

**EDITORIALS**

**Wins, losses less important than values for coaches**

The three men who resigned their positions as head coaches at Lake-Lehman High School last week left with very different won-loss records in their respective sports. But those numbers are not the true measure of the worth of a high school coach, or even of those at the next level, college. By the standards that are appropriate, Rodger Bearde, Dick Morgan and Tom Williams go out winners because they leave a legacy of commitment to their players not just as athletes, but as developing young people who had the opportunity to blend the lessons learned on the court or mat with those taught in the classroom. The result is a potent mix of characteristics that has helped student-athletes to become successful, productive adults, not just one-dimensional high school heroes and heroines.

Yes, they had very different styles, from Bearde's explosive sideline behavior to the calm exterior that hid the deep concern Williams had for his wrestlers' fortunes. Morgan, who is ending a 23-year coaching career, had a sideline manner somewhere between the others, but in all three cases, when the final whistle blew you knew they would be there to support their charges in any way. As good teachers do in the classroom, these three always gave more than what was required, because they understood the importance of their positions not for their own glorification, but to the young lives they influenced.

Much was made in the last couple of years about the records of some Lake-Lehman sports teams, and an attempt was made to shove Bearde out of his position, along with long-time football mentor Rich Gorgone. Bearde is going now, but on his own terms, as are Williams and Morgan, each for their own reasons. They will be missed, not for their teams' successes, but for the perspective and values they brought to practices and games, and the lessons they taught that can't be tallied on a statistics sheet.

**Why won't lawmakers treat guns like cars?**

So Republican lawmakers finally get the message on guns, or so they say. After first rejecting attempts to regulate the sale of guns at so-called gun shows, Republicans in the Senate voted for their own measure to rein in the present practice of unregulated sales between individuals, euphemistically known as "unlicensed dealers." Much of this traffic occurs at "gun shows," which serve as a marketplace for transactions between people who want to buy guns without notice, and those who want to make a quick buck selling to them. This is the kind of place most of the weapons used in the massacre at Columbine High School were purchased.

But by leaving out any requirement that sellers keep written records of their transactions, the measure is little more than an attempt at public relations, by which those who voted for it can tout their support for stricter control of gun sales, while in fact doing little to achieve that goal. Republican leaders claim the records requirement would be an "unnecessary infringement" on law-abiding gun buyers, an argument so senseless you could expect to hear it only from a politician in the act of contorting himself so as not to offend the National Rifle Association.

Let's see if we can understand this logic: Keeping records of gun sales is an infringement on buyers, because the big, bad government will suck in all the receipts and dispatch ruthless agents to collect every single .357 magnum and deer rifle before sending us all off to slave camps to build laptop computers that will be given to every undeserving schoolchild of a welfare mother. Is that about it?

By this logic, receipts shouldn't be kept for the sale of automobiles, or of dynamite, or of hacksaws. If this is how Senate Republicans really think, they should work to abolish all record-keeping, because who needs to know if we've bought a new suit, or a copy of the latest hit song. As a side benefit, we may be able to avoid paying taxes on our purchases, and isn't that a great way to make our nation better.

Perhaps if the two boys from Colorado had killed just one Senator instead of 12 innocent children and a teacher, lawmakers would have taken action that might offer some chance of slowing the spread of killing machines in America. Apparently until a similar horror visits the Congress, we'll have to be content with mindless half measures that do little but provide material for press releases.

**Do you agree? Disagree?**

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post. We welcome your opinion on contemporary issues in the form of letter to the editor. If you don't write, the community may never hear a contrasting point of view.

Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Please include your name, address and a daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity. We do not publish anonymous letters, but will consider withholding the name in exceptional circumstances. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar.

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Spring in the meadow. Photo by Charlotte Bartzek.

**A Case for conservation**



Alene N. Case

Note from A. Case: Perhaps you have felt helpless to actually do anything positive about the happenings in the Balkans. I am on the board of directors of ECOLOGIA, an international environmental organization based in Harford PA. Our President and Executive Director, Randy Kritkauskusky, is in a unique position to initiate an ecological and humanitarian response to an otherwise tragic situation. As such, ECOLOGIA distributed the following press release last week. It is reprinted here, with minor alterations, in the hope that you, the readers of *The Dallas Post*, will find this opportunity useful and encouraging.

While Chinese students throw rocks and Molotov cocktails at the United States' Embassy in Beijing, some Americans are attempting to build bridges to the Chinese people. An on-line philanthropy project called the Virtual Founda-

**Tree planting memorializes three Chinese journalists**

tion (<http://www.virtualfoundation.org/>), initiated a memorial tree planting project in China, called "The Chinese American Friendship Forest." The Forest will honor the three Chinese journalists, Shao Yunhuan, Xu Xinghu, and Zhu Yin who were killed two weeks ago when a NATO bomb struck the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade. The project is designed to show the Chinese people that American citizens are not hostile to the Chinese and to express the regret of Americans for the incident.

Randy Kritkauskusky, the President of ECOLOGIA, an environmental not-for-profit which established the Virtual Foundation project, said, "Our organization works in Russia and we are just about to open an office in China. We have recently seen the NATO military campaign in the Balkans ignite a wave of anti-American feelings in Russia which has seriously set back relations between our two countries. We do not want to see this repeated in China. We hope that our project, which allows Americans to reach out directly to the Chinese people, will reduce the likelihood that all Americans will be viewed as the

enemy." The idea of supporting tree planting projects in China is not new for the Virtual Foundation. For the last two years, it has linked individuals, an American church, and several high school groups with Chinese volunteer organizations engaged in several tree planting projects in China. (Additional information and downloadable photographs of Virtual Foundation tree planting and growing activities in China are available on our website.)

Mr. Kritkauskusky is planning to visit China this week and will attempt to take three trees with him, one for each of the Chinese journalists who died. This symbolic act of friendship will be an immediate gesture of American concern over the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade and the death of the journalists.

Individuals and organizations interested in supporting the "The Chinese American Friendship Forest" may do so by making a donation through the Virtual Foundation's website (<http://www.virtualfoundation.org/>), or by calling its toll free number at (888) 801-7101.

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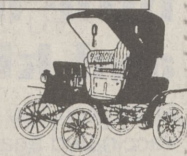
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Hasay's district encompasses: Harveys Lake, Lehman Township, Jackson Township, Lake Township, Franklin Township, Ross Township, and Dallas Township's north voting district.

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Mundy's district encompasses: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township except for the north voting district, and Kingston Township.

**ONLY YESTERDAY**



**70 Years Ago - May 18, 1929  
NEW OWNER FOR SERVICE STATION IN TRUCKSVILLE**

Harvey Spaide of Plymouth, has moved into the service station recently built by J. Laux & Sons on the upper Trucksville road. Mr. Spaide intends to have a high grade service station and refreshment stand. An experienced mechanic he will do automobile repair work.

Now playing at Mariner Theatre, Luzerne, "The Mysterious Lady" with Greta Garbo.

**60 Years Ago - May 19, 1939  
NEW EPISCOPAL CHURCH TO BE BUILT**

The new Prince of Peace Episcopal Chapel, which is to be erected near the intersection of Pioneer Ave. and Fernbrook Road, Dallas, will be built this summer according to present plans. Hopes have been expressed that the chapel will be ready for worship by October. A campaign for funds is being conducted by Rev. Ralph A. Weatherly, pastor of Grace Episcopal Church in Kingsyton who is attending the local mission.

You could get - Pork loin roast, 17¢ lb.; chuck roast, 14¢ lb.; A&P butter, 2 lbs., 49¢; All Purpose flour, 24 lb., bag, 59¢; new potatoes, 15 lbs., full peck, 33¢; fresh lg. pineapple, 2 for 19¢; lettuce lg. hd., 6¢.

**50 Years Ago - May 20, 1949  
ACME MARKET OPENS**

When the new Acme Market opens in Dallas Tuesday morning it will give the Back Mountain area a \$250,000 food market unsurpassed in beauty, size and convenience by another other market in the Acme chain in Northeast Pennsylvania. The new market provides everything for the convenience of the most discriminating housewife.

Boyd R. White, Mountaintop, has taken a three year lease on the former Ritter Bldg., Main St., Dallas after renovations are made, he will open there shortly a Frigidaire and Frigidaire appliance store. Although he could not be reached at presstime, it is understood he also plans to sell furniture in the new store.

**40 Years Ago - May 14, 1959  
NEW DALLAS HIGH SCHOOL GETS STATE APPROVAL**

A model of the new senior high school was on display Tuesday evening at the Dallas School Board meeting. James Lacy and Paul Rodda of Lacy, Atherton and Davis were on hand to explain changes made in dimensions to comply with State specifications. Lacy and Rodda conferring with Mr. Trexlar at headquarters in Harrisburg were given the green light on three proposals, turned down three others which were not considered reimbursable by the State. Touching upon other needs before construction can start, Lacy asked for a drilled well to provide water for building construction.

**30 Years Ago - May 22, 1969  
25 NEW TEACHERS HIRED AT DALLAS**

Twenty five positions on the teaching staff of Dallas District Schools will be filled prior to the fall semester, according to announcement made last week by Dr. Robert Mellman, Superintendent. Eleven new teachers have been hired and 14 replacements will be necessary to complete the faculty. Coal hauling bids were submitted, William Berti received the contract for hauling ashes and rubbish, Fitch & Sons received the contract for cleaning of septic tanks at their low bid of \$395. Milton Evans announced that on June 7, 8:30 a.m. the board will inspect the new Junior High School. Miners National Bank was named depository and also treasurer of Dallas School District. Atty. Jonathan Valentine was renamed solicitor.

**20 Years Ago - May 17, 1979  
DAMA REJECTS TWO BACK MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENTS**

Drawings for two proposed developments were rejected by D.A.M.A. when presented for approval Thursday. Developers of Maplecrest Hills which will be located on Dug Road in Kingston Township and Dallas Village a proposed development which will be constructed in Dallas Borough