

Fireworks fun

It seemed like the whole Back Mountain - maybe all of northeastern PA - came out for the fireworks in Dallas Sunday. The annual event, sponsored by Orloski's Quik Marts, was held on the Dallas school grounds, but cars jammed Rt. 309, at Country Club Shopping Center and the Little League field.

In photos, getting warmed up for the show: Right, Kyle Cook, Harveys Lake, eagerly reached for his glow stick; below center, Kyle and Karly Huff shared a seat; below left, Cody Phillips, Trucksville, was sparking.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTZKE



Windsor Park

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design, develop, plant, weed, and water a garden on such a large scale? Dr. Mussari has several reasons for his own interest. "There's an old saying, 'To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow,'" he said.

But it was really his wife who started the whole process. "I was working on a film and Kathleen started a small garden," he said. Their interest grew from that first garden and it became a birthday tradition that on every birthday the two would buy plants and plant them together. "She was the one who was the driving force, the inspiration," Mussari said.

Windsor Park was also developed to be used as a television set. The Mussaris, who both teach in the Communications department at King's College, also make documentary films. For the past year, the two have been conceiving, filming, and producing "Windsor Park Stories," hour long documentaries that have aired on Channel 44. The series is currently in its second run and can be seen at 7 p.m. on Saturday evenings.

"The idea was to put ordinary people who've done extraordinary things on television," Mussari said of the series. "We decided to try to do something we've really wanted to do — bring them to Windsor Park and let them tell their story."

From January to April, the Mussaris brought people to Windsor Park. "It's been the most difficult thing we've done," he said. "Once a week, we had to produce a show." Eric Lehman, a Dallas high school graduate, reflected on the death of his mother, Donna Lehman. Rudolph Schleich, a retired King's professor, looked back at what it meant to be a German American during World War II and at his parents' experience as immigrants to this country.

How do the Mussaris find so many fascinating stories to tell? "The stories seem to find us," Mussari said. "They are people who come to the park. They are people we know in life. They are people we admire. They're dealing with everyday life and living it in a meaningful way."

Windsor Park Stories is about real heroes, Mussari explains. But

"There are so many small moments in history that tell us about the bigger events."

Rudolph Schleich
Windsor Park story subject

Rudolph Schleich feels the series does even more than that. "It puts the contemporary scene in a larger perspective and it saves for posterity what is so easily overlooked by the history books," he said. "There are so many small moments in history that tell us about the bigger events. Each of us has an indelible part in the tapestry of history."

Schleich explained his experience as a Windsor Park story in a recent phone interview. "It gives those who participated a chance to revisit those pages in our own history," Schleich said. "This was an opportunity for me to do this in a way I wouldn't have necessarily done."

Perhaps it was inevitable that Windsor Park would change because of Windsor Park Stories. Slowly, as people tell their stories, Windsor Park becomes a memorial. A tree was planted by the community in honor of Donna Lehman. Rose and Gus Rossi planted a tree in honor of their son. Mussari said, "It's actually kind of wonderful that someone would plant a tree in honor of a loved one."

Windsor Park and its stories have brought a community together. Mrs. Mussari said that every once in a while someone from the community weeds a small patch of the garden. "It's had a healing effect," Dr. Mussari said. "They are absolutely wonderful stories that will teach all of us that it's not the size of your bank account or the length of your car that matters."

The Mussaris are currently working on a second season of "Windsor Park Stories." More information about the show can be found on the internet at www.leader.net/wps.

Diversity

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multicultural understanding. Most (of these students) had no exposure with different economic backgrounds or races. We had students who were Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and atheist. We had kids with learning disabilities and physical disabilities," explained Trompeter.

During the a program called, "Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes," Dr. Peter Alan Kaufman, executive director of Jewish Family Services, separated the group based on eye color. He proceeded to rattle off statistics citing how unsuccessful and untalented blue-eyed people are. In the same breath he talked of these same statistics showing that brown-eyed people were destined to be smart and successful and able to establish effective relationships with others.

"You're a blue-eye basher," one boy exclaimed with a smile underlined with a tinge of sincerity. "My job in life is to let people know about blue-eyed people," Kaufman shot back, but with a grin.

With his lecture full of humorous absurdities, Kaufman got his point across.

"He did this to show how it feels to be segregated and put down," said Jaclyn, who lives in Dallas. One girl said if all his statistics were true she would, "Thank goodness I don't have blue eyes, but feel bad for those who did."

Although his examples were absurd, a student named Joy recognized these ideas in the real world. "It's real life. If you look

"This was so different than anything I've ever been to."

Jaclyn Walkowiak
Dallas

different than someone else, you're always going to be 'judged' by someone else."

As the students sat around on the floor listening, it was obvious how comfortable they were with one another. They teased each other and laughed easily. If they disagreed with someone's opinion, they generally waited until the speaker was finished to express themselves in a non-accusatory manner.

Trompeter said respect and open lines of communication are absolutely essential for a camp like this to be a success. "If you establish an atmosphere of guilt and blame, most people will shut down," she said.

So, there were ground rules in the camp. All things said in a room were confidential, everyone had a right to their opinion and everyone had to listen even if they didn't agree.

"If somebody said something we didn't like or that offended us, we say 'Ouch,' and they say 'Whoops.' This way students can express themselves without getting argumentative," Trompeter said.

Jaclyn, 16, who will be a junior next year, said she came to "learn more about diversity in the area."

She was one of four students from Wyoming Seminary to be accepted to the camp.

What struck her was how close everyone got in such a short period of time. "Everyone came in and only knew the people from their schools. Everyone opened up so much and became so close. A lot of kids said they never felt that close to anyone. This was so different than anything I've ever been to," said Jaclyn, the daughter of Linda and Dave Walkowiak.

"Most of the speakers were excellent. They were people we could all relate to and they really opened our eyes. They didn't hold anything back and really put it out there for us," she said.

One of the biggest eye openers for Jaclyn was how people, including herself, felt about sexual orientation. "We always think of race as the main discrimination. But, I saw through conversation that we were all unsure about how we felt about the issue of people's sexual orientation," said Jaclyn, who came to this conclusion after the group heard representatives from Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

"We saw a film about how it would feel to be straight in a gay

world. I guess I never really took it into account (how it must feel to be gay in our society)," she said.

Jaclyn learned that there are a lot of underlying differences between people and that this area has a lot of problems dealing with diversity. "I didn't realize because I'm in the majority being white and Catholic. Now I'm more open and aware."

The students do not plan to forget what they learned, but to actively use it. All 40 students already planned to organize a group called TRUTH in their schools to get across the ideas they learned at the camp. Also, they will publish The TRUTH newsletter every two months.

"At Sem we are getting a Day of Concern, for which we will bring in speakers. Every school is doing it a little differently, but the idea is the same," said Jaclyn.

"We are losing many talented people because they don't feel (wanted) here."

Dr. Linda Trompeter
Director of the Diversity Institute

United Penn Plaza



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Benefit for tornado victims

The Falls Neighbors for Tornado Victims Benefit is getting closer. July 11, is the day, 6 p.m.-12 p.m. is the time... Falls Fire Company is the place.

There will be fun and entertainment for all. Starting with the children, we will have games such as Pic-A-Pop, Tic-Tac-Toe, Duck and Behind the Door. A special visitor is expected to be selling Helium Balloons sponsored by ArDees and we will also have face painting.

For the adults, we will have a bake sale with all baked goods donated by caring residents, a Big Six wheel, donated by K & M Novelties, where the luck of the spin depends on how much you will it to stop on your number, a 50-50 drawing at 9 p.m., and rifle drawings at 7:15, 8:15 and 11:15 p.m. with prizes donated by local businesses. A social bar will also be available

where you make your own hot dog or sausage sandwich will be available. Mini craft shops will be set up by various crafters from our area.

For both children and adults, we offer a mixed Looney Tunes Plush/Nascar Jar Game, live music by The John Steel Band donated by Dixon Transit and a food stand serving pizza donated by local pizzarias, hamburgers donated by Travatos Meat Market, hot dogs donated by 52 Diner, wimpies made by local residents, and all the fixings donated by Bricks Market.

It is shaping up to be a fun evening. Come rain or shine as most attractions will be held inside.

For more information, to donate a bake sale item, rent a stand to sell your crafts, or buy a 50-50 ticket, please call Debbie Dixon at 388-2403.

Rotary hands out book scholarships

Each year Dallas Rotary Club awards "book scholarships" to four students, two from Lake-Lehman school district and two from Dallas school district. The students are selected by the school guidance counselors, not only for scholastic ability, but also for other areas of excellence. Each student was presented with a check for \$500 to help defray some of the cost for books, while attending the first year of college. Shown in the picture from left are, Brian Blase, Dallas H.S. who plans to attend Penn State in their Actuarial Science program; Jennifer Vodzak, Dallas H.S. who plans to attend Wilkes University aiming through the Hahneman program to become a psychiatrist; Melissa Saxon, President of the Dallas Rotary Club; Kathleen Santry, Lake-Lehman H.S. has a great interest in graphic arts and advertising will be attending Pace University, New York City and Michael Sudol, Lake-Lehman H.S. who has won several awards in art, plans to attend the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, FL.

Field trip to pick berries July 11

A field trip to pick wild blueberries on Haystack Mountain in Mountaintop will be sponsored by the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society on Sat., July 11. Meet at the Blackman Plaza K-Mart parking lot in Wilkes-Barre at 9 a.m. or Crestwood Motel, Mountaintop at 9:15 a.m. John Jakoby will lead. Bring berry buckets. Free and open to the public.

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