

**EDITORIALS**

**Back Mountain has no room for hateful messages**

There is no room in our community for the cowardly acts of hate that have been visited on the Byron family of Dallas Township. For unfathomable reasons, someone with a twisted mind has painted obscenities and Nazi swastikas on the Byrons' barn. In their haste to trash another's property, this individual or individuals have shown themselves to be without character or compassion. By attacking the Byrons, who donate use of their land to youth soccer and serve the community in other ways, they also are displaying contempt for those who do good works.

But this act would be equally reprehensible no matter who it attacked, wealthy or poor, professional or tradesman. There is simply no excuse for such hateful behavior and there can be no acceptance of it in the Back Mountain. Whoever has done this must be shown clearly that their actions are incompatible with the values of our community, and will not be tolerated.

**Publisher's notebook**

Ron Bartizek



One of the reasons I like newspapers is that readers have full control over what they will or will not read. This is unlike radio and television, where you could be watching a favorite show or listening to good music and be rudely interrupted by a commercial that not only wakes you up, but insults your intelligence. This can happen about every other minute, it sometimes seems. Case in point: The nauseating ad for a credit card that invites us to charge away at the supermarket as an exercise in charitable giving. If you've had a radio turned on for more than 10 minutes in the past couple of weeks you've probably heard this imbecilic ad more than once. In case you've been lucky enough to miss it, the copy goes something like this:

**Whiny wife:** "We're so selfish. I feel like we should do something for other people."

**Condescending husband:** "Then buy a jar of pickles."

After a couple of equally enlightening exchanges, an authoritative voice tells us all you have to do is buy more stuff at the supermarket to earn the right to pin a medal on your chest, because the credit card company guarantees to give at least \$200,000 to food banks, or something similar. Whoopee. A couple of hundred grand to this outfit is like the pennies you and I leave at the checkout counter. Come to think of it, if you buy groceries with a charge card, you won't have any of those annoying copper coins to get rid of anyway. If you're really inspired by the commercial, you may not have any money left for anything after you get the bill.

So here's the question; does VISA think we're so insecure and/or stupid as to think buying an extra bag of chips is a charitable act? Or do they believe we're lame enough to think well of them because they use hungry people as a hook to get us to use their card more?

I think I know the answer to both questions, and it won't please VISA. We may not be the great society some think we should be, but most of us know that we help others with visible or anonymous acts of kindness, not by running up credit card bills. If you want to help feed hungry people, donate some food, time or money to a local food bank, and keep your VISA card in your wallet. And feel good about it.

**LEGISLATORS' DIRECTORY**

**State Officials**

**State Sen. Charles D. Lemmond**

(Republican)  
22 Dallas Shopping Ctr., Memorial Hwy., Dallas PA 18612-1231  
Lemmond's district includes the Back Mountain.

**State Rep. George Hasay**

(Republican)  
287-7505 or 542-7345 or 474-2276 or 477-3752  
144 North Mountain Boulevard, Mountaintop PA 18707  
Hasay's district encompasses: Harveys Lake, Lehman Township, Jackson Township, Lake Township, Franklin Township, Ross Township, and Dallas Township's north voting district.

**State Rep. Phyllis Mundy**

(Democrat)  
283-9622 or 655-3375  
Suite 107, 400 Third Avenue, Kingston PA 18704  
Dallas Borough, Dallas Township except for the north voting district, and Kingston Township.

**Federal Officials**

**Representative Paul E. Kanjorski**

(PA 11th District)  
(Democrat)  
Wilkes-Barre: 825-2200  
Washington: (202) 225-6511  
10 E. South St.,  
Wilkes-Barre PA 18701-2397  
or  
2429 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Senator Arlen Specter**

(Republican)  
Wilkes-Barre: 826-6265  
Washington: (202) 224-4254  
116 S. Main St.,  
Wilkes-Barre PA 18701

**Senator Rick Santorum**

(Republican)  
120 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Washington: (202) 224-6324  
Fax: (202) 228-4991

**Do you agree? Disagree?**

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post, and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. We welcome your opinion on contemporary issues in the form of letters to the editor. If you don't write, the community may never hear a contrasting point of view. Send or bring letters to: The Dallas Post, 607 Main Rd., Dallas PA 18612. Please include your name, address and a daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity.



Fading sun on an icon of summer. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

**LETTERS**

**Michael vows to be watchdog of public purse**

Editor:  
I thought your editorial concerning campaign finance reform mirrored a great deal of my own philosophy and is quite appropriate at this time in the midst of congressional hearings. My fervent hope is that you are wrong in your assumption that responsible campaign reform is unattainable at the present time.

A columnist recently stated, "This intent to influence the candidate and the party rather than the public should be of greatest concern to the citizen in looking for campaign financial reform. The indication is that what the contributors are buying isn't campaign advertising, it is the candidate. This is a corruption that this nation cannot afford."

A European proverb proclaims, "When money speaks, the truth keeps silent."

In November the voting populace of Luzerne County will be

voting for the office of controller. Do not vote for the office of controlled. Per chance, why would I surmise such a pernicious thought? Methinks, doubts arise when the primary election is perused.

The endorsed Democratic Party Candidate had expenditures of \$103,847.58 of which \$88,007 went to the boiling cauldron of Ed Mitchell, consultant, who gathered his cohorts around the hecate to concoct his venom to spew upon the other candidates. A tad of doubt creeps into my mind that the Democratic candidate as Bill Brace (Democrat) appropriately designated "the financial watch dog" of the public monies. My chagrin is due to the fact the Luzerne County Democratic Committee donated \$32,500 to his campaign. Methinks, they might desire a little something in return for that donation. Blind, unswerving obedience to the skewed Demo-

cratic leadership which, little represents their own constituents. Shylock demanded his pound of flesh.

The controller is an independently elected official, not appointed. Why? The controller should have knowledge of the fiscal policies of the county and serve as a "bully pulpit" for the taxpayers.

Clarence "Mike" Michael will be that independent controller. I shall be a voice for the people and I already have been. My primary war chest was \$980.35 of my own money.

I shall continue my grassroots campaign to inform the voters. I shall not flag or fail. I shall go on to the end...I shall march in the streets of Dallas, Hazleton, Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, Conyngham and I even found Inkerman.

I shall be heard.  
Clarence J. "Mike" Michael  
Dallas

**Executive clemency should be maintained**

Editor:  
Paparazzi press abuses is only one media issue. Another is the press' responsibility to identify and address truly significant issues.

In about one month, our November election, we will be asked to amend Article IV, Section 9 of the Pennsylvania Constitution having to do with our Board of Pardons.

The ballot question will be: Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to require a unanimous recommendation of the Board of Pardons before the Governor can pardon or commute the sentence of an individual sentenced in a criminal case to death

or life imprisonment, to require only a majority vote of the Senate to approve the Governor's appointments to the Board, and to substitute a crime victim for an attorney and a corrections expert for a penologist as Board members?

On this Constitutional issue there has been essentially no public discussion.

The General Assembly, reflecting society's current "tough on crime" mood, proposes to virtually eliminate executive clemency by future Governors for persons sentenced to death or life in prison.

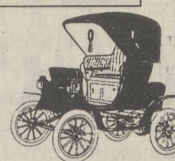
Executive clemency, a centuries old device for grace and humane treat of deserving inmates,

has been used sparingly. Indeed, over the last 12 years (1985-1997) only 23 lifers have been released. While mistakes will be made, executive clemency is needed.

I can in this letter, only introduce this issue. It is most significant that both the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, a victim's rights organization, are OPPOSED to amending the Board of Pardons provision of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Atty. Gerald C. Grimaud  
Tunkhannock

**ONLY YESTERDAY**



**60 Years Ago - Oct. 8, 1937  
KU KLUX KLAN GAINING MEMBERS IN AREA**

Fiery crosses may blaze again on the hills above Dallas if the Ku Klux Klan which has been spotlighted by Klansman Hugo Black's appointment to the Supreme Court, succeeds in its efforts to regain its one time power here. Far from being dead, the Klan today numbers many local men as its members. Reliable sources informed The Post this week that the Ku Klux Klan is gaining new strength in this section. The Klan had tremendous power in the rural sections surrounding Dallas a decade ago.

State Senator Leo C. Mundy informed directors of Wyoming Valley Motor club this week that the contract for the long-awaited Luzerne by-pass will be awarded before the end of this year but construction probably will not start before spring.

**50 Years Ago - Oct. 10, 1947  
CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS ENCOURAGED**

Taking the first step to encourage consolidation of high schools in the Back Mountain Area, Dallas Township School Board at its meeting Tuesday unanimously instructed its secretary Floyd Chamberlain to draw up a resolution inviting all members and solicitors of Back Mountain school boards to a general meeting to discuss community school problems. Prime purpose of the meeting is to discuss the possibility of establishing a consolidated high school in a centrally located area.

This week marks the 75th anniversary of the organization and incorporation of Maple Grove Methodist Church. The present church building was erected in 1872 on a piece of land deeded to the trustees by Simon and Sarah Lewis for \$1. The church was dedicated January 1873. The pastor was Francis Assbury King.

You could get - Steak, 69¢ lb.; Tokay grapes, 2 lbs., 19¢; oranges, 2 doz., 49¢; Supreme Bread, lg. loaf, 11¢.

**40 Years Ago - Oct. 11, 1957  
THIRD NAME ADDED TO NOXEN CLINIC LIST**

A third bronze name plate has been added to those of Dr. Lester Saidman and Dr. Irvin Jacobs at the Noxen Clinic. Dr. Walter Molychik joined the clinic Sept. 15. He reports that he has seen more patients in the last two weeks than most beginning practitioners see in three months.

Mrs. Leon Race, Kunkle is still a patient at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital where she was taken Saturday morning in the Dallas Community ambulance after being stricken ill while assisting her husband to fill silo.

**30 Years Ago - Oct. 5, 1967  
RESIDENTS DISTURBED BY DUMPING IN NEW GOSS**

Old Goss Manor residents who prefer to keep their surroundings attractive have been disturbed over the dumping of brush, garbage, mattresses and other refuse on Sago Street. Several women appeared Tuesday evening at the Dallas Township Supervisors meeting to ask that something be done concerning the collection mounting daily.

Back Mountain residents will now be able to subscribe to quality cable television service as the result of new ownership of the local cable system, Back Mountain Tele-Cable, Shavertown.

**20 Years Ago - Oct. 6, 1977  
L-L VOTES IN THREE YEAR TEACHER'S CONTRACT**

At Lake-Lehman's special school board meeting Friday, the district's directors voted 6-2 in favor of a new three year contract. The vote which followed by one day ratification of the contract by 64 of Lake-Lehman Education Association's 108 voting members, came a scant four hours before the teachers' 1977 contract was to have expired.

Commonwealth Telephone Company this week announced that it has filed for state approval of a rate increase which would raise the annual basic local telephone service to the average family user by 37.5%. In the Back Mountain exchange, the average one phone private line residential customer would find his base rate increased by 44% from a present base of \$6.25 per month to a \$9 per month.

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**Q. Where do you find the most Back Mountain news and photos each week?  
A. Only in The Dallas Post**