

## EDITORIAL

## Only you can correct political leadership

Judging by the way stories are played in area newspapers, you'd have to assume people love to read about local politics, particularly the worst examples of nepotism, corruption, incompetence and boorish behavior. If entertainment was the most important aspect of politics, we could all have a laugh, shake our heads and go on about our business. But there's a lot more at stake than chuckles, and we have a lot more influence than we sometimes give ourselves credit for, if we would only make our point in the voting booth.

Political leadership is a key element in the quality of our lives and the security of our future. When public officials are concerned with raking in their own rewards from government instead of doing what's best for the most people, they can hold back progress that could bring greater prosperity. If an office holder is more interested in seeing his or her photo in the paper than in rooting out inefficiencies, our taxes are unnecessarily wasted. If raising money for re-election is more important than responsible governing, leaders' attention is focused on narrow constituencies instead of wide-ranging issues.

It's easy to joke about political figures; it's harder to do anything constructive against a backdrop of entrenched interests that are committed to maintaining the status quo for the simple reason that they, their families and their friends are living nicely off the public's apathy. But we can change that - if each and every one of us who thinks our town, county, state and nation can be better than it is makes an effort to pay attention to the issues and personalities, to register and to vote. Things may not change overnight, and there are still too many offices that go unchallenged, but that shouldn't keep us from taking the first steps in a process of improvement.

There's still plenty of time to prepare for the November election. The registration deadline is October 9, so it's easy to become a participant and not just a spectator. Just visit the Office of Voter Registration at the county courthouse, fill out a simple application and be prepared to cast your ballot on November 6.

### Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



With the brand-new fall television season upon us, it's hard to escape the flood of "reality" shows peppering every network's schedule. What started with "Survivor" has mutated into shows about really creepy people sharing a house, greedy couples willing to make fools of themselves as they circle the globe and politicians eager to kiss the feet of every potential donor with a fat wallet. That last one is real reality, but it's not much for entertainment.

In truth, most "reality" programming is about as authentic as Danny Almonte's age on a Little League roster. But we can take matters into our own hands. I propose any one of these themes to be aired on the public access cable channel for the Back Mountain:

- **Pizza Challenge.** Contestants are not allowed a meal for two days, then must walk from Harveys Lake to Trucksville without stopping at one of the dozen or so pizza restaurants along the way. Those who fail to make it are banished to a health food store, where they are forced to eat five pounds of alfalfa sprouts.

- **Bike Hike.** Competitors, chosen because they'll sign a waiver not to sue for injuries, must ride a bicycle from the center Dallas up Rt. 309, across Hildebrandt Rd., right on Lower Demunds Rd. to Offset Paperback and back to Dallas center. If they can complete the trip without being run off the road or squashed under the tires of a truck they receive a fully-paid accident insurance policy and a will kit.

- **Survivor III - the Fan.** To win, participants must sit on the home side of Mountaineer Stadium and cheer loudly for the visiting team. The winner is the one who can convince Dallas fans that he's using reverse psychology on the visitors. Losers are obvious by the bruises.

- **Board Game.** This one is for the more enlightened reality show viewer. A dozen contestants, selected for their ability to talk but not listen, must attend six months of Lake-Lehman school board meetings, and ask repeatedly about the mysterious hidden fund balance. They are voted out of the game by members of the school board, who take obvious delight in turning the tables on those pesky people who put them into office.

- **Road Rage.** Six contestants, chosen from among hundreds of hopefuls because they have the most speeding tickets, are sent down Rt. 309 at rush hour. First, they must make a left turn out of New Mart at 8:15 a.m. after downing six cups of coffee, just to keep them sharp. They return at 5:30 p.m., and must turn off 309 across traffic into Cook's Pharmacy while a driver coming in the other direction is turning into the Back Mountain Shopping Center. After a week, the winner is the driver who has caused the most fender-benders without damaging his or her own car.

- **Lawn Jockey.** This is reality, folks. Everyone with a lawn can compete by spreading fertilizer on their very own grass. Winners are the ones whose lawns don't have a yellow stripe pattern a week later. They get to do it again next spring.



Water flowing downstream made a beautiful welcoming site to the 17th annual Arts at Hayfield celebration.

Photo by Jim Phillips.



70 Years Ago - September 4, 1931

### LOCAL MEN ARE TURNED DOWN ON LOCAL ROAD JOBS

Petitions were circulated throughout the Back Mountain appealing to Governor Pinchot to take action in the matter of having local men employed on local roads. Seven men, residents of Idetown and taxpayers applied for jobs on the new rural road construction being done by the state. They were told no jobs were open due to the fact that men from Wyoming Valley and other districts had filled the positions. William A. Austin of Beaumont assistant principal of Monroe township Schools for the past two years, has been appointed principal of the schools to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of George Robinson who had been elected to principal of Mill City High School in Wyoming County. Construction of the First National Bank of Dallas is moving along rapidly. The workmen have experienced considerable difficulty with the creek that runs underneath the building. A pump is being kept continually at work until waterproofing is completed on the walls and flume.

60 Years Ago - September 5, 1941

### HOLIDAY CROWD TOPS 10,000 AS SEASON ENDS AT HARVEYS LAKE

Harveys Lake ended its vacation season Labor Day with a

throng of 10,000. Most of the campers and cottagers have been packing up and moving out. Harveys Lake merchants had an estimated gross of \$500,000 from the approximately 175,000 people who have visited the resort since June. At the Acme Markets, some of the items you could get: chuck roast, 1lb., 25¢; hamburger, 1lb., 23¢; Glenwood pure jellies, 11-oz. glass 10¢; pretzel sticks pkg 14¢; potatoes, 1lb. 4¢; onions, 3 lbs 10¢. Two local men carted off highest honors in the second annual Labor Day Regatta of the Harveys Lake Boat Club. They are: Newell Wood of Harvey's Lake, who made a clean sweep of the open event, and Billy Woolbert of Shavertown, winner of the 30-mile class race in two straight heats.

50 Years Ago - September 7, 1951

### MARINE PLATOON LEADER RELIEVES BROTHER IN KOREAN FRONT LINES

Two brothers, Marine Lieutenants, have replaced each other on the Korean fighting front. They are Lt. George Guthrie Conyngham and Lt. John N. Conyngham, sons of Mrs. William Conyngham of Hillside Farm, Trucksville. Lt. Guthrie Conyngham left Quantico, Va., a month ago by plane to replace a platoon leader with the First marine Division in Korea. When he arrived he learned that the officer he was replacing was his younger brother. The Mills Brothers Circus played to good crowds both afternoon and evening on the Goeringer plot along the Lake Highway at 42nd Street. The show arrived from Berwick. Dallas youngsters and members of Kiwanis and Back Mountain Y. M. C. A. had breakfast with the performers. Among them were Clyde Cooper, daughter Priscilla, son, Douglas and Joe Peterson. New

building permits in the amount of \$77,155 were issued at a postponed meeting of Dallas Borough Council. Included were permits for three \$6,000 homes to be built by Shavertown Lumber Company.

40 Years Ago - September 7, 1961

### OPEN HOUSE AT NEW HIGH SCHOOL DRAWS THOUSANDS

Open House at Dallas High School drew a large crowd to inspect the new building. Thousands of residents from all over the Back Mountain and Wyoming Valley enjoyed a tour of the completely modern classrooms, cafeteria, and the vastness of the double gymnasium was a matter for frequent comment. Back Mountain Memorial Library directors, according to announcement by Robert Bachman, president, have selected a new librarian, due to the resignation of Miss Miriam Lathrop, who has been with the Library since its founding in 1945. Joe Hoeg, Shavertown, is the third Westmoreland graduate to win a four-year scholarship to University of Maryland under auspices of the National Fire Underwriters Association.

30 Years Ago - September 9, 1971

### AMERICAN ASPHALT PLANT REDUCES POLLUTION LEVEL

According to a letter from James Chester, regional air pollution control engineer with the Dept. of Environmental Resources, American Asphalt now complies with state air pollution regulations. Bernard Banks, American Asphalts treasurer, told the Dallas Post that his firm had added a "wet radical fan" and 100 foot stack to its existing anti-pollution system following a meeting with health department officials in

June, 1970. College Misericordia welcomed 12 new faculty members for the fall semester. They are: Sister Agnes Therese Brennan, RSM; Barbara Brown; William Dick; Sister Ann Horgan; Patricia Lewis; Arthur Miller; Dr. Eugene Miller; Edwin O'Malia Jr.; Edward Roke, Vincent Smith, Sister Elaine Tulanowski; and Jo Anna Wentling. 79 members and sons of Gate of Heaven Holy Name Society enjoyed a bus trip to Philadelphia Veterans Stadium to see the Phils battle the St. Louis Cardinals. President Bill Kalinowski and his committee: Bill Motyka, Bill Tabor, Tom Lynch, and Paul Williams, made all the arrangements and provided refreshments.

20 Years Ago - August 26, 1981

### MILLION DOLLAR LOAN BENEFITS DALLAS

Congressman James L. Nelligan announced that a non-profit Wilkes-Barre organization will receive \$1,334,000 loan from the Farmers Home Administration to construct a 120-bed health care facility for the elderly in the Dallas Township. Ecumenical Enterprises, Inc. is a non-profit organization which provides low-cost housing for the elderly. John Lemmond, son of Judge and Mrs. Charles Lemmond, Dallas, has enlisted in the U.S. Navy. John is a 1981 graduate of West Side Area Vo-Tech, and he will undergo basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Michigan. Luzerne County Commissioners have approved reconstruction of a Dallas Township road by American Asphalt Paving Co. for \$143,310. Dallas Nursery and Nutche Trucking Co. of Shavertown have also received contracts for demolition work and site clearance projects.

## The Dallas Post

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