

EDITORIALS

Good work, good luck to the Class of 1998

So, let us put to rest the notion that today's teenagers are universally lazy, stupid and unmotivated, or even that a significant minority of them fulfill that stereotype. If you have read Kylie Shafferkoetter's articles in this issue and last week, you know there are a great number of young people in our high schools who are talented, respectful and serious about their future, and that of our nation. They want to be doctors, engineers, women's rights activists and business leaders, and if they maintain the dedication to excellence they've shown so far, there's no reason to expect they won't succeed.

Life will throw many obstacles in their paths, of course, and the graduates of 1998 should expect some twists and turns along the road to fulfillment of their goals. They have lived a relatively protected existence until now, and when they go out on their own will find it takes more than a high IQ to stay on top, and there are fewer helping hands and sympathetic ears around. Nor should they be surprised if the pace of progress is slower than anticipated, or if 10 or 20 years from now they find themselves working in an entirely different field from the one they took aim at back in '98. Until they have tested the waters of "real life," they cannot know for sure what truly attracts them and inspires real devotion.

And let's not forget the students whose grades didn't top the charts, but who learned well how to give their best effort to each endeavor, and to apply their skills and interests not only to a career but to the improvement of their community, starting with their own families and friends. Everyone has a contribution to make to our society, and there's no reason to limit the expectation that each of us — from the most humble to the most exalted — can make a difference. There's plenty to do, from global warming to man's inhumanity to his brothers and sisters, and the world is counting on this generation to handle themselves better than the ones before.

We're happy to send the Class of 1998 off on the journey of life with congratulations for all they are and all they've done so far, and to urge them to keep up the good work, while taking as much enjoyment as possible along the way.

Plan now to support the 52nd library auction

Would you like to take concrete action to help the Back Mountain? Do you mind getting credit for it? If the answer to those questions is yes and no respectively, take a minute now to decide if you can contribute an item or items to the 52nd Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, to be held July 9-12.

The auction raises about one-fourth of the library's annual operating budget, mostly by selling new and antique items over the block to hundreds of willing bidders who know their purchases support this important institution. Most of the new items are donations from individuals and businesses, many of whom have helped the library for years. But there's always room for more, because the auction goes until the last item is sold, and the more there are, the better the library can fulfill its role.

The auction isn't limited to new merchandise and antiques; each year there are several good used pieces, such as a wonderful metal patio set that went over the block last year. If you've never donated an item before, or if you haven't yet done so this year, why not take a minute to think if you can help. Auction volunteers will come and pick up your donation, or you can drop it off at the library. Just fill out and mail the coupon below, or call 675-1182, and you can do your part.

Name of Individual or Business _____
 Phone # _____
 Item to be Donated _____ Value \$ _____
 Please call to arrange pickup Item will be delivered
 A receipt will be mailed or delivered at time of pickup.
 Send to: **Back Mt. Library Auction**
 96 Huntsville Rd.
 Dallas PA 18612

Letters, columns and editorials

The Dallas Post attempts to publish opinions on a variety of topics in many forms. Editorials, which are the opinion of the management of The Post, appear on the editorial page and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. Any artwork represents the opinion of the cartoonist, and columns are the opinion of the author.

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to the following guidelines:

- Letters should not exceed 500 words.
- No writer may have more than one letter published during a 30-day period, except as a reply to another letter.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a telephone number for verification.
- Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear threat to the writer.
- The Post retains the right to accept or reject any letter, and to edit letters for grammar and spelling, as well as to eliminate any libel, slander or objectionable wording.

In addition to letters, we welcome longer pieces that may run as columns. The author or subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be the prime consideration when selecting material for publication.



The good old days? Maybe not. Photo by Monica Marzani.

A Case for conservation



Alene N. Case

My husband and I recently spent two wonderful weeks in Oregon with our two sons who live in Portland. During our stay, we had plenty of opportunities to see a wide variety of landscapes and to talk with experts in the field of legal protection of natural resources. But, for me, the most memorable conversation was with a young couple who are third or fourth generation Oregonians.

Soon after our arrival at their home, it became obvious that these thirty-something parents of two lively children shared our concern about the environment, specifically the forests and rivers of the northwest. They were not only concerned; they were also quite knowledgeable. So, we asked them how their parents and grandparents and other people in the older generation felt about the loss of 95 percent of the old-growth forests. I am still pondering the answer: "They simply do not believe that it is gone."

Seeing and believing in Oregon

I am no expert on the process of grieving, but I do know that denial is often the first response. It comes before anger or tears or acceptance. It certainly comes before any constructive response to the situation which might have created the loss. I wondered then, and I wonder now, how one can be left with only five percent of the gorgeous huge trees that once prevailed and not realize that ninety-five percent of them are missing.

Before we conclude that these folks are senile or insensitive, let's consider some reasons that might lead to such a denial of reality. First, most people in Oregon live in cities. Portland and other Oregon cities are models of planning and urban development. They have parks both large and small in which people can recreate. Some of these parks contain old-growth forests with their attendant mosses, ferns, birds, and other wildlife. If I lived in Oregon, I would be understandably proud of these progressive cities. But, such pride can also lead to a certain blindness regarding other environmental problems.

Second, well-meaning conservation measures often hide environmental problems from the casual viewer. Did you ever drive down a country road with large

trees on either side and suddenly realize that this "forest" was only two or three times as wide as the road? Beyond the trees that you could see from the road, some paper company had cut acres and acres of forest to make tissues. Well, this situation occurs over and over again in Oregon, too. We drove down one "scenic highway" that was separated from clearcuts on either side by about 100 meters of mature forest. No wonder the natives don't realize "that it is gone!"

I am becoming increasingly uneasy about plans to protect "viewsheds." Many environmental groups gain support from the public when they advocate protecting the scenery near cities or major highways. I can support such efforts if they are also linked to the protection of sensitive ecological areas such as streams, lakes, wetlands, or steep slopes that might erode if disturbed or when linked to the protection of prime agricultural land. But, if we are only preserving the "view" for people, we are encouraging the very innocent denial that the older people in Oregon are exhibiting. How will people know that the problems exist if we hide them?

Airplanes are great equalizers of views. On our way home, the weather was gorgeous all across

the country and I had a window seat from which I could see quite well. The loss of large expanses of trees in the northwest, the irrigation of marginal agricultural lands, the lack of adequate stream borders in the midwest, and the sprawl of towns and cities could not hide from me. Occasionally, I was pleasantly surprised by contour planting and strip-cropping or by small patch cuts of timber that were regenerating nicely. But, mostly, I was once again saddened by the obvious destruction of good land especially near cities like St. Louis MO, Dayton OH or Philadelphia PA. Factories and subdivisions and super-highways are covering land that has in the past put food on our tables and provided wood for our houses.

Some day I imagine a visitor to the eastern US asking a long-time resident a variation on the question we asked in Oregon: What do your elders think about the destruction of farm and forest land? Will the answer be the same? Will we deny that it is gone? Let us always look around us and not close our eyes to the obvious. Let us do the planning necessary to live with nature and with each other. Let us view our land as the priceless resource that it is and protect it as such.

Seeing is believing!



60 Years Ago - June 17, 1938 DALLAS BORO CRACKS DOWN ON DELINQUENTS

The first of several hundred delinquent notices to be served on delinquent taxpayers in Dallas Borough, were issued yesterday by Tax Collector Arthur Dungey who has been ordered by Dallas School Board to "crack down" on delinquents who are responsible for the more than \$2,100 balance he owes the district.

The Postmaster General in Washington, D.C. announced the appointment of Nicholas Staub, of Trucksville as postmaster at the Trucksville office. Staub will succeed William Luksic who resigned after filling the position for the last four years. The salary is \$2,000.

50 Years Ago - June 18, 1948 DALLAS TO GET TWO NEW FIRE HYDRANTS

Borough Council has approved the installation of two more fire hydrants in the borough bringing the total now in use to nine. One will be installed at the intersection of Veterans's Memorial Highway and Machell Avenue and the other will be installed at the intersection of Susquehanna and Wyoming Streets. Council's liberal attitude toward fire protection within the past decade has saved Dallas Borough property owners thousands of dollars in lowered fire insurance premiums.

Hayfield Farm will exhibit the nationally famous Clydesdale teams of eight horses at the fourth annual Lehman Horse Show July 5. In addition, Alexander Tough, farm manager has announced that 14 of the farm's little Sardinian donkeys will be on exhibition.

40 Years Ago - June 13, 1958 LAKE-NOXEN ADDED TO SCHOOL JOINTURE

Lehman and Jackson Town-

ship school directors signed an agreement for a larger jointure with Lake-Noxen Tuesday at the June Board meeting. Ross Township members not having a full quota present voted to hold a special meeting to decide the matter.

You could get - Chuck roast, 39¢ lb.; rib roast, 69¢ lb.; sweet red plums, 2 lbs., 39¢; cantaloupes lg., ea. 29¢; Virginia Lee cherry pies, 40¢ ea.; Scott Towels, lg. roll, 31¢.

30 Years Ago - June 20, 1968 LIBRARY PREPARES FOR 22ND AUCTION

Antique Committee, still in the process of final formation, has procured a pine jelly cupboard with plank sides and the original white china knobs for its main offering at the 22nd Annual Library Auction. It is on display in Shavertown at Wyoming National Bank.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Baker of Trucksville, will observe their 60th wedding anniversary June 24. The couple were married June 24, 1908 by Rev. Carl Councilman in the old Methodist parsonage in

Carverton. They had five children, three of whom are living. They also have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Baker is a retired plaster contractor.

20 Years Ago - June 15, 1978 LAKE-LEHMAN BOARD DOES NOT ADOPT BUDGET

The Lake-Lehman School Board Directors declined to adopt a 1978/79 budget at their Tuesday meeting despite earlier indications that they would do so. Angelo DeCesaris financial committee chairman expressed reluctance to adopt final budget and noted that action at the state level will determine Lake-Lehman's final budget allocation. According to DeCesaris, Governor Milton Shapp vetoed allocations of \$50 million for subsidies to local school districts. Legislature has threatened to override the veto, in which case Lake-Lehman stands to receive a substantial subsidy. The amount of the subsidy represents either a six mill increase in taxes or a reduction in programs.

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