

EDITORIALS

Discipline program deserves full support

The Dallas school board likes it; the administration agrees, and the teachers concur. So, why has an in-school suspension program for the middle and high schools been shut down? The answer appears to be one that comes up all too often these days - money.

The program is a good one in concept. Instead of kicking problem students out of school, which is what the students may prefer, a separate area is set up where they spend part of a day or several days, depending on their punishment, under the supervision of a teaching professional. In this case, the district prepared a room for up to 15 youngsters, complete with six computers and other study aids, and hired a supervisor at a \$60 daily rate. The union didn't like that arrangement, contending the supervisor was a qualified teacher, and should be paid the same rate as a classroom instructor. So they offered a deal: keep the daily rate through this school year, but make the job a regular position starting in September.

That sounds like a fair offer, especially since a similar program that operated from 1979 to 1990 was staffed by up to two people who were paid at the teaching rate. It also seems logical if one person is going to take the burden of handling more than a dozen students who are unable or unwilling to behave themselves in class. In addition, having a qualified teacher run the program would mean it is more than simply babysitting kids who have acted up, perhaps with the assumption their behavior would get them out of school work.

Superintendent of schools Gil Griffiths, who put a lot of time and effort into writing a grant that paid a portion of the expenses, said the school board didn't want to commit to a program that was unproven. While Mr. Griffiths may want to cushion the board from controversy, that argument seems hollow since the previous arrangement was considered so useful by all parties.

Rather than throw in the towel so easily, we hope the board and teachers can reach an accommodation on this program, which seems such an obvious winner. It would make sense that a program like this would be staffed by someone with the skill and training to turn at least a few young lives around. It may cost a little more to retain someone like that, but it would be worth the price.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



A giant of New England and national politics died early this week, and our nation will miss him. Abraham, Abe, Ribicoff served as a state and national Representative, a U.S. Senator, Governor and as Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in the Kennedy administration. He retired from active participation in politics in 1981 at the end of his third term as a Senator from Connecticut, still as graceful and gracious as he was decades earlier.

Abe Ribicoff was remarkable in many ways. I still find it difficult to believe this polished gentleman grew up in relative poverty in blue-collar New Britain, Connecticut, the son of a factory worker. No matter his accomplishments, he never forgot where he came from and was a proudly liberal Democrat his entire life, although the definition of liberal was considerably different during most of his career than it is today.

He attended New York University for a year after going through the New Britain public school system, but was recruited to run the Chicago office of the G.E. Prentice Co. at age 19. While doing that he earned a law degree at the University of Chicago and returned to Connecticut four years later. First elected to Congress in 1948, Ribicoff was an enormously popular figure in state politics, becoming Governor in 1954 and then a U.S. Senator 10 years later. Along the way he shattered stereotypes, as this son of Polish Jews left in his wake bluebloods like John Davis Lodge, who he defeated in 1954. Through it all he retained his principles, which a story from the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago clearly illustrates.

Ribicoff had been an early friend and supporter of John Kennedy, placing his name in nomination for vice president in 1956 and running the convention floor campaign in 1960. He had supported Robert Kennedy's candidacy in the 1968 election until Bobby was killed, and then backed George McGovern. He had seen television coverage of the brutal treatment anti-war protesters were receiving at the hands of the Chicago police. When he stepped to the podium to nominate McGovern, Ribicoff looked straight at Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and said, "With George McGovern as President, we wouldn't have these Gestapo tactics in the streets of Chicago." That was the kind of courageous public citizen Abe Ribicoff was. Can you imagine any national figure doing the same today? I can't.

I never met Abe Ribicoff, I only recall him from television, but even viewed on the small screen his honesty and commitment to principle were obvious. He was Governor when I was a schoolboy, and his example was confirmation that in America, one could become successful and important no matter what your background. And in his case, without giving up your soul.

Abe Ribicoff was my best example of politics, and mankind, at its best. He stood up for what he believed in, served his state and nation, and made way for the next generation when he sensed his time was up. I hope a new generation finds inspiration in his story, which is so starkly different from the general impression many people have of political leaders.



Last gasp of winter, East Dallas United Methodist Church. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

Arthritis is not a disease only of the elderly, kids affected, too

Editor:
The Arthritis Foundation has designated the week of March 2nd as *Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Week*. The Arthritis Foundation will be focusing its efforts to inform people about juvenile arthritis and that "Kids Get Arthritis, Too!"

Arthritis is commonly thought of as a disease of the elderly, when in fact, more than 285,000 children in the U.S. have some form of arthritis. Arthritis in children is a very different disease from arthri-

tis in adults and it is often a much more serious one. Unlike arthritis in adults, it is sometimes difficult to diagnose. Arthritis in children can, in some cases, affect a child's internal organs such as the heart and lungs. In many situations, a child's vision is often involved. Because of the disease process and its affect on growing joints or because of the medication that is necessary for treatment, a child's growth is often delayed.

In addition to the chronic pain that limits activity and makes rou-

tine tasks difficult, childhood arthritis places additional emotional burdens upon a child and their family. As parents of a child with arthritis, we know first hand how it has robbed our child of the routine, childhood pleasures which accompany growing up.

Fortunately, the Arthritis Foundation provides help and hope to families coping with childhood arthritis. Through the Arthritis Foundation's research program, greater knowledge about the disease is being acquired and better

treatments are being developed. Also, information, support and services that can make life with arthritis less painful are available through the Arthritis Foundation.

We encourage everyone in the Luzerne County area with arthritis, or who knows someone with arthritis, to call the Arthritis Foundation at 800-355-9040 or 823-2888 for information and services that can make a difference.

Mr. and Mrs. John Pisak

Food 'n' fun

Jim Phillips

On a recent exploration, deep within the aisles of the supermarket, I was intrigued to discover a grain product that I had yet to taste.

Quinoa (pronounced keen-wa) is a natural whole grain grown in the Andes Mountains of South America. The origins of Quinoa can be traced back to the Inca civilization, who by the way also gave the world corn and potatoes. The explorer Francisco Pizarro

An exotic grain that's full of nutrition

is credited with "discovering" the wonders of this ancient food staple. He is also the one responsible for the grain's 400 year demise.

After Pizarro's initial amazement, he ordered the grain banned because the Incas used the grain in several religious rituals which offended Pizarro's Christian beliefs consequently quinoa was "forgotten" until the middle of this century.

Quinoa's nutrient profile ranks it as a true "super grain". Quinoa contains more high quality protein than any other grain. One cup of cooked quinoa has more calcium than a quart of milk and the grain is exceptionally high in the health supporting amino acid lysine.

Quinoa's appealing texture and flavor blend well with other foods.

It can be served as a side dish; in soups, salads, stuffings, stews, pilafs, casseroles, or stuffed peppers; in all sorts of desserts; and as a breakfast cereal.

TABOULI QUINOA SALAD

- 1 c. quinoa (washed well)
- 1/2 c. fresh parsley, chopped
- 1/2 c. ripe tomatoes, diced
- 1 cucumber, washed, diced
- 4 green onions, sliced thin
- 2 sprigs fresh mint, chopped or 1 t. dried
- 2 T. olive oil
- 1 T. red wine vinegar
- 2 cloves, garlic, peeled and chopped

Directions:

1. Rinse quinoa well as it con-

tains a natural coating that acts to repel insects. This coating can make the quinoa taste bitter.

2. Bring two cups water or stock to a boil in a 1 1/2 quart saucepan. Add quinoa and return to a boil, reduce heat to a simmer, cover and cook over medium heat for 10-15 minutes. Remove from heat, let stand for 5 minutes and fluff with a fork. Chill well.

3. Combine quinoa, parsley, tomatoes, cucumbers, green onions and mint. Mix well. Combine oil, vinegar and garlic and mix into the salad. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Jim Phillips is a registered dietitian and assistant professor of food production management at Luzerne County Community College. He lives in Dallas.

ONLY YESTERDAY

60 Years Ago - Mar. 4, 1938 GRAND UNION STORE CLOSSES IN DALLAS

The Grand Union Store on Main Street, Dallas was closed Monday and stock transferred to the warehouses and other stores. Albin Booth, of Dallas, manager may be transferred to one of the company's other stores. Warden Kunkle, proprietor of the building made no announcement of any new tenant.

An extensive program of improvements is being carried out by Himmler Theatre to make the local motion picture house one of the finest small theatres anywhere in this section. Recently the Himmlers had a new marquee installed in front of the building, two new projection machines have been installed and the screen has been enlarged and as a result the pictures are larger and clearer.

50 Years Ago - Mar. 5, 1948 KINGSTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL SEEKS LATE TAXES

Determined to collect \$12,000 worth of delinquent per capita taxes or know the reason why, Kingston Township School Board, through its solicitor, Atty. William Valentine began this week to send out 10-day notices to all who have not paid their per capita taxes for years 1942 and including 1946. Unless the taxes are paid within the next 10 days at the office of the Supervising Principal in the Trucksville High School Building, the board will take action to collect the tax through the employer of the delinquents.

You could get - Steaks 65¢ lb.; center cut pork chops, 65¢ lb.; hamburger, 45¢ lb.; tomatoes, cello pkg., 29¢; iceberg lettuce, 2 lg. hds., 19¢; new Texas beets, 2 bchs. 15¢.

40 Years Ago - Feb. 28, 1958 SIX-WAY CRASH ON RT. 309 AFTER ICY WEATHER

Delay in cindering of State Highways after alternate freezing and thawing was responsible for a 6-way crash at the intersection of 309 and Carverton Road. Cindering was indicated by 7 p.m.

At 10 p.m., one half hour after the accident, cinder trucks appeared and made the intersection safe for traffic.

Pursuing its program of consolidating and centralizing its operations under one roof in Trucksville, Dallas Engineers Inc. manufacturers of Anthra-flo automatic heating equipment, last week installed two giant pieces of new equipment that will enable the firm to fabricate its own boilers.

P.I.A. District 2, ruled that Dallas is a Class A team, not eligible for championship status among Class B teams in the North League. Lehman, champions of B Class teams in the North League is scheduled to play Ashley.

30 Years Ago - Mar. 7, 1968 LAKE TOWNSHIP RAISES MILLAGE BY TWO

Lake Township Supervisors considered the budget, wage tax and millage at Saturday's meeting. Millage was set at six, an increase of 2 1/2 mills over last year's figure. The budget remains to be worked out. The township with present Lake Borough assets removed is practically a new municipality itself as was the case when Dallas Borough set up its own government 80 years ago,

leaving the original Dallas Township.

R.E. Kolb, District Manager, for Commonwealth Telephone Co., announced that new telephone equipment for Sweet Valley customers will be placed in service March 24 at 2:01 a.m. The new equipment is provided to improve service as well as meet the increasing demands for all phases of telephone service.

20 Years Ago - Mar. 2, 1978 IDETOWN FIRE CO. USES BINGOS TO MAKE MONEY

"We need radios for the pumps and tankers and we've ordered a new scout pack at \$600. We also need bunker gear. We have several firemen who aren't even equipped when they go out to a fire," said Richard Boice, firefighter at Jonathan R. Davis Fire Co. in Idetown and head of the company's bingo committee on his reasons for opening up Sunday afternoon bingo at the fire hall.

Women from 14 Back Mountain Christian Churches will meet Friday at Trucksville U.M. Church for the World Day of Prayer. Services are open to the public. World Day of Prayer is now celebrated in 140 countries.

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