

EDITORIALS

Ignore the quibblers;
justice has been done

Now that young Elian Gonzalez is with his father, where he should have been weeks ago, the propaganda battle between the boys' Miami relatives and the Justice Department is in full swing. It seems no one can simply do what's right these days, they must justify their actions so opinion polls match the outcome.

Janet Reno and her colleagues are at a definite disadvantage in this fight, since so many politicians eager to kiss up to the right wing have added their baying to the perverse logic of the spurned relatives, who now wail that Elian couldn't possibly be as happy out of the spotlight with his father as he was being taken advantage of by distant relatives and sycophantic officials of various stripes. Their credibility is made crystal clear in the claim that photos showing a relaxed, smiling Elian with his dad must be altered. He couldn't possibly be that happy without us around, they seem to be saying.

Comments by Congressional figures make it equally obvious that these men are poor imitations of real leaders, and care about nothing so much as pandering to the whacko vote, except perhaps preening for the camera. And the news media adds fuel to the fire, elevating the Elian case to the level of the Cuban missile crisis, which in the context of the tranquil state of the world, may not be wholly inappropriate.

Should the Justice Dept. have taken a kinder, gentler approach in removing the boy from his Miami captors? Perhaps; but imagine the uproar if unarmed, unprepared officers were ambushed by gun-wielding defenders of Elian's captivity. Shakespeare said "all's well that ends well." This sickening episode has ended as well as could be expected given the circumstances, and we should be happy for that, not looking for someone to blame . . . but for what?

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Once the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rebuffed the Justice Department in the Elian Gonzalez situation, the surrender of American society to anarchy by child was nearly complete. While ruling that 6-year-old Elian couldn't be taken out of the country until an appeal to remain is heard, the judges chastised Justice for not taking seriously Elian's plea that he not be returned to Cuba. That sentiment might have been just a teeny bit influenced by the mob of kidnappers who have been brainwashing the tyke since he landed on U.S. shores, but the judges apparently felt their influence was irrelevant. Still the court clearly suggests that the wishes of 6-year-olds are to be given equal weight to that of their parents. That being the case, I can foresee these headlines soon:

Girl wins return of Princess Bear

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled today that Princess Bear must be returned to Elizabeth (Lizzy) Larson, age 7. The girl's attorneys brought the case because Lizzy's parents, Tom and Mary Larson, hid the stuffed animal in a closet as punishment after Lizzy gave her brother, Tommy, 2, a "noogie." In a statement, the court said the Larsons had not allowed Lizzy to adequately present her side of the dispute, in which she claimed Tommy had drooled on her Barbie's shiny red shoes, justifying her retaliation.

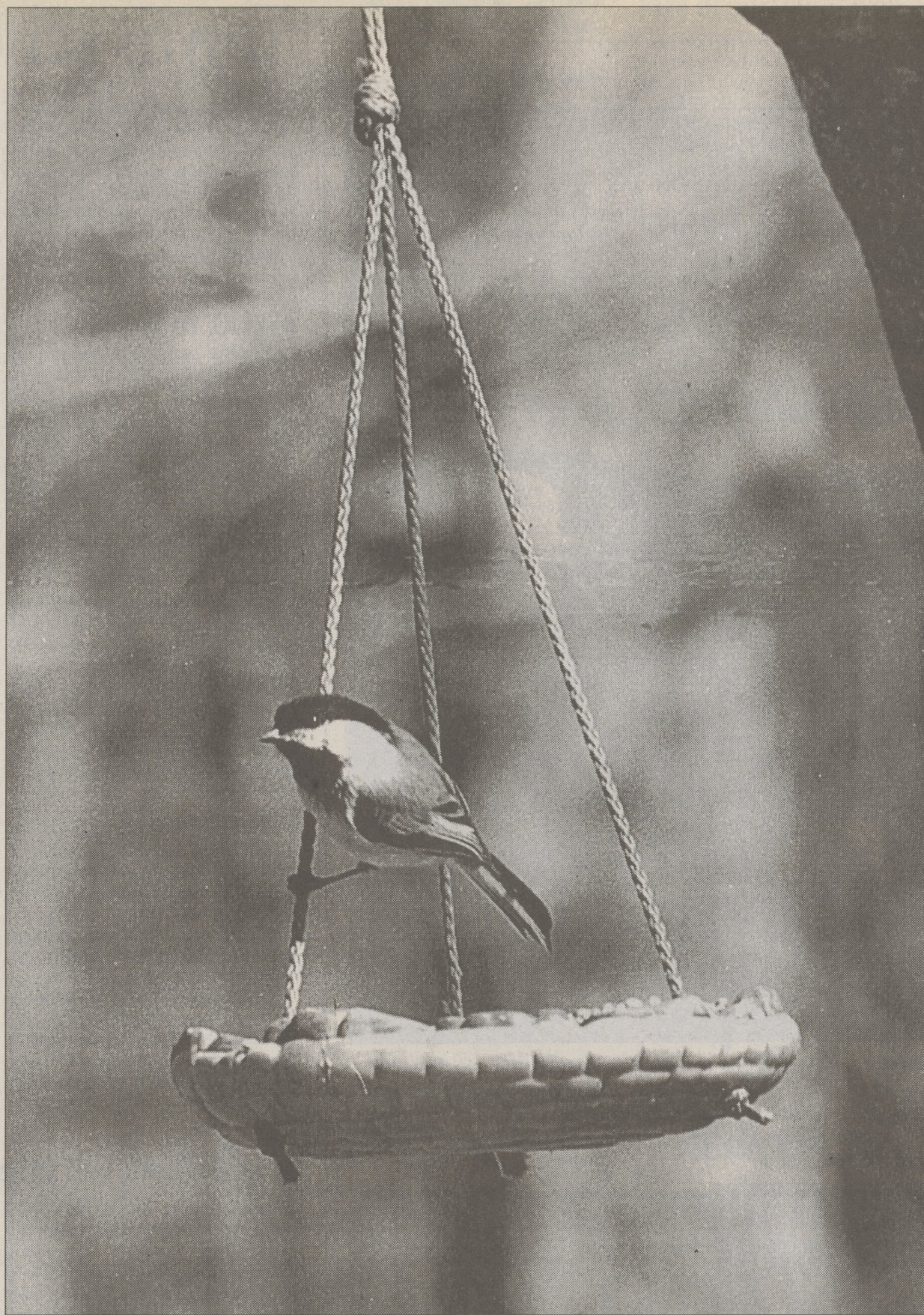
After vacation, child shuns school

Gregory, (Giggy) Johnson liked kindergarten. But after a summer vacation spent with his grandparents in California, he didn't want to return to Minnesota's cold climate, or to school. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed that he shouldn't have to, since Giggy's attorney convinced them that authoritarian school policies restrict freedom of expression. While Giggy's parents wanted him to return home, the court said Giggy's interest in surfing was just as important as their desire that he receive an education.

In keeping with the revised standards for youthful responsibility, the Court is poised to hear the case of 4-year-old William (Willy) Brandon, who is charged with involuntary manslaughter in the death of his uncle, who fell down a flight of stairs in the Brandon home after slipping on a Pokemon ball the boy had left in the hallway.

Allowance should be progressive, judges say

Tiffany Snodgrass, 11, wasn't happy that she received only \$6 weekly allowance. After all, her parents, Richard and Grace Snodgrass, were worth millions, drove fancy cars and belonged to exclusive clubs. So Tiffany sued, with her attorneys arguing that allowance should be proportional to the parents' wealth. "This is, quite simply, a form of child abuse," said Dewey Cheatem Esq., who represented the girl. "More important, when she contacted me, her parents initially refused to pay my fees, giving them an unfair advantage before the court." Rather than proceed with the case, the parents and Tiffany reached an out-of-court settlement, the terms of which were not disclosed, although a source close to Tiffany said it was "in the middle three figures" weekly.



Treat, treat, treat. Photo by Monica Marzani.

Back in time



Anna Mae Estus

My sister Madeline, our friend Helen Czuleger, and myself spent a lot of time in the old historical cemetery on top of Huntsville Street. We liked to read the epitaphs and figure out how old people were when they died, and how old they would be had they been alive.

Nearly every day we were there, we didn't even mind the garter snakes and black snakes sunning themselves on a tombstone. Nothing was ever taken care of, graves were sunken and tombstones were broken and upset. Weeds grew everywhere.

For several days we hadn't been to the graveyard and when we did go, lo and behold, the weeds were gone and the tombstones set up as straight as possible.

Because we could finally see the ground, there were rows of small pine trees. We assumed they had been there growing right along. So we decided to take them home and plant them in our yard. We were very busy. First we planted a long row beside our fence by the school. We helped Helen plant hers near their vegetable garden.

About that time, Mrs. Czuleger came to see what we were doing. Our mother was

Twice-planted pine trees



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Some of the pine trees still stand in Rice Cemetery.

shopping for our meat for the week at Percy Brown's in Wilkes-Barre. When Mrs. Czuleger saw what we had, she made us pull up every tree we planted and marched us back to the graveyard. We had to replant every tree. Not only that, we had to water each tree every day until they were well

established.

It seems the Boy Scouts had cleaned up the cemetery, cut the weeds and planted the pine trees.

So the next time you pass that graveyard on top of Huntsville Street, look at those biggest pines and know they were the twice planted ones.

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State Representative Phyllis Mundy (Democrat)
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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.

ONLY
YESTERDAY70 Years Ago - April 25, 1930
DALLAS BORO. POPULATION
INCREASED 104 PERCENT

Population figures released by the United States Census Bureau, show that Dallas Borough has had an increase of 104 percent in the number of its inhabitants during the past ten years. The 1930 count shows a population of 1,185 as compared with 581 for 1920. It is expected that Dallas Township and Kingston Township figures will show an increase equal to that of Dallas.

60 Years Ago - April 26, 1940
STORES CLOSED ON WED.
FOR "MID-WEEK HOLIDAY"

Seven business firms in Dallas agreed to cooperate with the generally observed custom of closing Wednesday afternoon. A spokesman for the merchants pointed out that the plan of closing Wednesday afternoon is now observed throughout the country, as a move to give employees a deserved mid-week holiday.

College Misericordia has received from Congressman J. Harold Flannery, an American flag which has been flown over the United States Capitol in Washington. When Congressman Flannery presented the gift to the college, he sent with it a letter from David Lynn, architect of the capitol, stating that the flag was one which had flown from the staff on the Capitol dome.

50 Years Ago - April 28, 1950
BROWNIE TROOP LEARNS
ABOUT DUTCH CUSTOMS

Brownies of Troop 108, who have been studying all about Dutch customs, will have a chance to compare notes with a native of Holland at the Mother and Daughter Tea, at the Dallas Methodist Church. Mrs. Jack Spaargaren, will attend the tea, laden with wooden shoes, ice skates, pictures of canals and windmills, everything that the Brownies have been learning about in books.

You could get: Ajax, 2 cans for 23¢; Pillsbury's pancake mix, 20 oz. for 17¢; Gold Seal cake mixes, 1 lb. pkg. for 23¢; Hershey's Chocolate Kisses, 6 oz. pkg. for 25¢; Kraft white american cheese, 2 lbs. for 96¢.

40 Years Ago - April 28, 1960
CHILDREN SUSPECTED OF
STARTING FIRE

Children playing with matches are suspected of having started a brush fire that swept through 25 acres of trees at Bunker Hill, endangering three homes which were saved only by strenuous work on the part of the Trucksville volunteer firemen. The blaze kept fire fighters occupied for over nine hours.

The Back Mountain Police Association will hold its third annual dance Friday evening, at the Jackson Fire Hall. Music will be by the Electra Chords. It is the only fund raising function in which the police participate. Both square and modern dancing will be featured.

30 Years Ago - April 30, 1980
DALLAS SENIOR HIGH MIXED
CHORUS WINS TROPHY

The Mixed Chorus of Dallas Senior High School will be awarded a trophy by Johnny Marcus, WBAX announcer and discjockey. The trophy was won by the singing group when they finished first in the music contest sponsored by WBAX during the Christmas Holidays. Many groups from Luzerne and Lackawanna counties participated in the contest. Each group taped several numbers which were aired during the Holiday season. Judges from college and high school music departments studied the tapes for all facets of musical ability.

20 Years Ago - April 24, 1980
DALLAS JUNIOR HIGH TO
HOST EDUCATIONAL FAIR

The Dallas Junior High School will host the second annual Spring Educational Fair at the school on May 7. Exhibits of students' work, films and demonstrations will be scheduled throughout the evening.

A series of three working meetings on zoning administration have been scheduled. The meetings are directed to elect officials, planning commission members, zoning officers and zoning hearing board members.

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