

**EDITORIALS**

# Drug tests at Dallas should be all or nothing

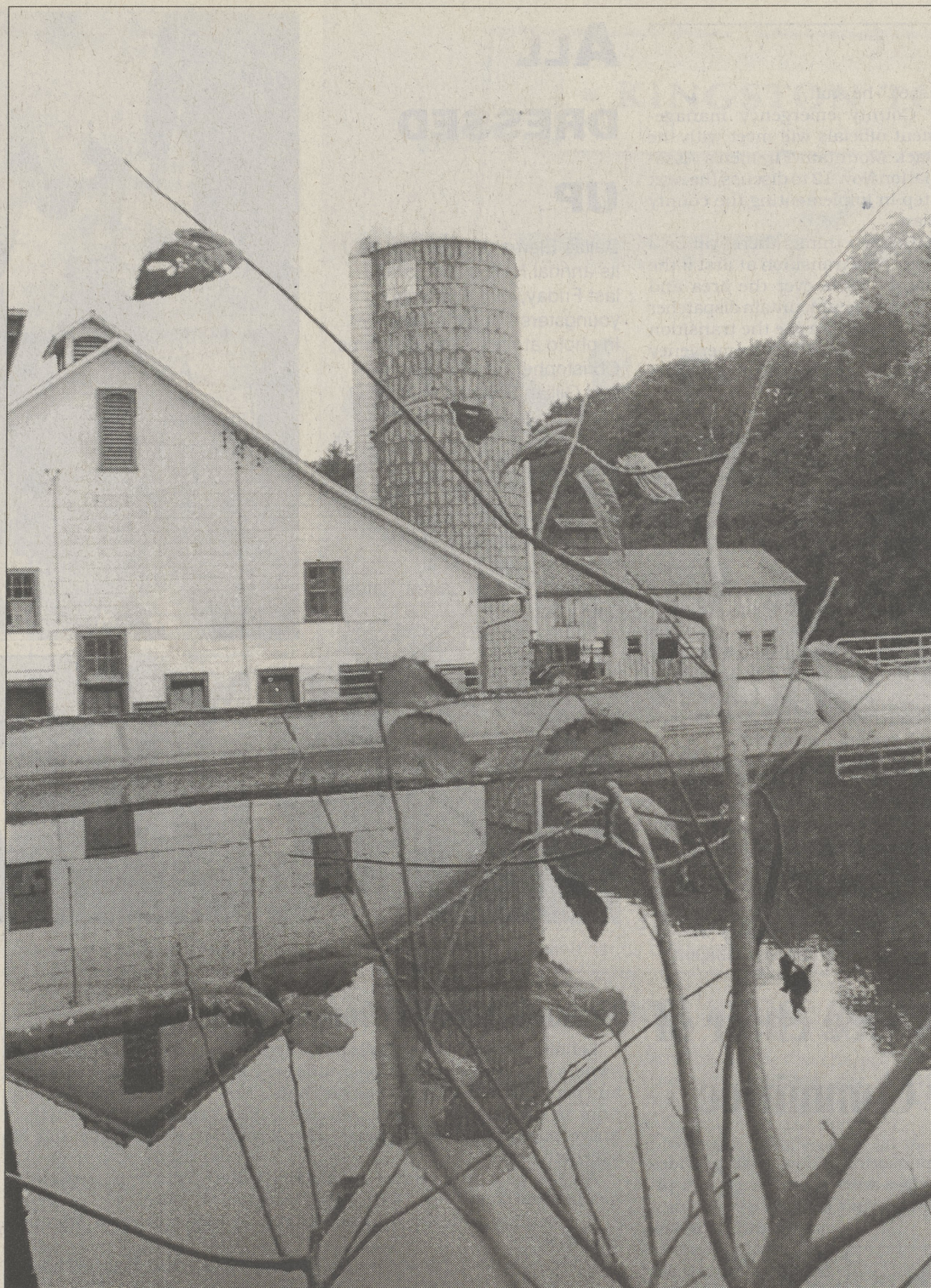
Things are changing fast in the Dallas School District, and many of the changes are for the better. It seems the intensified schedule at the high school is running more smoothly in its second year; a security system that at first appeared to resemble confinement more than education is accomplishing its goal; even the high school parking plan, which seemed at first blush to step too far toward regimentation, has been a blessing to both students and administrators. (Although we'd guess principal Frank Galicki wished someone else could man the gates morning and afternoon!) For the most part, the administration has tightened the ropes, so to speak, and students who are serious about their academic and athletic lives are probably glad of it.

But then there's the latest bit of news — the school board wants to institute a two-pronged drug policy. The more comprehensive portion of that plan, occasional searches of the school for illegal substances using trained dogs, seems reasonable, even if the circumstances that led to it are regrettable. Whether the searches can be extended to automobiles is another question, since it would seem a violation of privacy rights. But that is a small matter compared to the second leg of the plan, mandatory random drug testing for student-athletes.

The school board has been considering tougher anti-drug policies for some time, but had to await the outcome of court cases before implementing them. A recent state court ruling allows schools to single out athletes in part because they may injure themselves or others if playing or practicing while impaired. That small bit of logic notwithstanding, the district will err if it discriminates against one group of students.

A discriminatory policy is only one blemish in this picture. The other, and perhaps more important, is the school board's habit of making significant changes in procedure without inviting public comment, or even providing a comprehensive explanation for the moves. And we don't mean aphorisms like "It's in the kids' interest," we mean hard data that confirms the need for changes. In this case, that would include the number of drug incidents at school, their severity, and a comparison over time, so parents and other interested parties can see for themselves the need for tighter controls, if indeed they exist.

No matter how high-minded school board members' motives in proposing this policy, it will be a point of division unless it draws support from parents and taxpayers. The only way to build that support is to hold informational meetings that include the specific reasons for its adoption. We've gone this long without clamping down in this manner; a few weeks delay in which to fully inform the public is surely not too much to ask.



Fall pastorage, Hillside Farms. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

**LETTERS**

## Proposed drug testing is discriminatory

*Editor's Note: The authors of this letter asked The Dallas Post to publish a copy, so the entire community could know their opinions. The Post agreed to withhold individual names.*

To the Dallas School Board:  
We, the parents of the student athletes, feel compelled to write this letter because of the concerns we have about the safety of our children should you decide to implement your plan to randomly test student athletes for drugs. We do not feel any of you have fully thought out all the potential problems that could arise by discriminating against our children.

First of all, you are going to ask every parent to sign a permission slip which gives you the legal right to discriminate against our children. You already know our children are going to basically force

us to sign something that we do not agree with because of the love they have for the sport they play.

Many of our athletes are receiving letters from colleges which involve scholarships to further their education and athletic abilities. How many of you on the board have actually thought about what will happen to our children if someone in the school who has drugs decides to plant them in one of our children's lockers, car, or even puts it in their food or drink, because they know the student athlete is the one that is being checked. Can you guarantee that even if the cars and lockers are locked that an illegal substance can not be planted either in the wheel wells of the cars, or in the fenders, or that an illegal substance can't be slipped through the vents in the lockers. Do you realize that all the years of dedica-

tion and hard work of realizing his or her dream of receiving a scholarship to college has just gone out the window because you want to discriminate against them. It would be very unfortunate to see this happen, and could easily deprive an innocent child from the benefit of further education.

We the parents, are all in favor of drug testing, but we are in favor of the entire district being tested including board members, administration, teachers, coaches, janitors, bus drivers, and all students. We know the current law prohibits this, but it will be changing shortly. So in the meantime, we are asking you, the board members, to do the right thing by not discriminating against the student athlete.

Concerned Parents of Student Athletes

## School applauds coverage of Old Shoe game

Editor,  
On behalf of the entire Dallas School District athletic family, I would like to thank you for your coverage of the 50th Old Shoe Game. I was particularly impressed with your insert that detailed the whole series, game by game. (Special thanks to Jill

Gruver for that extensive endeavor.)

You were with Lehman and Dallas every step of the way as we celebrated what has become the biggest game in the Wyoming Valley Conference each year.

Once again the Post has done

an outstanding job of covering events in the Back Mountain, and I know the fans of both schools join me in thanking you for a job well done.

Jack Wolensky  
Athletic Director  
Dallas High School

## Library news



Nancy Kozemchak

The latest update on the children's wing construction is as follows: the exterior brickwork is 50% complete, now working on east wall; first floor sheetrock is complete, except at windows; duct work virtually complete, ducts insulated conduit and rough wiring inspected and approved; entry doors at north stair tower installed, brickwork complete; book chute door installed; interior demolition complete; water service hookup at south and being completed; rooftop HVAC unit installed and gas line hooked up. Windows have arrived and four windows on the west wall have

## Children's Wing making huge strides to the finish

been installed. The construction project is on schedule.

The library staff would like to wish Carl and Rita Rusnak a very happy golden wedding anniversary. They celebrated their 50th on Saturday, Oct. 25. They have two daughters: Susan, married to Drew Long; and Jeanne married to Eugene Fehskens; and four grandsons, Nicholas and Steven Long; Andrew and Michael Fehskens. Rita is one of our faithful Tuesday morning volunteers.

New books at the library: "The Fortune Catcher" by Susanne Pari is a young woman's story, a haunting tale told by many voices. Dariush's fanatical grandmother tells you of Layla, a sightless fortune-teller, with her reviled American background who does not belong. Dariush's husband who adores her; he is abducted and sent to the Iran-Iraqi front. a desperate flight for freedom.

"Flood Tide" by Clive Cussler is a hero of Dirk Pitt in a crafted tale of villainy on the high seas and the Mississippi River.

The coin of the realm for the Chinese smuggler is human lives, much of his fortune has been made smuggling Chinese immigrants into countries around the globe, including the United States. Tracking his activities leads Pitt from Washington State to Louisiana.

"Cat In a Golden Garland" by Carole Nelson Douglas is a Mid-night Louie mystery. The black tomcat detective with a nose for the notorious, is back covering the escapades of everyone's favorite feline.

This Christmas season, there's more than merriment on Louis's list—there's a murder to be solved, and Louie's on the move. They are visiting the Madison Avenue ad agency that made Louie a star.

**ONLY YESTERDAY**



60 Years Ago - Nov. 12, 1937

### NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS TAKE SEAT ON BOARD

Seven school directors will end their service on the school boards of Kingston Township, Dallas Township and Dallas Borough at the first December meeting and their successors, elected last week will step into their places. Despite the great changes in the personnel of local boards as a result of the election, the reorganization will be quiet.

Refusing to accept any blame for the delay in the construction of the Luzerne-by-pass, the County Commissioners this week adopted a resolution approving that project. The Commissioners did not however make any move to appropriate the funds which will be necessary for damage. That action they said, must await the completion of a survey being made by the State Highway Department.

50 Years Ago - Nov. 14, 1947

### DALLAS BAKERY OPENS ITS DOORS BACK MOUNTAIN

Two new schools will be represented in Back Mountain athletic circles with the opening of the basketball season. They are Mountaintop and Huntington Mills.

Dallas Bakery opened its doors this week with Jim Slavin as owner and Lew Baron as baker. The building located between Kuhn's Drug Store and Charles Gregory's building has been leased for a year.

You could get - Center cut pork chops, 59¢ lb.; stewing chickens, 39¢ lb.; Supreme bread, lg. loaf, 12¢; Cranberry sauce, 19¢ can; Sterling Salt, 9¢; Peter Pan peanut butter, 12 oz. glass 33¢.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 15, 1957

### SMITH ACT TO PREVENT PETS FROM STRAYING

A new pet ordinance sponsored by Burgess H.A. Smith and Chief of Police Russell Honeywell was passed by Borough Council at its meeting. The Ordinance known as the Smith Act, prohibits the owners of any dogs, cats or other pets, whether licensed or unlicensed from allowing them to run on any other property than their own. The act subjects the owners to a \$10 fine or on refusal to pay the fine, to five days in jail.

A complete new set of drums valued at approximately \$580 has been ordered for Lake-Noxen High School Band as one of the first projects of the newly organized Lake-Noxen Band Parents Assn. Gate of Heaven School addition will be dedicated Sunday, the Most Rev. Jerome D. Hannon officiating. Father Kane who has seen phenomenal growth of the school paralleling an equally remarkable growth of his parish feels that the present addition to the school is a major goal achieved.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 9, 1967

### ROUTE 309 LIGHTS UP WITH HELP FROM DALLAS BORO.

Dallas Township Supervisors are trying to install lights along 309 as rapidly as possible to insure safety for Dallas Area students who must cross the dangerous thoroughfare. Commonwealth Telephone Co. has already installed eight poles on which the lights will rest.

Papers have been signed for transfer by purchase of property belonging to Trucksville Methodist Church to Eastern Division of Assemblies of God, according to an announcement by the Rev. Grove Armstrong.

20 Years Ago - Nov. 10, 1977

### COMMUNITY WORK DAY TO BUILD TOWNSHIP PARK

Through the cooperation of the Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township, the Back Mountain Recreation Council has announced plans for a Community Work Day to begin work on the new Dallas Township Park Nov. 12. The Dallas Town Park is a project to be developed in the township owned property bounded by Old Goss Manor and Route 309, sometimes known as Girvan's Field.

According to a letter read at Wednesday's meeting of Lake Township's Board of Supervisors beginning Jan. 1978, the township will have to provide unemployment compensation for its employees. This will cost the township approximately \$120 per year per employee.

## Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



If you browsed through the financial pages of *The New York Times*, or the *Wall Street Journal* last week, you couldn't miss full-page ads from major stock brokerage houses, with copy meant to soothe the nerves of shaky investors. All of them said about the same thing: Don't panic, stocks are still the greatest investment, and maybe you should even buy some more.

I've noticed the direction of the stock market makes no difference in the advice big brokers provide. Can you recall large — or even small — ads that read, "Sell now, stocks are going to fall. Then park your money in the bank." Me neither.

And while we're on the subject, how about that guy on the radio, shilling for everything from phone cards to heating oil futures. This guy was obviously chosen for his folksy, but urgent style that makes you think the "opportunities" he's pitching are sure things, for those smart enough to get in now. I'll bet he keeps his own money in a mattress, like Ross Perot does.

But seriously, folks, the U.S. stock market really is the most efficient and open in the world. Unlike in foreign markets, domestic companies must abide by a pretty strict accounting code, and the link between government and industry is relatively weak. Notice I said efficient and not rational; that's a word I don't think applies, especially lately.

By the way, I have a surefire tip for you: Buy whatever I sell; it's sure to go up within just a few days.

## Your news is welcome

The Dallas Post welcomes submissions about Back Mountain people and events. In order to plan each issue, we must adhere to self-imposed deadlines, as well as those of our printer. To have the greatest likelihood of publication, items should be received at our office by 4 p.m. the Friday prior to each issue. Items will be accepted until 4 p.m. Mondays, although much of the paper is already assembled by that time. Send or bring items to: The Dallas Post, 607 Main Road, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Our normal business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. A deposit box is located at the front of the building for after-hours submissions.

## The Dallas Post

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

Ronald A. Bartizek  
PUBLISHER

Charlotte E. Bartizek  
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Jessica Appolo  
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC

Kylie Shafferkoetter  
REPORTER

Ruth Proietto  
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Olga Kostrobala  
CLASSIFIED/TYPESSETTING

Jill Gruver  
OFFICE MANAGER

