

EDITORIALS

Just like Brian Gieda, we can all be heroes

Brian Gieda of Trucksville is the kind of guy we don't hear enough about these days. The 18-year-old college student didn't hit a record home run or score the winning touchdown. And he didn't break into anyone's house or steal a car, either. Instead he did what most of us like to think we would do in similar circumstances, came to the aid of the victim of a crime when there was no one else around to do the job.

The Dallas Borough Council invited Brian and his family to its last meeting to honor him for his good deed. "We need the citizens," said Chief of Police Jack Fowler. "We can be only as good as they are." While the chief doesn't recommend that everyone chase after a thief the way Brian did, he suggests we can all pay close attention if we see or suspect wrongdoing, getting a car's license plate number and an accurate description of the person and vehicle, and telling police as soon as practicable.

The chief is right — our communities reflect our values, our commitment, ultimately ourselves. When someone looks the other way, or "doesn't want to get involved" — one of the most feckless statements anyone can make — they are shirking their responsibility to neighbors, their families, and to themselves.

Can it be a risk to get involved. Certainly, although it's seldom of great import. But, what thing of value comes without risk, and what reward worth having do we earn for cowardice?

535 clowns beats 1 dictator

For all the foolishness and partisanship at center stage under the Capitol dome lately, we can be thankful that we have 535 representatives, admittedly of varied quality, calling the shots instead of one ruthless dictator. The impeachment trial may be embarrassing and unseemly, but it's only a tiny wrinkle in a democratic system that is like a children's toy that can be crumpled up, then springs back good as new when released.

We voters have the most vital role in repairing our government's many flaws with our election-day choices. We need to remember that next time an election comes around and we're tempted to slough off our responsibility.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



In case you haven't heard, let me be the first to tell you that Scranton is on the lookout for a new logo and slogan that best illustrate the city. Now, just in case you haven't been keeping up with the doings "up the line," here's a brief recap of recent events.

Once known as the Electric City, since it was the first to have electrified street lights, Scranton has since fallen on harder times. While many people think the Mall at Steamtown symbolizes Scranton's rebirth, other things fall a little short. There's the little matter of near bankruptcy, which may become real in a few months. To solve the problem, the city decided to tax commuters who work in the city for the privilege of driving around the potholes. Speaking of the streets, the road crews went home at 6 p.m. last Thursday, and the resulting mess still hasn't been cleaned up. The mayor said it was because they wanted to wait 'til the storm ended, but we all know the city couldn't afford to pay its workers. Oh, and the trash didn't get picked up, either. Speaking of workers, the city council had to bypass the mayor to pass a budget that cuts 16 people from the incredibly bloated payroll. Speaking of the mayor, he's best known for breaking into song at the slightest provocation, but the voters love him (maybe because he won't lay off anybody) and keep returning him to office.

Now that you know the context, here are a few ideas:

- Logo:** Light bulb dangling by thin wire from street light.
- Slogan:** Scranton - the lights haven't gone off . . . yet.
- Logo:** Seven city workers looking into sinkhole. **Slogan:** Scranton - underneath, we have a heart of gold.
- Logo:** Large black dot. **Slogan:** Scranton - come study our fiscal black hole, the largest in the East.
- Logo:** Mayor singing in front of pile of garbage bags. **Slogan:** Scranton - he's no lady and he's not fat, so it ain't over yet.

About 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.



A brisk ride through new-fallen snow. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

A Case for conservation



Alene N. Case

When most people think of water pollution, they picture a discharge pipe with yucky-looking and/or strong-smelling liquid pouring into a stream, lake, or river. Actually, members of the U.S. Congress went along with that view in 1972 when they enacted the Clean Water Act. As a result of that legislation, many cities were given grants with which to build new and more efficient sewage treatment plants and most industries were required to treat their effluents before discharging them into waterways. And, contrary to the fears of the cynics, our general water quality has indeed improved over the past 25 years.

However, in the late 1980s it became increasingly clear that the so-called end-of-the-pipe strategy could go only so far in reducing water pollution. Even in 1998, 40 percent of the nation's waterways were not "fishable and swimmable" - the stated goal of the Clean Water Act. Therefore, Congress and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have put forth new guidelines that attempt to solve the many problems of nonpoint source pollution, that is, pollution that does not come directly out of a pipe or have a precise generator. In other words, nonpoint source pollution cannot be blamed on any one entity. Let me give you some statistics and examples.

Siltation is still the main cause of "impairment" for our nation's watercourses, according to the

The problem of nonpoint source pollution

EPA. Silt is a class of sediment somewhere between clay and sand in size. Unlike clay, it does not remain suspended in the water as it is carried toward the ocean. Unlike sand, it does not settle quickly to the bottom near the erosion source. It tends to settle slowly and cover large areas with fine particles. It can cause fish kills directly by interfering with gill function. It can settle on fish eggs and other organisms, suffocating them. It can build up over time and reduce the area and health of plants that live under the water. In the Chesapeake Bay, siltation has been blamed for much of the decreases in oyster and sea grass beds.

Consider the fact that approximately 25 billion tons (that's billion with a "b") of topsoil are eroded every year around the world and you may get an idea of the severity of this situation. It wouldn't be so bad if the soil only created physical problems, but it carries a variety of other pollutants with it into our rivers, lakes and bays. If the soil comes from an agricultural area, it may contain chemicals used to fertilize or to kill weeds and pests. It may also contain bacteria and other pathogens from the manure of farm animals. It almost certainly contains nutrients such as phosphorus which quickly overwhelm the natural processes in the water.

If the soil comes from construction sites or urban areas, it may contain oil or other organic compounds washed from parking areas or roadways. Urban runoff, such as that we are now experiencing as rain melts snow and ice, contains salts of various sorts and metals as well as the aforemen-

tioned nutrients and pesticides from lawns and golf courses. Most of this washes directly into the river without any treatment. In many urban areas, high runoff actually overloads the wastewater treatment systems, and sewage is once again discharged directly into waterways.

Some of the most insidious nonpoint source pollution is carried in the air. Sometimes that also consists of particles of various sorts. Sometimes it is metal compounds from the burning of fuels, especially coal. Arsenic and cadmium are two very dangerous metals that are discharged into our air by coal-burning power plants. These can be carried long distances before they are washed out in someone's backyard.

Nitrates are in the air, too. They can contribute to acid deposition which often prevents streams from supporting the fish and other animals that previously lived there. They can also contribute to the high nutrient concentrations found in waterbodies such as the Chesapeake Bay. It has been estimated that 22 percent of the nitrate in the Bay is brought in from out of the basin in the air. Much of that comes from automobiles and electrical generation plants.

The Governors of Michigan and Vermont wrote an open letter to the American people a few years ago in which they said: "Government is tackling nonpoint pollution, but the task is too big to do alone. Imagine policing every backyard, every parking lot, every farm. Stopping nonpoint pollution is everybody's job." In my next column two weeks from now, I will try to reiterate several of the things we can do to help in this cause.

ONLY YESTERDAY



70 Years Ago - Jan. 26, 1929 GOV. FISHER TO PROPOSE MORE CASH FOR ROADS

Gov. Fisher is preparing to submit a financial program to the legislature to increase revenues for highway construction. Submission of the budget to the General Assembly this week assumes that the present revenues of the department will not be decreased. An increase of another cent a gallon in the gasoline tax would bring in approximately \$7,000,000.

60 Years Ago - Jan. 27, 1939 DALLAS ENDURES WORST WEATHER OF YEAR

Tail end of a storm which raised mountainous waves along the Atlantic Coast and imperiled shipping lashed Dallas bitterly this week and gave this section its worst weather of the winter. There were reports from sections that the temperature had dropped to 14° below on some of the recent cold mornings.

Dallas councilmen will pass final judgement on the borough budget for the current year at their regular meeting Wednesday evening. Indications are that the levy will be the same as last year, 15 1/2 mills.

50 Years Ago - Jan. 28, 1949 HAROLD PAYNE ELECTED VP & GM OF LOCAL CTCO

Coincident with the announcement that Harold Payne of Harveys Lake has been elected vice president and general manager of Commonwealth, Luzerne and Bradford County Telephone Companies, comes the announcement that Commonwealth Co. has purchased a strip of land along Lake Street from A.C. Devens and will erect there its new building formerly planned for location on its present site of Church Street. The new building will serve as general headquarters for all of the companies owned by Sen. Andrew J. Sordoni.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence B. Hilbert, formerly of Allentown and Alderson have purchased Iva's Restaurant on Rte. 309, Shavertown. Hilbert said some remodeling would be done and new equipment is being installed.

40 Years Ago - Jan. 23, 1959 BMT LUMBER & COAL MOVES TO SHAVERTOWN

Announcement was made this week by Granville H. Snowden that Back Mountain Lumber and Coal co. will close its Dallas Hardware and Supply Co. store about the middle of February and move the stock and business to its enlarged modern store in Shavertown. The vacated building Snowden said will be leased to Dallas 5¢, 10¢, and \$1.00 Store owned by John E. Williams.

Board members of Dallas School District at a special meeting Thursday evening rescinded a motion made two days earlier to close the frame school building in Dallas and on Friday, 100 children were again housed in familiar classrooms returning to their place in first and third grades and a kindergarten room. Inspection by the Department of Labor and Industry gave the building a clean bill of health on Thursday.

30 Years Ago - Jan. 30, 1969 BMT TO HAVE LESS JUSTICE OF PEACE POSITIONS

During primary elections last spring voters approved proposed changes to the State Constitution among them abolishment of a number of Justice of the Peace posts. Judge Bernard Bromfaski, Luzerne County Courts president-judge ruled on a decision for the new magisterial districts setting up only two for the entire Back Mountain whereas 17 justices are presently operating.

20 Years Ago - Jan. 25, 1979 DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT CONCERNED OVER TAX

Recent enactment of the per capita occupational privilege tax by Dallas Borough is of great concern to Dallas School District which originally levied the \$10 tax in the municipalities in the district. Dallas School Board approved the tax in order to close a void in the budget when state and federal appropriations were cut back. Board members believed it more equitable to levy \$10 occupational tax than to increase real estate taxes another one or two mills.

LEGISLATORS' DIRECTORY

Federal Officials

Representative Paul E. Kanjorski (Democrat)
Wilkes-Barre: 825-2200
Washington: (202) 225-6511
e-mail: paul.kanjorski@hr.house.gov
400M, 7 N. Wilkes-Barre Blvd., Wilkes-Barre PA 18702
or 2353 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515

Senator Arlen Specter (Republican)
Wilkes-Barre: 826-6265
Washington: (202) 224-4254
e-mail: senator_specter@specter.senate.gov
116 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre PA 18701

or 711 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510

Senator Rick Santorum (Republican)
Scranton: 344-8799
Washington: (202) 224-6324
Fax: (202) 228-4991
e-mail: senator@santorum.senate.gov
527 Linden St., Scranton, PA 18503
120 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510

State Officials
State Senator Charles D. Lemmond (Republican)
(717) 675-3931
e-mail: smurphy@pasen.gov
22 Dallas Shopping Ctr., Memorial Hwy., Dallas PA 18612-1231

State Representative George Hasay (Republican)
287-7505 or 542-7345 or 474-2276 or 477-3752
144 North Mountain Boulevard, Mountaintop PA 18707
Hasay's district encompasses: Harveys Lake, Lehman Township, Jackson Township, Lake Township, Franklin Township, Ross Township, and Dallas Township's north voting district.

State Representative Phyllis Mundy (Democrat)
283-9622 or 655-3375
Suite 113, 400 Third Avenue, Kingston PA 18704
Mundy's district encompasses: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township except for the north voting district, and Kingston Township.

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
OFFICE MANAGER

Jessica Appolo
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC

Kylie Shafferkoetter
REPORTER

Ruth Proietto
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Olga Kostrobala
CLASSIFIED/TYPESSETTING

