960's or to create the "Great Society" of Lyndon Johnson's dreams. Sometimes we succeeded in reaching the mark, sometimes we didn't, but at least we aimed high. In this case, the majority of members of Congress apparently agree that something should be done about inadequate health care insurance for children. Or at least they want us to think they believe something should be done. It seems the House version of the bill would simply turn over federal funds to the states with few strings attached except a note that it is meant to be used for children's health. There's nothing that would prevent the states from substituting the money for outlays that now come from their coffers, and diverting that to other uses.

Now all the parties are bickering about whose plan is superior and why theirs works so much better than the study suggests. That seems like a big smokescreen to me, designed to hide the fact that their commitment to kids' health is shallow.

If we think there are 10 million children who need health care coverage, how can we be willing to settle for helping only half of them, even as we're preparing to drop tax rates for the wealthy, who have seen their incomes rise steadily as the majority of families have struggled stagnant incomes? I'd like to ask the people who proposed this legislation which half of needy children should get coverage, based on what criteria.

Conservatives will argue that the state shouldn't be in the business of caring for children anyway — that's a job for parents. Fine, if that's the case, don't spend a dime on needy kids. But don't give the savings to millionaires, either.

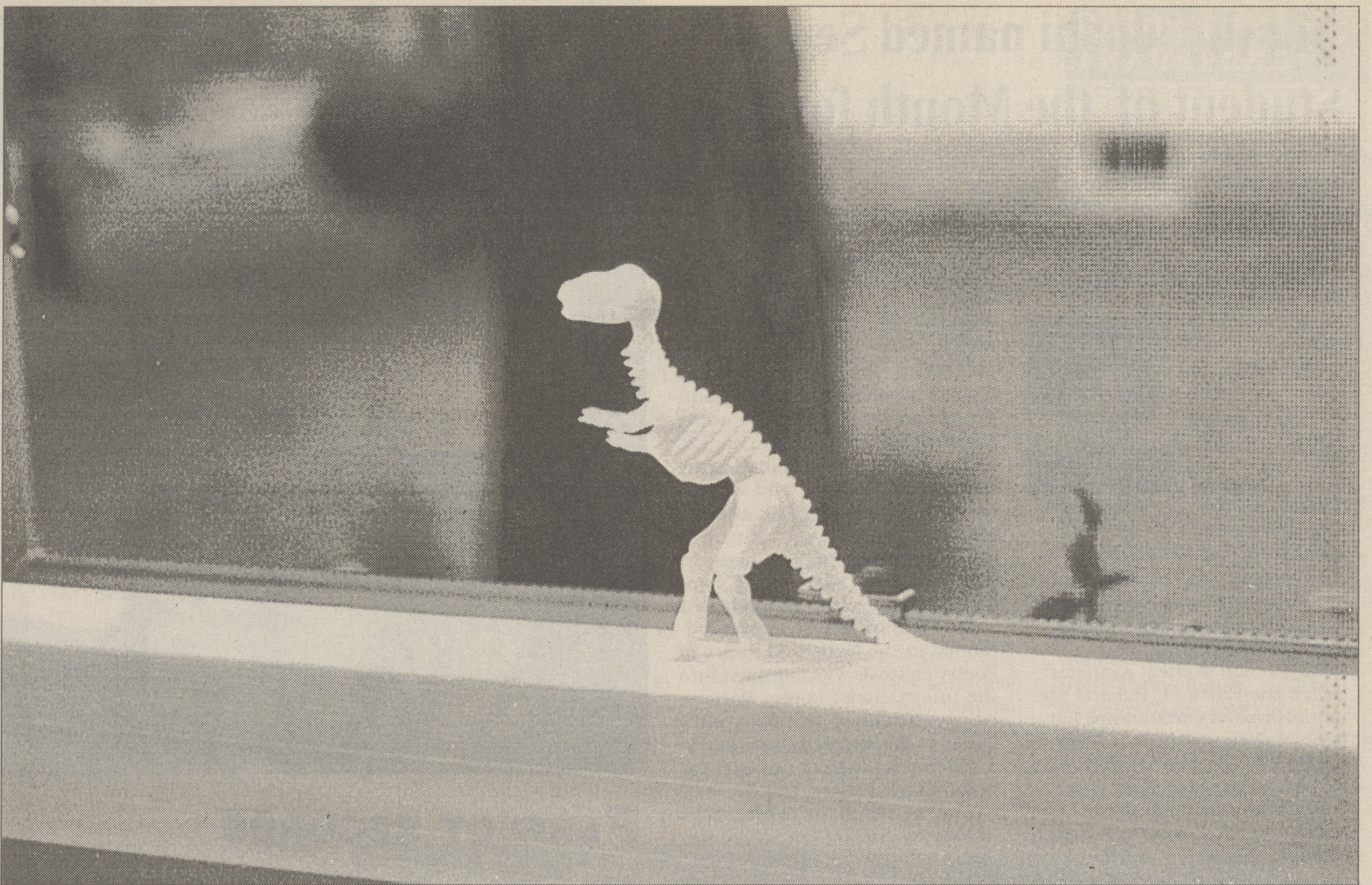
## Do you agree? Disagree?

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## The Dallas Post

Published Weekly By Bartsen Media, Inc.  
P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612  
717-675-5211

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The Lost World, found in a Dallas window. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

## Food 'n' fun

Jim Phillips



What would a summer cookout be without hamburgers? The answer to that is hard to imagine. For me, a backyard grill and hamburgers go hand-in-hand.

Actually, Americans and hamburgers go hand-in-hand. A recent survey in *Restaurants and Institutions* magazine found that 86% of the population consumed hamburgers within the last year, making the hamburger America's favorite food.

## Spice up those summer burgers

Legend has it the origins of the hamburger can be traced to the late 1800's. Hamburgers began catching on during the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, but it wasn't until 1916 that someone had the brilliant idea to add the bun! (How did they eat their burgers back then?)

The thought of the cheeseburger didn't strike anyone until eight years later.

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy America's favorite food. While individual tastes vary (mine vary like the weather), now is the time to try a "different" burger. Aside from ketchup and cheese, which by the way are the most popular toppings, there are an infinite number of flavor combinations you can enjoy on your hamburger. Here are a few:

- Carmelized onions, brie and bacon
- Garlic, mushrooms and cracked black pepper
- Fresh basil, tomato and mozzarella
- Spinach and bacon
- Melted Bleu cheese
- Bacon, lettuce and tomato
- Whole grain mustard and Swiss cheese
- Sliced red onion and avocado
- A grilled portobello mushroom
- and last but not least, onions, garlic and horseradish (yikes!)

Ground beef is highly perishable, so care must be taken when storing, cooking and serving. Fresh ground beef should be stored at or below 40° F, preferably at the bottom of the refrigerator (just in case the package leaks).

- Also:
- wash your hands before and after handling ground meat.

- clean and sanitize all work surfaces and utensils that come in contact with ground meat.

- and always keep cooked and uncooked hamburgers separate during preparation.

To maximize safety when cooking, the USDA/FDA recommends cooking ground beef to an internal temperature of 160° F, until the middle is no longer pink. That means to avoid rare and medium rare hamburgers.

For more information you can call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1 (800) 535-4555 or visit their web site at (<http://www.USDA.gov/fsis>).

Jim Phillips is a registered dietitian and an assistant professor, Food Production/Hotel & Restaurant Mgmt. at Luzerne County Community College. He lives in Dallas.

## Library news



Nancy Kozemchak

Ahoy Mates! Tuesday, July 1 was "Pirate Day" at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. A group of children participating in the "Grab the Treasure—Be A Bookaneer" summer reading program came to the library to learn about and experience pirate life. Mrs. Rudolph and Jeff Krehely, our summer PHEEA student wanted to bring pirate history and

## Pirates come to life for library Bookaneers

fable to life for the children.

First, they organized a treasure hunt in the library. The children divided into six teams and received a list of clues that led them to their treasure. Next, it was time "to walk the plank". Each child was blind-folded and then attempted to walk across a two-by-four without falling off into the sea. Then, the children sat down to make those famous pirate companions—parrots. Using green construction paper, each child created his and her own parrot to take home. Before snacking on some pirate fare, Mrs. Rudolph read to the children: "The Ballad of the Pirate Queens", which told the story of Anne Bonney and Mary Reade—two of the most notorious pirates ever to sail the sea.

The summer reading program continues until Aug. 15.

The 51st annual library auction is set to begin at 6 on Thursday, July 10 and continue through Sun., July 13 until 12. Collect your lawn chairs and set them up on the grounds for your first hand participation in one of the exciting Back Mountain summer events. There are also bleachers available in the back of the paved area for auction goers. Come and enjoy good food, exciting games, antiques, new goods and the friendship of the Back Mountain Library.

**New books at the library:** "The Only Way I Know" by Cal Ripken Jr. and Mike Bryan is a biography of Cal Ripken Jr. He says it's no big deal, he simply shows up for

his job every day, just like millions of other working people. But, when he reported to the baseball field on September 6, 1995, for a record-breaking 2,131st consecutive game, Americans felt otherwise. He had single-handedly put the 'great' back in America's greatest game.

"Streisand" by Anne Edwards is a biography of Barbra Streisand. No star has any more devoted fans—or more vociferous detractors. She is an icon, an idol, a legend. Despite all that, the real Barbra Streisand has remained elusive. Until now. She tells the story behind the story for the first time, revealing the inner demons that have driven her career—and shaped her tumultuous personal life.



## 60 Years Ago - July 16, 1937 SEVEN-YEAR-OLD SAVED FROM DROWNING AT LAKE

Under water for five minutes, George Sarnak, 7, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sarnak, Swoyersville, was yanked from the brink of death at Harveys Lake last Sunday when Max Zapore of Nanticoke brought the body up and Edward Davis, picnic grounds lifeguard applied artificial respiration until the child was breathing again. George, whose family was having a picnic at the A.L. Stull dock, slipped from a pile of rocks into eight feet of water. Zapore and a friend Frank Zubra, Sheatown, who were picnicking nearby dove a number of times before Zapore came up with the body.

Again abandoning plans to construct a new home, Shavertown Fire Company has reverted to its original proposal and will probably buy the Bush building on Main Street and convert it into a fire company building. The plan to construct a building would have saddled the company with a heavy debt and the majority of the members agreed that it would be more advantageous to buy and remodel

a suitable structure in Shavertown.

## 50 Years Ago - July 18, 1947 ESPY ORGAN TO BE DONATED TO CHURCH

A new Espy organ will be dedicated to the memory of William Snyder Frantz at the Orange Methodist Church at the vening service July 20, 7:30 p.m. Billy was the only boy from the Orange Church who gave his life for his country during World War II. His mother, Mrs. Mildred Frantz Jones will unveil the organ.

An estimated \$3,500 damage, none of it covered by insurance resulted when fire originating in a pin-ball machine completely destroyed the Martin gas station near Elston's Pond at Kunkle Monday afternoon. Although the alarm was phoned to Dallas immediately, James Besecker, secretary of the fire company said the station was practically destroyed by the time the truck arrived.

## 40 Years Ago - July 19, 1957 JESSE COSLETT DRAGGED UNDERNEATH CAR 25 FEET

Jesse Coslett Chief of Kingston Township Police suffered painful abrasions and bruises Thursday when dragged underneath his car for distance of 25 feet. As he was getting out of his car in front of the Township Building, the emergency brake let go and the car started to roll. Coslett's clothing caught in the door and he was dragged under the car until it struck a pile of

ashes and stopped with the wheel pressing hard against his chest. Working his way out from under the car, leaving most of his clothing behind him, got into the car and drove home.

On July 14, the congregation of Prince of Peace Episcopa Church gathered to witness ground breaking for the new addition to the present Parish House. The new addition will contain a parish office, chair vesting facilities and classrooms. On the main floor, folding partitions will divide space into six classrooms. Present kitchen facilities will be enlarged with additional serving counters and cabinet space.

## 30 Years Ago - July 13, 1967 DALLAS TWP. SET TO FIGHT BORO OVER HIGH POINT

Dallas Borough Council did not invite or petition residents of High Point Acres formerly living in Dallas Township to become part of Dallas Borough. The Borough had been informed that the Township was filing suit to retain the area in question Wednesday morning. Atty Fleming said he would not agree to the request to withdraw the ordinance passed by the council nor would Dallas Township withdraw its suit as planned. Fleming said such a case could be costly and that in most cases the verdict was in favor of the boroughs.

Harry Lefko, general chairman was elated that the auction had gone off successfully and that it had not ruined by rain, furnished

statistics to the Dallas Post. Back Mountain Memorial Library grossed over \$20,000 with a probably \$15,000 net in prospect.

## 20 Years Ago - July 14, 1977 20 APPLY FOR DALLAS SUPERINTENDENT JOB

Seven applications for position of superintendent of Dallas School District have been received by the school board according to Earnest Ashbridge, chairman of personnel committee. None of the applicants were from Luzerne or Lackawanna Counties. The Board appointed Dr. Richard A. Shipe as acting superintendent effective July 15, 1977 and authorized him as a signatory for Dallas School District Athletic Fund, Activities, account, Cafeteria account, General Savings Account, the district's escrow account and the safety deposit box.

Bingo might be coming back in the Back Mountain area if the Harveys Lake Borough Council proceeds with plans and if the bingo laws and regulations enforced by Capt. Lawrence O'Donnell of PA State Police are meticulously followed. Council voted to investigate the possibility of running bingo games through the council using municipal employes and channeling all proceeds back to the borough. Only drawback is location of the game. Lt. Davis said we object to renting halls. "The Council must own the property where bingo is held, every nickle must go back into the borough and none into the rent."