

EDITORIALS

## No crowds cheer them, but musicians earn our respect

To paraphrase the classic line, "They are also all-stars, who play and sing." Congratulations to the 15 Dallas and Lake-Lehman musicians who have been selected for Regional band and orchestra competition. They reached that distinction the same way all outstanding scholars, athletes and performers do; by developing their talent through practice, dedication and plain old hard work.

In our sports crazy culture, it's easy to forget that many people — young and old — devote themselves to the arts, literature, history and innumerable other callings that rarely are the subject of barrels of ink or miles of videotape. In some ways the lack of attention may be a blessing, leaving artists and artisans to do their work outside of the distractions of celebrity. Still, it is important that young people who are deciding how to apply their time and talent are given role models in the widest variety of pursuits, so they don't minimize the importance of their own special gifts. That's why it's such a pleasure to let the Back Mountain know about these young people's accomplishments, and the pleasure they derive from them.

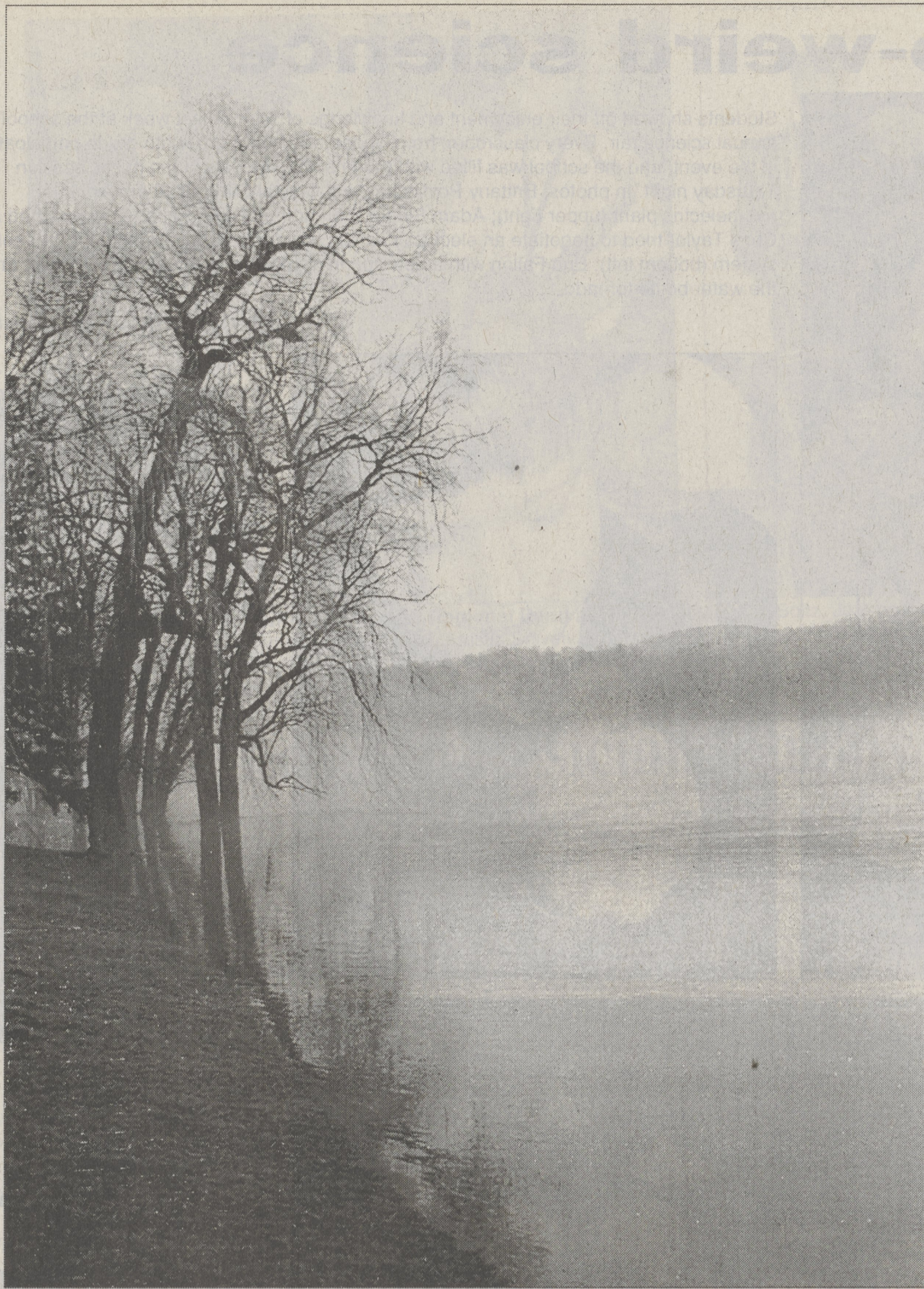
## Penny wise and pound foolish in Jackson Twp.

There are times when public officials should be congratulated for their frugality, and others when their penurious ways make good theater but poor policy. Into the latter category falls the continued refusal of the Jackson Township supervisors to buy a winter jacket for part-time police officer Barry Stubeda.

The matter came up again at the latest supervisors' meeting, and the board was unwilling to part with a measly \$270 to provide suitable clothing for a man who is expected to devote his working hours to protecting the safety — and comfort — of township residents. Talk about penny wise and pound foolish.

It's not just the money of course that makes this so absurd. If the board has a beef with Stubeda or the department, they ought to air it for all to see, not mete out obscure punishments. We haven't heard about anything other than a severely tight hand on the township wallet, though, so the only explanation is the supervisors think they were elected to spend as little money as possible, no matter how silly their tightwad ways make them look.

Well, it's almost spring now, and the jacket may get on the 1999 budget, so for officer Stubeda's sake, we can only hope El Nino lasts another year.



Mist on the Susquehanna at Falls. Photo by Monica Marzani.

LETTERS

### Helms's idea of foreign policy is foolish

Editor:  
The old saw that "There is no fool like an old fool" certainly applies to North Carolina's Republican Senator Jesse Helms, who, alas speaks for America as chairman of the foreign relations committee. Undoubtedly he's a decent old fool, but decent or not, the foolish part looms large.

Old Jesse is quite miffed with Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, for having brokered a deal with Saddam Hussein, that denied Jesse the thrill of viewing another slaughter of humans and their hard earned property. Jesse's spokesman Marc Thiessen is letting America know the old fool doesn't take kindly to last week's Human Rights Commission study that criticizes America's manner of executing our criminals (mentally ill, juveniles, and a preponderance of blacks and the poor). I hope the U.N. will send this report to every U.S. citizen so they can see how their money is being spent by an institution badly in need of re-

form from top to bottom," Thiessen said. Sounds as though he means our Congress. And speaking of money, Old Jesse is in arrears to the UN for over one billion bucks. Put up or shut up Jesse.

I will confess here that this tirade so far is just a preamble to pointing out that this Old Fool is basically in charge of American Foreign Policy, which for generations has been a dismal failure, and no wonder when we allow an old fool to tell the world that "Kofi Annan is a crybaby who whines about not receiving enough of American Taxpayer's money."

As one old fool to another, I recall the pride America took in creating the UN, looking at it as an ideal of peace and prosperity for all nations. But then Jesse always did like the old way of making foreign policy, with a carrot and stick or without much hesitation a bullet from a dictator's gun supplied by our policy experts. Jesse's attitude and unfortunately many others continue to do those stupid things that is

turning the world away from our once proud heritage. Such as bombing Panama City while children and women are sleeping peacefully in their beds, or bombing the little island of Grenada because Cuba was helping them to build an airport to aid their tourist industry, and which the U.S. taxpayer finished, after mistakenly killing our own soldiers and about a dozen mental patients in a hospital, or while the whole world watched as stormin' Norman slaughtered 80,000 or so Iraqis who were fleeing after already being defeated.

While it is not foreign policy, we can rest assured the world is watching as many fools call for impeaching the President, but I for one would gladly swap Jesse Helms instead as he is more dangerous to the future of my grandchildren. As some wise person just recently said, there is more to morality than sex.

John Allen  
Sweet Valley

### Library news



Nancy Kozemchak

The new children's wing of the Back Mountain Memorial Library will be dedicated on Tues., April 21 during National Library Week. Pennsylvania's first lady, Michele Ridge, will be a part of the dedication and plans to read to children during her visit.

Mrs. Ridge is an advocate for literacy programs and is a former director of the Erie County Library System and also worked as a librarian for 12 years. The dedication will take place at 11:30 in the morning.

A light buffet lunch will follow the ceremony.

The Book Club of the library will meet on Monday, April 20 at

## New Children's Wing to be dedicated April 21

1:30 in the community room. All members and interested guests are invited to attend and partake in the discussion of books read and other interesting information.

New books at the library: "Murder on the Prowl" by Rita Mae Brown is a Mrs. Murphy mystery. As the principal of St. Elizabeth's, an exclusive private school that caters to Crozet, Virginia's best families, Roscoe Fletcher has proven himself to be a highly effective and vastly popular administrator. When his obituary appears in the local paper, everyone in town is upset.

"With This Ring" by Amanda Quick is a historical romance where a bold widow and an enigmatic scholar are drawn by a bewildering mystery into a perilous brew of passion and danger. Beatrice Poole is a vicar's daughter, but she is not a stranger to the darker passions.

She knows enough about

gothic tales and terrors and has carved out a successful career penning "Horrid novels".

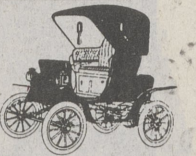
"Thorns of Truth" by Eileen Goudge is the story of Rachel Rose, now women with grown children of their own, who find themselves face-to-face at last with the destiny that has haunted them for nearly half a century, since the two were switched at birth in the chaos of a hospital fire.

What confronts them now threatens to uproot a lifetime of deeply buried secrets.

"The Long Road Home" by Danielle Steel begins with seven year old Gabriella Harrison watching the guests arrive at her parents' lavish Manhattan town house from her secret perch at the top of the stairs.

She knows she is an intruder in her parents' life. Later, hiding in a closet, she believes that she is to blame for her mother's rage and her father's failure to protect her.

ONLY YESTERDAY



60 Years Ago - Apr. 15, 1938

### ATTY. TOWNEND GOES BEFORE SUPREME COURT

Pennsylvania will be host to the nation at Gettysburg this summer. More than 1/2 million guests from every state are expected to visit the Gettysburg Battlefield during the first week of July to attend the final joint reunion of the Blue and Gray and to observe the 75th anniversary of the battle.

Atty. Frank Townend, son of Mrs. Mae Townend of Dallas was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of PA on Monday at Philadelphia. A graduate of Andover Academy, Princeton University and Harvard Law School, he was admitted to the Luzerne County Bar Jan. 24 and is associated with Atty. Neil Chrisman of Wilkes-Barre and has offices with Mr. Chrisman.

50 Years Ago - Apr. 16, 1948

### EVANS DRUG STORE HOLDS ONE CENT SALE

Evans Drug Store in Shavertown, Rexall druggists, are this week conducting a Rexall original One-Cent Sale. According to Evans hundreds of nationally advertised Rexall products are available to the public all over the nation on the money saving "Two for the Price of One plus One Cent" sale.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Newberry, East Dallas, will observe their 50th anniversary April 18 with an open house. They are the parents of four children and have 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

You could get - Hams, 59¢ lb.; stewing chickens, 39¢ lb.; egg plant, 15¢ lb.; fresh spinach, 2 lbs., 15¢; bread, lg. loaf, 13¢; Asco Coffee, 43¢ lb.

40 Years Ago - Apr. 11, 1958

### MONROE TOWNSHIP PETITIONS TUNKHANNOCK

Monroe Township school directors have decided to petition Tunkhannock School Jointure to take their senior high school students on a tuition basis. This would leave the first nine grades at Beaumont. Since resigning from Dallas Area School Jointure, action which goes into effect the first Monday in July, Monroe Township is faced with placing its students elsewhere beginning with September opening of school. The bid to join Tunkhannock was turned down by one of the 10 boards constituting that jointure.

Dallas Branch, Miners National Bank of Wilkes-Barre was thronged Wednesday evening when over 1,500 people called to view the recently completed addition.

30 Years Ago - Apr. 18, 1968

### NEW JUNIOR HIGH TO BE BUILT IN BACK MOUNTAIN

An innovation in the Back Mountain is the proposed new Junior High School building, all electric, for which contracts have already been let. Groundbreaking ceremonies are set for May 2. The construction according to present plans will begin in May and students will occupy the new building Sept. 1969. "This will launch the second phase of a three-part school building plan for the attendance area" Dr. Robert A. Mellman said.

A special meeting of Dallas Borough Council was held to vote on the revision of the original petition accepted May 9, 1967 of residents of High Point Acres asking for annexation to the borough. A new survey had been made of the borough which brought to light incorrect boundary lines drawn in previous surveys. Properties adjoining High Point at the end of Davenport, Parrish, Jackson, Park and Elizabeth Streets believed to be in the borough for many years were found to be in the township.

20 Years Ago - Apr. 13, 1978

### DALLAS SEEKS JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH PRINCIPALS

Dallas School Board authorized advertising for position of assistant senior and junior high principals. Ads have been placed in Pennsylvania Education Journal, in placement offices and locally with salaries ranging from \$18,000-\$20,000. Final day for application is May 1. It was reported that both Edgar Hughes and Fred Case accepted the positions of senior and junior high principals, respectively.

### Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Hardly anyone noticed, but it was the 50th anniversary of the "Marshall Plan," last week. In this penurious age, when support for starving Africans is doled out as though the U.S. could barely afford to spare a dime, more recognition of our generosity a half century ago might have raised some eyebrows, or awakened dozing consciences.

We "won" World War II, you might recall, but instead of demanding tribute and allegiance from the losers, we chose to help them rebuild shattered societies, so they could rejoin the community of nations. And did we ever succeed! It has been estimated the U.S. spent the equivalent of \$13.3 billion in today's dollars to help lift Europe from the depths of destruction and poverty, but we have been repaid many times over in both economic and military terms. One can only wonder what the last 50 years would have been like if Western Europe had fallen into the communist sphere, but we can safely assume it would have been more costly in lives and dollars.

Political realities no doubt had great influence on our decision to lift up rather than punish Germany and Italy. With the collapse of communism, there is no need to counterbalance a Soviet threat, so we can afford to be more self-centered. After all, many Americans can afford only one four-wheel-drive gas hog to park in their 3-car garage, so why should we give precious money to savages before our entire culture is satiated with material possessions.

It's not difficult, though, to make the argument that spreading our wealth is a good idea — as well as a good investment — even absent a worthy rival for international power. Not only did we keep Europe out of the Soviet orbit, we helped create an economic powerhouse that is a major source of trade, both to and from the U.S. I'll grant that many governments in Africa and other underdeveloped nations don't inspire confidence our aid would be used properly, but it still seems worth taking the chance they could change their ways with a little carrot-and-stick motivation. If they did, the whole world would be a better place.

## A Real Hometown Paper The Dallas Post

### The Dallas Post

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