

EDITORIALS

## All we are saying is give 'Hot Dog Bob' a chance

He's baaack! Robert "Hot Dog Bob" Prescott has set up his portable shop at Cook's Pharmacy in Shavertown, where he dispenses franks and a lesson in the value of persistence. His story may seem trivial, or even annoying, to some people, but it illustrates the American principles of freedom and ingenuity.

Prescott first made the news when he placed his stand across the street from the Luzerne County Courthouse. Things went smoothly for a short time, until the vendor who ran the courthouse lunch room noticed he was losing business to the one-man stand outside. It wasn't long before it was decided that Prescott's cart was a hazard — not for the food, but perhaps to the establishment — and he was ordered off. He surfaced a few months later at Harveys Lake, on a plot of land between two existing food operations who objected hysterically to Prescott's little venture because it was not being conducted on a suitably large lot. After more machinations, Hot Dog Bob was chased away again.

Enter Frank Lombardo, owner of Cook's, who confesses a fondness for a guy trying to make a living. After reading about Prescott's dilemma, he offered space at the pharmacy, where Prescott is now busy putting dog in bun for his loyal customers. This is not an endorsement of Prescott's hot dogs; frankly, we've never sampled one. And it's not a recommendation that every street corner be taken over by rowdy vendors of food and fashion; that would be inappropriate.

Our economy is built on a foundation of entrepreneurs, many of them rebels who challenge the accepted wisdom and limits while harming no one. If a guy and his hot dog cart aren't a nuisance, and if he follows the rules for cleanliness and safety, he should be able to conduct his business, even if well-connected competitors object.

## We must learn to love diversity

The Back Mountain is a wonderful place to live and raise a family, most people agree. It's safe, offers plenty to do, is conveniently located to shopping and leisure activities and has good schools. But there's something missing — ethnic and racial diversity.

There are too many people among us who like it that way, but the United States and the world are changing dramatically, and our relative homogeneity deprives young people of the opportunity to learn that human relationships can be based on more than school or sports alliances. That puts them at a disadvantage if and when they venture beyond the bounds of our protected little world, and deprives the larger society of the contributions they might make if they felt more comfortable in modern society.

Lake-Lehman High School students addressed this issue head on Monday, with a remarkably sophisticated program to honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. By segregating the student body, if only for a day, they helped their classmates see the destructive foolishness of racism, and gave them insight into how each individual can make a difference by resisting the accepted norms of society if they lead to discrimination based solely on color, race or creed.

For most of its existence, America has been a source of energy that has grown from the pride our citizens exhibit in making their own way in life, in earning the respect of others, in persevering through difficulties. People of virtually every ethnic background have contributed to our progress, and will continue to do so. Efforts to remove undeserved obstacles based on superficial factors can only make our grand experiment more successful. Thanks to the Lake-Lehman students for making that effort.

## Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Attention sports fans; how good is this? The Eagles and the Steelers in the Super Bowl. That's a possible, if unlikely scenario after last weekend's playoff games in which the Eagles dispatched the Chicago Bears 33-19 and the Steelers put away the reigning champion Ravens 27-10. Those games were enough to warm the heart of any Pennsylvania sports fan, but why not shoot for the moon? Both teams face challenges before they can get to the Big Game, but given how they've played to this point there's no reason to lose hope. Here's how the two teams from Penns Woods might make it to New Orleans:

The Steelers have the easier draw, hosting the surprising New England Patriots, who pulled out a disputed overtime victory over the Oakland Raiders. Given the Steelmen's domination of the Ravens Sunday, there's not much to suggest; just keep on keepin' on.

The Eagles, on the other hand, must get by the team most observers think is unbeatable at this point in the season, the red hot St. Louis Rams. Can the Birds do it? Why not; this is a group that has overachieved all year long and has not disappointed so far in the playoffs, handily topping the Bears at Soldier Field.

As a totally biased prognosticator, here's how I see this coming weekend's games: the Steelers end the Patriots' dream season in a 36-13 wipeout in the big ketchup bottle. The Eagles, fresh off their romp in the Windy City, surprise the ramblin' Rams at St. Louis, 33-24, as the Birds' defense stops the high powered 2000 champions. Hey, it could happen.

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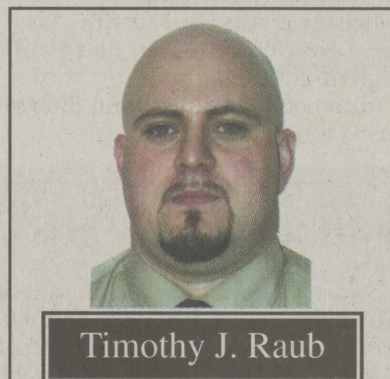
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Snow day. Photo by Jim Phillips.



Timothy J. Raub

Even though we do not see each other half as much as we would like to, the bonds my college roommates and I built are as strong as they have ever been.

We were a unique group, with a variety of ethnic and cultural heritages spoken of proudly by each of us.

From African-American to Costa Rican, Seminole Indian to Italian and from Latino to my own Irish heritage, we encompassed a number of backgrounds.

Often my roommates, who were predominantly from the Philadelphia area would tease me about growing up in the Back Mountain. They would joke about their depiction of the Back Mountain, and the lack of ethnic diversity and diversity awareness.

For the most part I had to agree — until I ventured out to Lake-Lehman High School for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities.

I was surprised to see the extent of work that had gone into coordinating the day's events, as well as the amount of research and support from students and faculty.

But the celebration of King's

## Students showed what King holiday should be about

life and accomplishments were not part of a day of fun. Rather, they were a lesson in life.

There were no congressmen handing out plaques to commemorate the day, or banners and balloons. There were no oversized posters of King himself or songs of the Civil Rights movement piped through the sound system.

But there were ribbons.

These were not your typical ribbons used as streamers at a birthday party or celebration. They had a far greater meaning.

The ribbons were just a part of the senior project of Leigh Dodson, Heather Prescott and Hollie Nickalls. The project was an experiment showing the effects of discrimination and racism, like those faced by King and thousands of people of color in America each day, by designating certain students marked as inferior to wear the ribbons.

Those chosen to wear the ribbons were subjected to many of the same acts of racism and discrimination seen in America through the 1950s and 60s.

The school looked like something out of a civil rights documentary. From segregated water fountains and restrooms, to segregated lunch tables and classroom seating, it was as close to real life as possible for these students.

At an assembly, students who were chosen to wear the red ribbons spoke of what it felt like to go through such discrimination even if only for one day. One af-

ter another, the students recounted how horrible they felt when teachers would not call on them, the principal would single them out and classmates would harass them.

But something far greater than any textbook could ever capture happened — these young adults were learning firsthand what diversity awareness is all about. They were beginning to understand just what kind of impact their actions can have on others.

The three young women who coordinated the days events should be very proud of themselves. They are taking a step in the right direction, a step toward carrying on what King and so many other great Americans have been doing and continue to do every day.

At a time when diversity awareness is center stage, it is crucial for programs like this to be the format in every school. Taking a day off of school may seem like a good way to honor King, but taking a day to educate young people about what King went through and stood for is a better use for the holiday.

Some day soon, many of the students at Lake-Lehman will be going away to college, and maybe they too will have the opportunity to make some of the greatest friends they possibly could, as I have. And when they do, then Leigh Dodson, Heather Prescott and Hollie Nickalls will have touched at least one more life — just like King.

## Back Mountain Memorial Library new books

The Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas, announces the addition of the following books to their collection.

### FICTION

- "The Millionaires" by Brad Meltzer
- "Starting Over" by Robin Pilcher
- "Under Fire" by W.E.B. Griffin
- "Basket Case" by Carl Hiaasen
- "The Veteran" by Frederick Forsyth
- "Dialogues of the Dead or Paromania" by Reginald Hill

### NON-FICTION

- "Afghanistan's Endless War" by Larry P. Goodson
- "My Stroke of Luck" by Kirk Douglas
- "Armitage's Garden Perennials: a color encyclopedia" by

- A.M. Armitage
- "Fodor's Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire"
- "Fodor's Las Vegas"
- "Russia's Unfinished Revolution"
- "Fantasy Floral Quilts" by Bonnie Lynn McCaffery
- "The Music of Silence" by Andrea Bocelli
- "Waging Modern War" by Wesley K. Clark
- "Russia and the Russians" by Geoffrey A. Hosking

### BIOGRAPHY

- "Theodore Rex" by Edmund Morris
- "Savage Beauty: the life of Edna St. Vincent Millay" by Nancy Milford

### MYSTERY

- "The Cat Who Went Up the Creed" by Lilian Jackson Braun

- "Death of a Celebrity" by M.C. Beaton
- "Cat Laughing Last" by Shirley Rousseau Murphy
- "Fault Line" by Sarah Andrews

### VIDEOS

- "Victoria and Albert"

### YOUNG ADULT

- "The Greatest: Muhammad Ali" by Walter Dean Myers
- "Medicine's Brave New World" by Margaret O. Hyde
- "After the Holocaust" by Howard Greenfield
- "Of Sound Mind" by Jean Ferris
- "The Rag and Bone Shop" by Robert Cormier
- "The Ropemaker" by Peter Dickinson
- "Princess in the Spotlight" by Meg Cabot



70 Years Ago - January 22, 1932

## BOY'S TEAM WINS BUT GIRLS LOSE LEAGUE OPENER

In the opening games of the Bi-County Basketball league, Dallas Cagers defeated the Lehman boy's team by a score of 28 to 18 but with a struggle being put up by a game and fighting Lehman team. The tables were reversed in the girls game with Lehman winning by a score of 19 to 13.

The new banking house of the First National Bank, Main Street, Dallas opened recently. This building was designed, erected, decorated and furnished by the Tilghman Moyer Company of Allentown.

A new motion picture sound device and acoustics control will be installed at Himmler theatre. Movietone equipment using synchronized film will replace the old type Vitaphone equipment.

60 Years Ago - January 23, 1942

## AIR OBSERVERS SIGHT NINETEEN PLANES AT POST

Another 56 men from the Back Mountain region have volunteered for service at Daddow-Isaacs Air Raid observation post in Lake Township, making it possible for each man to serve 6-hour shift every twenty-one days. Observers had reported nineteen planes over the post since it was established.

With four days yet to go before the close of their campaign, Red Cross workers in Dallas Township have exceeded all previous goals with more than \$350 collected. There wasn't a set goal, but workers were asked to top their \$138 from last year.

F. Roy Searfoss, of Dallas, carried off top honors in production competition with other members of the Pennsylvania Co-operative Potato Growers Association. He reported the best yield of 571 bushels per acre.

50 Years Ago - January 25, 1952

## LEWIS WINS SILVER MEDAL AT STATE FARM SHOW

Donald Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lewis of Carverton, and a senior at Dallas-Franklin schools, won a silver medal at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show at Harrisburg. A gold medal and a silver medal are awarded for a farm project by a vocational agriculture student.

At the Shaver Theater, some of the shows you could see were: The Desert Fox with James Mason, Jessica Tandy; Adventures of Robin Hood, starring Errol Flynn and Olivia De Havilland; Come Fill the Cup with James Cagney, Phyllis Thaxter and As Young As You Feel, with David Wayne and Thelma Ritter.

Westmoreland and Harter continue unbeaten in the Back Mountain League, Westmoreland having scored 57-34 win over Dallas Township. Coach Bernard Rockavitch's is coach to Westmoreland and Walt Hoynowski is coach to Harter.

40 Years Ago - January 25, 1962

## POLICE CHIEF COOLBAUGH TAKES NEW JOB

Chief of Police, Irwin Coolbaugh has put in his resignation as head of Dallas Township Police Department and will take a new job as driver-salesman for Dallas Dairy in the Dallas and Shavertown area.

Preparations are being made for Direct Distance Dialing to become effective soon for customers in Dallas Exchange. Soon telephone customers in Dallas will be able to dial long distance calls direct, except from coin telephones.

Employees of Pennsylvania Gas and Water Company worked through the night connecting natural gas lines to the Back Mountain Laundercenter in Shavertown. Previous to the installation of natural gas, the Laundercenter used bottled gas.

Continued on page 7

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