

EDITORIALS

Student essays show sparks of inspiration, insight

Students in Back Mountain schools offered some keen insights when they were asked to write about the most significant people, events and innovations of the past century and millennium. Their choices spanned a wide range — in people, for example, both Martin Luther and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were offered as the best. While the computer received many mentions in science and technology, some young authors strayed further from contemporary life with suggestions that penicillin, electricity or the microscope have had the greatest impact on civilization. There was a similar wide range in the event category, with World War II, women's suffrage and the launching of Sputnik vying for precedence.

The essays offer heartening evidence that today's young people possess the ability and interest to look beyond the world of pop music, the mall and professional sports, and to develop a real understanding of key facets of human progress. To make the most of this native ability, they need stimulation, both in the classroom and at home, from teachers, parents, other relatives and adult role models. But with each passing year it seems to become more difficult to keep a focus on what's really important, as peace and prosperity remove us further from the gritty truths of past human existence. As the historian said, those who fail to study history are doomed to repeat it.

As we strive to provide support and security for our children, we also need to inspire them with stories of soldiers and statesmen, scientists and civil rights workers, inventors and religious leaders who sacrificed their own comfort for dreams, goals and principles they held dear. If we are to continue enjoying the fruit of their labors — and if our children are to make similar contributions — we need to pass on an understanding and appreciation of the ways each of us can make a difference, even if we don't end up the subject of student essays in centuries yet to be.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Like many others, I'm tempted to ask "Why 2K?" after the turn of the millennium became the biggest disappointment since New Coke. If you're like us, you stocked up on dried foods and bottled water, installed a generator, hoarded hundreds of gallons of gasoline, bought a couple of AK-47's and reinforced the fallout shelter in anticipation of worldwide — or at least neighborhood — chaos. I'm joking, of course. Our Y2K preparation consisted of going food shopping before the holiday and buying a couple of bottles of really expensive wine. (For me that means more than \$10.)

That doesn't mean I wasn't hoping for a little disruption. I'm one of those people who loves a storm, which means being bored to tears with the weather in these parts, and who secretly enjoys seeing "invincible" man-made objects fail, preferably without anyone getting hurt. So, what could have been better than at least a handful of computers blowing up, a few power grids failing and some high-tech wizards being made fools of? Sadly, it was not to be, with only a glitch here or there attributed to man's arrogance.

Was it all a hoax? Did the computer companies dream this up to send us scurrying to the mall for replacements? Or, was this an example of people responding to a threat in a constructive, thoughtful manner? Believe it or not, it may have been the latter, as businesses and government spent billions to check and prepare computer systems. But there was also plenty of hype, such as the worry that cars wouldn't run properly, because so many of their components are controlled by microchips. If that was a problem, I would have known about it before now given the number of times our batteries have been dead as doornails, and any mysterious time codes would have been lost.

There's still hope for negative thinkers, though. Will everything work on February 29, since this is a leap year, which some programmers may have forgotten? Will the end of 2000 throw vital electronics in a tizzy? Will Bill Gates be worth less than Brazil come January 1, 2001? Doubt it.

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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Ready to set sail on Harveys Lake, in December! Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

One solution to feeder-raiding squirrels

Editor,
Re: Mrs. Parker's battel (Dec. 29, 1999). My solution to an exact situation may appear to be cruel at first, but it really isn't. I took electrical tape and pushed thumb tacks thru the sticky side,

and then wound it round and round like a barber pole. I then coated it with axle grease. The first day or so the little buggers tried (with no success) to climb my pole. That was three years ago, I did not even have to grease the

pole the last two years. Thy, as we all know, are very very smart creatures, they know they can't make it. Now they do not evn try. Try it, it works
J.F.Cuningham
allas

Library news



Carol King

Registration for the "Story Hours 2000" (we might as well get used to it) concludes this Saturday, Jan. 8. The Toddler Program, for 2- and 3-year olds, will be held on Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., from February 1 to April 4; and Thursdays, from 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., February 3 to April 6. The Story Hours for 3- to 5-year olds will be held on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., February 2 to April 5; and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., February 3 to April 6.

Story hours register 'til Jan.8

Librarian's Report for November 1999: Martha Butler attended a meeting of librarians on November 9 at the Osterhout Library to discuss unresolved issues concerning the automation system in local libraries. Some of them went online in December, including the Back Mountain Memorial Library, which inaugurated its system on December 13. The remainder plan to follow suit in January. Remember that our library staff has been trained to help everyone, computer novices and experts alike, learn how to take full advantage of the computerized resources now available.

Circulation statistics for November: Total circulation - 6,826; books added - 183; new borrowers - 46; active borrowers - 12,235. Bill Eimers and his 11 Cub Scouts toured the library on November 23 and learned about acquisition and cataloguing of books.

Book Store: Ruth Tetshner announces that the BookStore has reopened and is back in its regular schedule — Monday and Wednesday, 1 to 8 p.m., on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Book Listings: The following fiction works have been in *The New York Times* Best Seller list in recent weeks: **Timelin**, by Michael Crichton: "Using the latest computer technology, a group of historians travels back to 4th-century feudal France"; **Sving Faith**, by David Baldacci: "man and a woman get caught in B.I. machinations"; and the latest Danielle Steel novel, **Irresistible Forces**. Non-fiction works include the Brokaw books at two other looks at life in the past century, **LIFE: Our Century in Pictures**, edited by Richard B. Tolley and Tony Chu; and **The Century**, by Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster.

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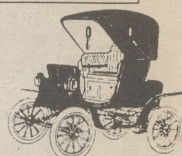
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Mundy's district encompasses: Dallas Bugh, Dallas Township except for the north votidistrict, and Kingston Township.

Have a bright idea?

Share it with your neighbors by writing to The Dallas Post. We welcome letters to the editor and loer pieces that may run as guest columns. Send yours to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612, or drop it off at our office at 607 Main Road, Dallas (across from Offset Paperback). Be sure to include your name, address and daytime phone number.

ONLY YESTERDAY



70 Years Ago - Jan. 4, 1930. EDWARD AVERY APPOINTED KT POLICE CHIEF

An announcement was made this week of the resignation of Edward Avery, chief of police of Dallas borough, and of his appointment as chief of police of Kingston Township. Mr. Avery's resignation was not unexpected as there had been considerable pressure by the Kingston Township citizens to have him assume the police duties in that township. There are thirty-six miles of paved roads in Kingston Township to be patrolled, and it is believed by many that after the 1930 census is taken, Kingston Township will be a first class instead of a second class township.

60 Years Ago - Jan. 5, 1940 WELL TRAVELED GREETING CARD FINALLY DELIVERED

Two days before Christmas, Burt Jones of Pioneer Avenue, Dallas Township, mailed a Christmas card to his next-door neighbor Floyd Sanders. Six days later, Mr. Sanders received the card. It had been sent to Dallas, Texas, and returned, travelling over 3,000 miles to go 100 feet.

Aaron Searfoss, 93, Palmerton, who heads a five-generation family, died Dec. 24, leaving 271 survivors; 10 children; 61 grandchildren; 179 great-grandchildren and 21 great-great-grandchildren.

50 Years Ago - Jan. 6, 1950 CONCERT BENEFITS CHURCH CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Sponsored by Prince of Peace Episcopal Church Congregation, Lehigh University Glee Club, under the direction of Professor William Schempf, will present a concert on Friday evening, Jan. 20, in Irem Temple, Wilkes-Barre. Proceeds will be added to the church building fund.

You could get: Porterhouse steaks for 69¢/lb.; Heinz tomato soup, 3 cans for 31¢; Kleenex tissues, 2 pkgs for 35¢; Colgate toothpaste, 1.75oz tube, 25¢.

40 Years Ago - Jan. 7, 1960 DALLAS GIRL SCOUTS CRAFT TOYS FOR ILL CHILDREN

Dallas Girl Scout Troop 169 had a very happy holiday season making and distributing stuffed kittens to the children at Nesbitt Hospital. The toys, stuffed with nylon and covered with yellow flannel had a professional appearance with embroidered faces and satin lined ears.

Now playing at Himmler Theatre "Anatomy for Murder" with James Stuart and Lee Remick.

30 Years Ago - Jan. 8, 1970 PSU-WB STUDENTS JOIN ORANGE BOWL FESTIVITIES

Orange juice—the beverage of champions, flowed freely at a victory celebration at the Wilkes-Barre campus of Penn State, Monday afternoon. Celebrating the second undefeated season of the Nittany Lions football team, as well as the second Orange Bowl trophy captured in as many years. The student body of the Lehman campus joined the faculty and staff in an "orange festival" which featured 30 gallons of orange drink; orange frosted donuts, and a replica of the sterling silver bowl won by the Penn State team in their 10-3 victory over the Missouri Tigers on New Years Day.

20 Years Ago - Jan. 2, 1980 FUNDING QUESTIONS DELAY CROSS VALLEY PROJECT

Construction of a vital link in the Cross Valley Expressway, presently held up because of state matching share funding delays, can begin soon if substitute local funding sourced can be found, according to a spokesman for PennDOT's Dumore office. With funding guaranteed, construction could begin in September. Advocated of the Expressway contend that the entire areas economy will benefit from its construction.

You could get: Kraft mayonnaise, quart jar \$1.29; Golden bananas, 28¢/lb.; Mrs. Butterworth's syrup, 24 oz bottle \$1.33.