

EDITORIALS

Board's secrecy casts veil of suspicion over township

No game of charade was ever better played than the one acted out by the Kingston Township Board of Supervisors last week in appointing two replacements to their slate. The outrageous manner in which a new supervisor was appointed, and then immediately motioned for the appointment of another by name, was an insult to the citizens of the township. Two of the three openings on the five-member board were thus filled in a matter of minutes, with no public discussion or participation. The final member will be appointed within the next 45 days, said Paul Sabol, Chairman of the Board.

Twenty-two township residents applied for the positions, many of them well-qualified by virtue of their experience and service to the township. One of them was the township manager for 12 years until late in 2001, others have demonstrated their commitment by volunteering in various capacities.

This is not to say the two men who were chosen are not qualified to serve as supervisors — but the lack of discussion leaves open the question of whether they were the best qualified applicants. As a result, they and the entire board are vulnerable to suspicion that they don't operate on the up-and-up.

The American system of government is based on open debate, not pre-engineered outcomes influenced only by a chosen few. By design or not, the Kingston Township Supervisors have opened the door to skepticism about their motives, and possibly to questions about the legality of their actions. It's more apparent now than ever before that citizens must pay close attention to the conduct of their local government; let's hope the people who turned out for the play-acting last week will continue to watch over their township.

Service clubs prove their worth

Last week's 75th anniversary celebration of the Dallas Rotary Club brought with it reminders of the role service clubs play in our community and the wider world. Rotary and other clubs like it fill many of the gaps left by government, churches and other institutions in ways that aren't always visible. Food and clothing drives, civic improvement projects, medical care — all these and more have been conducted by volunteers who have banded together for healthy fellowship and community service.

Unfortunately, many of these organizations and others like them are struggling to maintain their membership and vitality. As more of us work longer hours to earn the income needed to sustain a higher standard of living, fewer people are left with time and energy to devote to clubs and charities that serve others. That is a loss not only for these groups but for the community as a whole.

Americans have a unique history of volunteer service to their fellow citizens, with both the recipients and providers being enriched in the process. We will be a weaker society if our modern priorities allow individual desires to exclude that service.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



What is behind the human obsession with sports? Whether it's the Americans gathered around the tube for the Super Bowl, Brits massing for a "football" match or Afghanis rooting on their favorite Buzkashi player (the game in which the body of a dead calf is tossed across the goal), most of mankind — and some of womankind — spends a substantial portion of leisure time watching someone else compete on a playing field.

I don't buy the old vicarious living argument. That may explain a screaming Little League parent, but when our own kids aren't involved, sport serves a much different purpose. No overweight 40-something guy who played JV baseball can seriously think it could be him out there hitting the game-winning homer, sinking a 60-foot putt or slamming home a thunderous dunk. No, I think the key to our fetish is a variation on the "sport as life" theme. Only it's the opposite; sport is anti-life, absent all the frustrating complications that make daily living such a struggle for most of us.

Those whose life is sport probably don't want to hear it, but we love their games because they're simple, despite attempts to elevate playbooks to the level of calculus. You want complicated? Take a look at the organization chart where you work, and then figure out who really runs the place.

Sport also has another element noticeably absent from real life — everything is settled in a couple of hours. At the end of the game there's a winner and a loser, and you go home. Even playoffs last only two or three weeks, and at worst the season is six months. Compare that to raising children from birth to age 18, or sustaining a marriage across the decades!

Sport even has a place for bullies; they can always root for the Yankees and other teams that dominate opponents with superior talent or money, or both.

So, the next time someone tries to explain the intricacies of a swing pass or the difficulty of winning against the Lakers, tell them to give it a rest. We like sport because it transports us from the 95 percent of our lives that is messy and complicated to a place where simplicity and predictability reign, at least for a few hours.



Silent sentinel of a bygone era. Photo by Ron Bartizek.



Carol King

The Friends of the Library are looking forward to seeing you at the 14th Annual Spring Luncheon on April 18. You will enjoy good company and an excellent meal, and, this year, the li-

Friends of the Library plan luncheon

brary at 675-1182. remarks of editor Esther Davidowitz of Kingston, highly acclaimed for her recent editing and publication of the words of the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

The event will be held at The Apple Tree Terrace, Newberry Estate, Dallas. It starts with hors d'oeuvres at 11:30 a.m., followed by the luncheon at 12 noon. Luncheon Chairman Nancy Brown asks that checks to confirm reservations be sent to the library by April 4. The cost is \$17 per person. For more information, call the li-

brary at 675-1182.

Slightly Used Bookstore: Manager Fred Krohle announces that the bookstore will be closed on Saturday, March 30, and Monday, April 1.

Volunteers are still needed, especially for evenings and Saturdays. Leave a message at the front desk for Fred if you can donate some time.

Addition to Reference Library: "The Weiss Ratings Guide to Common Stocks" is a quarterly compilation of ratings

and analysis covering common stocks traded on the NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ. It provides information to consumers on tracking and evaluation of their common stock holdings. It is also a tool to identify and monitor other stocks as potential new investments. The guide includes an Investor Profile Quiz to help determine your level of risk tolerance and categorizes stocks that will help achieve your specific investing goals. Ask at the front desk for assistance in locating this guide.



70 Years Ago - March 25, 1932

LOCAL TEAMS IN PLAY-OFF GAME

Eight crowded buses and many automobiles carrying between 350-400 students of Dallas township and Dallas borough schools left Dallas for Forty Fort high school to witness the play-off game between Dallas borough and Dallas township basketball teams for the championship of the Bi-County League.

A.P. Keifer received a shipment of 120 pairs of New Zealand white rabbits in preparation for the establishment of a rabbit ranch on his estate at Shrine View. The rabbit industry is new to the area but highly successful in many parts of the country.

At the Himmler Theatre, some movies that played were: Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde with Frederick March.; Mother's Millions with Francis Dade, James Hall.; Shotgun Pass with Tim McCoy, Pardon Us with Stanley Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

60 Years Ago - March 27, 1942

SCARLET FEVER STRIKES EIGHT CHILDREN HERE

Eight cases of scarlet fever were reported in Dallas Borough and Kingston Township alone, and one local physician is treating more than a dozen scattered throughout this section. So far there have not been enough cases to indicate that an epidemic is imminent here.

The Dallas Red Cross Canteen Unit, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Wesley Himmler of Lake Street, was ordered by County Red Cross officials to make preparations for any emergencies that may arise.

The bicycle business is reaching a new high in Noxen, due to the tire shortage. More than 40 new bikes are parked in the tannery lot during working hours. Many of the men have stored their cars for the duration.

50 Years Ago - March 28, 1952

VETERANS ELECT WILLIAM GUYETTE

William Guyette, prominent businessman and veteran, was elected president of Kingston Township Veterans' Association at its annual meeting at the club house in Trucksville.

Shavertown Volunteer Fire Department has set a goal of \$1,500 for its annual membership and fund raising drive. The company will embark on a program for more fire hydrants and improvements to its facilities.

Two students of Dallas Township High have been selected to

represent Luzerne County in statewide competition sponsored by the Pennsylvania Forensic and Music League. They are Marilyn Mosier and Bob Stair.

40 Years Ago - March 29, 1962

ROTARY HONORS JAMES BESECKER CHARTER MEMBER

James F. Besecker, was honored by Dallas Rotary Club at its 35th Anniversary dinner dance held at Irem Country Club. Besecker was a charter member, and Rotary's third president.

Approximately seventy teachers and administrators from the Dallas area were among the 400 educators who attended College Misericordia's Third Annual Reading Conference. This conference was designed to meet reading problems on three levels.

Dallas' new hardware store held an open house offering door prizes, refreshments and sociability. James Hutchinson, resident of Dallas personally supervised construction of the modern brick building.

30 Years Ago - April 6, 1972

MAYOR CONNELLY VETOES PLANNING BOARD REFORM

A move to abolish harveys Lake's planning commission has been thwarted by Mayor William J. Connelly's veto of two ordinances which had been approved unanimously by the community's borough council.

The ordinances, called for the dissolution of the Harvey's Lake Planning Commission and proposed the establishment of a planning committee in its place.

Dr. Mahmoud Fahmy, College Manor, Dallas, headed a six-week seminar in Egypt for the Wilkes College Education Department. The program, had been dubbed, "Project Egypt," has as its objective development of curriculum on "The Modernization Process and Education in Egypt."

Navy Seaman Brian S. Rumbaugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall U. Rumbaugh of Dallas, graduated from recruit training at the Naval Training Center in Great Lakes.

20 Years Ago - March 24, 1982

SCHOLARSHIPS WILL EAST TUITION PAIN

Wyoming Seminary in Kingston has announced that it will be offering two scholarships - one full tuition and one half tuition - for the 1982-83 academic year. The amount of money to be awarded comes to over \$5000.

Marilda Rakiewicz, Harveys Lake is the new postmistress who had been employed as a clerk at Harveys Lake Post Office the past 17 years.

The Back Mountain Wrestlers had another impressive tournament showing at Valley View High School. Thirty boys entered the competition and 27 boys brought home trophies.

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