

EDITORIALS

Band, music programs deserve more support

Question #1: Which has more student participants, the Lake-Lehman football team or the music program?

Answer: Music, by leaps and bounds, with band and orchestra, colorguard, chorus and more.

Question #2: Which gets more financial support from the district?

Answer: Do we even have to ask?

These questions aren't meant to belittle the importance of athletics, including football, in public schools. They are, instead, offered to illustrate the topsy-turvy nature of funding and personnel for different programs, depending not on the participation rate of students but on popularity with powerful adults. Hundreds of students take part in music programs in the Lake-Lehman district, yet there is only one instrumental band director to serve five schools and more than 2,000 students. That would be akin to the junior and senior high football teams having a single coach, and even that comparison isn't fair to the music teacher.

In addition to his classroom duties, Edward Richards, that teacher, has served as director of the marching band and other extra-curricular groups for several years. And he's done a fine job at it; under his tutelage, Lake-Lehman continued to be at the very top of public school musical groups in this region and far beyond, and several graduates have gone on to prestigious colleges and universities.

One has to wonder why Lake-Lehman can't find a few thousand dollars to pay for adequate staff and support in the music program, but doesn't think twice about spending millions on an athletic stadium and fieldhouse. The district is not alone in this inequity, of course, nor is music the only program that is underappreciated, underpublicized and underfunded in public schools.

"Music hath charms that soothe a savage beast," wrote William Congreve. Perhaps those tones will work their magic on a school board that seems at least open to the suggestion of a greater commitment to a program that involves and assists hundreds of students.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



They should have known. Canny observers suspected what would follow when the International Skating Union chose to buckle under pressure and award a second set of gold medals to the Canadian pairs team. Within a couple of days, slighted competitors began lining up bearing suitcases of reasons why they deserved a shiny first-place medallion, instead of the paltry and meaningless hunk of silver or bronze they'd been given. And once again, it was the "Media" who was at fault, having concocted a conspiracy to reward North American athletes at the expense of those from other nations. How can you miss with that argument: Ugly American plus Media equals injustice every time.

The ISU director, not content with creating havoc just once, then proposed sweeping changes in scoring that went something like this: Each competitor starts with 100 points, and deductions are made based on faults, such as wearing a costume that looks like a dead ostrich slung over the shoulder, or failing to present judges with complimentary passes to "Armageddon on Ice."

I'm afraid no amount of tinkering, though, will satisfy every figure skater, coach and national Olympic organization. The only thing that might come close would be to put an American television executive on the ice, as a hurdle that irate skaters could conveniently fail to carry while performing a triple toe loop. No deduction.

Letters, columns and editorials

The Dallas Post attempts to publish opinions on a variety of topics in many forms.

Editorials, which are the opinion of the management of The Post, appear on the editorial page and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. Any artwork represents the opinion of the cartoonist, and columns are the opinion of the author.

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to the following guidelines:

- Letters should not exceed 500 words.
- No writer may have more than one letter published during a 30-day period, except as a reply to another letter.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a telephone number for verification.
- Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear threat to the writer.
- The Post retains the right to accept or reject any letter, and to edit letters for grammar and spelling, as well as to eliminate any libel, slander or objectionable wording.

In addition to letters, we welcome longer pieces that may run as columns. The author or subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be the prime consideration when selecting material for publication.

The Dallas Post

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

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Stony reminder of the past. Upper Demunds Road, Dallas. Photo by Ron Bartizek.



Carol King

Three 2-hour computer classes will be held in March to introduce patrons to the internet and show them how to make simple searches. Each class is a one-time event limited to five persons each, and is open to library patrons who are 18 and over. The dates are Monday, March 4, 1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.; and Friday, March 8, 10 a.m. to noon. There is no charge. Patrons may sign up at the front desk. It's urged that you do so soon, as the 15 places will probably be filled quickly.

Daffodils: The library is again



70 Years Ago - February 26, 1932

WOMEN FORM CLUB TO AID FIREMAN

Several women gathered to form a Womens Auxiliary to the Henry M. Laing Fire Company. The following officers were elected: President Mrs. J. P.A. Schmerer, vice president, Mrs. Ralph G. Eipper, secretary, Mrs. John A. Girvan, treasurer, Mrs. Leonard L. O'Kane.

Some of the items you could buy at the A&P stores were: flour, 24 1/2 lb. bag, 55¢; lard, 2 lb, 13¢; hot cross buns, 2 doz., 25¢; mixed vegetables, 3 cans 25¢; eggs, 21¢; pancake flour, 1 lb. pkg., 29¢.

At the Himmler Theatre some of the movies that played: Delicious with Janet Gaynor, Peoch-O-Reno with Bert Wheeler and Robert Woolsey, Under 18 with Marion Marsh, Deadline with Buck Jones.

60 Years Ago - February 27, 1942

MINSTREL PRESS AGENT PREDICTS SELL-OUT WHEN SHOW HITS TOWN

Henry M. Peterson, press agent for David Joseph's greater Old Time Minstrels

Internet classes for library patrons

assisting the American Cancer Society in its annual Daffodil Day. The flowers, priced at \$6 a bunch, may be ordered at the front desk until March 7 and picked up on the afternoon of March 21.

Grill raffle tickets available: Have you seen the large stainless steel grill on display just inside the library entrance? It will be raffled off at the 56th Annual Auction this July. Tickets are now available at the front desk, at \$2 each or a book of 6 for \$10. Bargain prices, if you should win this Meridian MDBQ freestanding barbeque grill valued at \$4500! It was donated by Mary Ann Sigworth. It would be great for large (really large) parties — think of entertaining at the lake or for an entire neighborhood!

Auction committee meeting: The next meeting is

scheduled for February 28, at 7 p.m. at the library. It's time for everyone to think of items to be donated to the auction, including books, nearly-old collectibles, odds and ends, and antiques. Call the library if you need help in getting large items to the library.

Book review: Pam Oliveira reports that the book discussed on a recent Monday evening, "Heart of Stone," by Renate Dorrestein, was "loved by all ... The author is an award-winning Dutch author and this was her first book translated into English. It is the story of a young girl's childhood in Holland and it is told through the eyes of Ellen, her mother, and a narrator. The book weaves back and forth through time, covering 25 years of her life, and slowly unfolds the unimaginable heart-break that haunts her still. The book was wonderfully written

and kept us interested until the very last page. It comes highly recommended by everyone in the group!"

The next book is "A Fine Balance," by Rohinton Mistry.

The group will meet on Monday, March 25, at Stax at 7 p.m. As always, everyone is welcome. For further information, call Pam at 674-9935.

Tudor TLC Book Club: Lisa Carey, author of Mermaids Singing, will discuss her book on Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. at Wyoming Seminary's Buckingham Performing Arts Center, Sprague Avenue in Kingston. Everyone is welcome, and no reservations are necessary.

On the afternoon of March 4, there will be a student workshop with the author at Tudor. Call the shop at 288-9697 for time and other details. Tudor is currently selling Mermaids Singing at a discount.

Louise Kelly, Idetown, has been recalled to flight service and will report at the Naval Air Station in New Orleans. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Kelly, Dallas.

40 Years Ago - March 1, 1962

RUCKNO HEADS SPECIAL GIFTS

George L. Ruckno, Shrine Acres, has been appointed 1962 Heart Fund Drive Special Gift Chairman of the Back Mountain Area. He was named by Mrs. Lyle Slaff and Mrs. Fred Dingle, Co-Chairman of the Back Mountain area.

Donald Cutting, Lehman, member of the Pennsylvania State police for the past twenty-six years, has been promoted from Sergeant to First Sergeant at Wyoming Barracks.

Atty. Robert Fleming, Dallas is in the Republican nomination for Representative in the General Assembly from the Sixth Legislative District. He is co-chairman of this year's auction.

30 Years Ago - March 16, 1972

PRESIDENTIAL CUP AT STAKE FOR L-L BAND

The Lake-Lehman Band has accepted an invitation to participate in the 1972 annual Maryland State Grand Festival Parade of Champions, and the prize at stake is the coveted Presidential Cup. Issued by President Richard M. Nixon, the cup is awarded to the best marching band in the United

States. Nineteen Town and Country manor homeowners submitted a petition to the Lehman Board of Supervisors requesting that the township assume responsibilities for roadways in that area.

Jon Jay LaBerge son of Mr. and Mrs. John Charles LaBerge, Dallas, has been awarded a four year scholarship to Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, at Glen Cove, Long Island.

20 Years Ago - February 24, 1982

BANK WILL GIVE MONEY AWAY

Hanover Bank of Pennsylvania's Dallas Office is sponsoring a special instant winner contest and grand prize drawing that will offer over \$1,850 in prize money to Back Mountain residents as part of their second anniversary celebration. Michael Kerkowski the Dallas Office manager has announced.

At the annual meeting of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Association, the librarian's report stated that 1981 was a year of steady growth for the library. Estimated active borrowers is 9,911.

Karen Kraynak, a junior student at Dallas High School, has been named First Place All-Around Gymnast at the PIAA District II Gymnastic Championships held at North Pocono High School.

Are you opinionated?

The Dallas Post is always pleased to hear from good columnists. If you have what it takes, we guarantee you a regular forum to write whatever you choose. (Unless it's libelous or tasteless, of course.) If you are the one person in 1,000 who can express ideas clearly and forcefully, send The Post a letter telling why you want to be a columnist. Mail it 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).