

EDITORIALS

A new generation steps off the podium and into life

Each year that passes it seems to become more difficult to grow up healthy in mind and body. Greasy fast food and ever-present snacks elbow out homemade meals served around the family table, celebrities and commercialism dominate news and entertainment, popular music becomes coarser. Yet, when each graduation season rolls around stadiums are crowded with eager graduates and proud parents, ready to celebrate another class of young people moving optimistically to take on new challenges and reach new goals. How can this be?

The answer must lie in the fundamental human spirit. Like the top students at Dallas and Lake-Lehman high schools profiled in this issue, most graduates have made the transition from uncertain teenager to focused young adult, and are now prepared to make the next move in a process that will shape them into productive members of society. More has changed than their age; while at their elementary school graduation they may have been fulfilling the wishes of parents and conforming to the expectations of peers, they are now stepping to the beat of their own drum, soon to head off to higher education or the working world with their own goals in mind, their own expectations to fulfill. Parents and friends will be available for support, but they will succeed or fail to the degree they are willing to be responsible for their own behavior and performance. In the long run most of them will succeed in their own way, even if it doesn't seem so for a while.

This year's graduates give us reason for optimism about the future of our communities, the nation and the world. Whether their goal is to become doctors or drivers, teachers or technicians, as they tap in to the universal desires to perform at a high level, help others and build a better world for the children they will hug at graduations to come, the torch is passed to a new generation that has the opportunity to improve on the accomplishments of their parents.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



After years of looking forward to the experience, I got a closeup look at professional golfers for the first time last weekend, while serving as a "walking scorer" for a group in the Steamtown Classic tournament. The experience may drive me to give up the game.

It seems whenever I join other hackers whom I don't know in a casual game, at least one of them asks how long I've been playing. This is especially true if they play much worse than I do, I suspect because the questioner is trying to build an excuse for the shots he's slicing and hooking this way and that. My answer usually goes something like this: "Well, I've played for about 30 years, but never very much." I figure that's enough to cover me when I whack a shot deep into the woods or drill a six foot putt off the far side of the green.

So what do these ruminations have to do with seeing the pros in action? Only that for all those 30 years I've been able to humor myself with the notion that I could be a really good golfer if only I was able to play enough, enough being three or four times a week. But having seen 20 something pros who have been playing for only 10 years or so, I must come to the shocking conclusion that I'll never play the way they do, or even close to it unless I can play every day, and trade in this tired old body for something a lot younger, stronger and more coordinated.

Perhaps even more disheartening, it seems the quality of my game lately is below what it was a few years ago, despite getting out more. This, of course contradicts my earlier instinct. It's not that I don't hit some nice shots each round, but it seems the ugly ones are multiplying faster than the good ones. And the deterioration can't be blamed on age, because I'm not getting any older!

The problem isn't just my game, it's how easy the pros make it look. After watching them for 18 holes, it's easy to get the impression that golf is so simple — just hit your drive 280 yards down the center of the fairway, land the ball on the green with the next stroke and put it in the hole with a couple of putts. Again and again. Even poor shots don't slow them down. Knock the ball into thick rough or a sand trap? Not to worry, just strike it cleanly and put it back into prime position. Now, I can do all those things (well, maybe 280 yards is a stretch, but I can hit it in the fairway), a few times each round. But all that does is tease me that someday, some way, I can do all the right things for most of an outing. As they say, that's what keeps us coming back.

Maybe all is not lost. If I take out a second mortgage I can buy a new set of clubs and some of those balls I've seen advertised that follow commands. That sure sounds a lot easier than practicing.



Cat on a nice warm deck. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

LETTERS

Editorial writer doesn't get it, says head of Chamber

Editor,
Your editorial of Wednesday, May 24 on Commonwealth Telephone Company's location to Downtown clearly reveals the sentiments that keep us from moving forward as a region, as well as a lack of understanding of how company locations and expansions happen.

First, no matter what community you are from, you should know that to the outside world, we are Wilkes-Barre or Scranton or Hazleton. If you say you are from Dallas, people from out of the area simply don't think of Pennsylvania. That is not to diminish the importance of any of our suburban communities-Communities that are our partners in area development. It is just a fact. And, as that same world evaluates us, they look first at the health of our center city before they get to any of the surrounding communities. It is because the health of that center city is so important to our continued growth as a region that we have been and will continue to encourage business location and expansion in

the Downtown. It is good for the Downtown, and it is good for the region. This is not something unique to our area. Focusing on downtowns as business centers is something that is happening throughout the nation. The successful communities have an attractive mix of business, recreation and housing downtown that complements, not competes, with assets in their suburban areas.

Second, you mention that these are not new jobs. Yes, the news release clearly says that the company is moving. However, it also states that they are out of space in the facility they own in Dallas. They have been utilizing trailers to make up for that lack of space, but that could not be a permanent solution. So, they needed a larger new home. They also stated that they plan to move other divisions growing operations into the Dallas facility, which they own. This will keep the company presence there, which is also a positive.

Also, it always amazes me when I hear people downplaying the importance of keeping local jobs

from growing companies like Commonwealth here in our region. In a world that emphasizes every day the global marketplace, it is clear that this company could have moved anywhere-and those are options that any prudent company explores before making a move. And, the truth is there are thousands of economic development organizations around the country like ours that are contacting firms-yes, including our local firms- to get them to move to their state or town. And yes, Pennsylvania gives incentives like KOZ to help revitalize areas and build business and communities in the Commonwealth. I can't believe that anyone would be naive enough to think that other states don't have their own incentives... of course they do, and the competition is often tough. So, keeping expanding companies here, in Northern Pennsylvania, is always a win.

Next, consider the fact that Commonwealth has indicated that employees from other growing divisions will be housed in the Dallas facility. We're keeping the

jobs, and we're giving the company room and reason to grow their operations here further. It's a win for the region, and for everyone in it. Instead of complaining, we should say "Thank you" to all the growing companies that believe in our region and continually show that by investing here.

One final note... in this column, it was stated that employees will now have to pay Wilkes-Barre City's higher wage tax. This is not true. You pay your local wage taxes based upon where you live, not where you work.

Stephen M. Barrouk
President/CEO
Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry

Editor's Note: The editorial referred to the perversity that incentives designed to lure new companies to this region are sometimes used to facilitate relocations within just a few miles. This is a fault common to all areas that offer such incentives. No one has been able to say that Commonwealth had options outside the region.



70 Years Ago - June 6, 1930
SHAVERTOWN FIRE CO. HOLDS CARD PARTY

The Shavertown Fire Department held a card party and dance to raise money to get the truck painted, purchase a new hose, new hand extinguishers and many other items.

At a special meeting of the township school board held at the Truckville school house, the budget for the school year of 1930-1931 was adopted. The millage was fixed at 25 mills, the same as the previous year, and the teachers' committee had not yet completed their list of teachers for the year.

60 Years Ago - June 7, 1940
HARVEYS LAKE HAS A GOOD START FOR THE SUMMER

Warm, sunny weather gave picnic places and concession stands

at Harveys Lake a good start on the 1940 season. A large crowd visited the resort on Memorial Day. The week's sunny weather brought more crowds, and although the water was still chilly, many people were swimming.

James A. Martin, supervising principal, announced that poppy sales in township school raised \$81.32 for disabled veterans.

50 Years Ago - June 9, 1950
BOYS BEGIN SUMMER BY CAMPING OUT

The Mohawk Friendly Indian Tribe sponsored by the Back Mountain YMCA opened the summer season by spending two days at Camp Pochohanna, in Blakeslee. The boys participated in hiking, fishing, swimming, baseball and outdoor games. Each boy aided in preparing and serving food and duties necessary for cleaning up after each meal.

Now Playing at Himmeler Theatre, "Key to the City" with Clark Gable and Loretta Young.

You could get a 1950 Ford Deluxe Sedan for \$1,695.

40 Years Ago - June 9, 1960
CANCER CRUSADE EXCEEDS QUOTA

The 1960 Cancer Crusade in the Back Mountain District of the American Cancer Society exceeded its quota by \$189.69. The Back Mountain contribution was the largest amount ever raised in the area by the Crusade. The success was attributed to the 308 workers who made up the largest single group Crusade and the generosity of the Back Mountain residents.

Radioactive Fallout Classes sponsored by the Civil Defense were conducted at the Kingston Township Building.

30 Years Ago - June 11, 1970
GATE OF HEAVEN FINDS NEW HOME FOR NUNS

Gate of Heaven Church purchased the former Asa Day home in Dallas, to use as a convent for the nuns who taught at the parish school. Some restorations were necessary in order to make the home suitable for the nuns on the school faculty. The sisters had been living at College Misericordia since 1951 when the Gate of Heaven School opened. It was hoped that the renovation work would be completed by September when the school would reopen for the fall term.

The metal building on Route

309 that was previously used by Dallas Township Supervisors until they moved to the new municipal building was to be torn down to the foundation. The bid of \$100 by Harry Zacharias, of Harveys Lake, to demolish the building was accepted by the Dallas Township Board of Supervisors. The work was to be done and the debris cleared within 60 days.

20 Years Ago - June 5, 1980
LAKE-LEHMAN H.S. BAND WINS AWARDS

Lake-Lehman High School's band traveled to West Virginia, where they won seven awards in concert parade and field competition. The band competed with 60 bands from 26 states. First place trophies were won by the band for parade competition, field competition, best overall drum major, best overall color guard and best overall silks.

You could get: WeedEater 14" Electric Trimmer/Edger, \$35.77; Jif peanut butter, 18 oz. jar, 99¢; Kraft Singles, 12 oz. pkg., \$1.29; Peaches, 39¢/lb.; Perdue "Oven-Stuffer" roasting chickens, 69¢/lb.; Heinz barbecue sauce, pint bottle, 65¢; Ore-Ida onion ringers, three 7oz. pkgs., \$1.00.

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Ronald A. Bartizek
PUBLISHER

Charlotte E. Bartizek
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
OFFICE MANAGER

Ken Brocius
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC

Bill Goodman
REPORTER

Ruth Proietto
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Joanna Cease
OFFICE/TYPIST/CLASSIFIEDS



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
119 S. Mountain Blvd., 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.