

**EDITORIAL**

# Let's prepare our kids for a high-tech future

While technological progress seems always to be slower than future thinkers predict, there's no escaping the fact that computers are here to stay, and are the skills to use them effectively are essential to individual career success. That's true not just for those with dreams of writing the next Microsoft program, but virtually every line of work that makes use of mechanical or electronic equipment, from automobile repairing to designing complex office networks.

How well are Back Mountain schools preparing young people for their entry into higher education or work? Inconsistently, is probably the best answer to that question. While the Dallas School District has an extensive inventory of equipment and a roster of instructors, Lake-Lehman struggles with old technology and a limited curriculum. Dallas has been in the forefront of computer technology for many years, and has continually upgraded its systems, undoubtedly a consequence of its superior financial position. Still, it's unfortunate that Lake-Lehman students don't have comparable opportunities to learn about and become comfortable with current software and hardware, and it's fair to ask — as some school directors have — where the technology program is going.

It would be much easier for local school districts of varying fiscal strength to offer up-to-date technology instruction if the state helped more with the cost of education. A decades-long decline in state support has taken a toll on districts that lack a large property tax base, with the result that their students have less opportunity to learn the very skills that could improve their economic standing, and the financial health of the district.

But the volume of spending isn't the only issue; while Lake-Lehman students work on outdated equipment and are taught by only instructor, the district has plans to pour millions of dollars into renovations of the sports stadium and construction of a fieldhouse. That seems to be a misdirection of priorities for students who are graduating into a rapidly changing world.



School's out forever. Old Dallas Township High School. Photo by Ron Bartizek.

## Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



One of the most popular — and curious — television shows on the current schedule is "The Osbournes," which appears on MTV, the cable channel which in my experience is watched by 98 percent of Americans under the age of 30. The concept isn't startlingly new; it's been 20 years since public television presented "An American Family," a show that ended with the disintegration of a household as the viewing audience peeped through the camera's lens. It will be difficult to tell if the same thing happens to the Osbournes, since so much of their lives seems to already be a chaotic stew of perversity and exaggerated self-concern, but apparently plenty of people would like to find out.

Some background (not from direct experience, thank you): Ozzy Osbourne was one of the first "heavy metal" stars, as lead singer for Black Sabbath. He leaped with all his might into the role of drug, sex and rock 'n' roll icon, the effects of which are quite apparent in his rambling, obscenity-filled tirades. The rest of the family is equally whacked, if less practiced at offending everyone within earshot.

The show's great success got me to thinking; what would a typical episode be like around my house? After all, most of us think we're as interesting as a drug-addled, has-been rocker and his crazy brood, so why not show "The Smiths," or "The Bartizeks." Let's take a look.

Scene 1, camera pans living room. "Get over here and pick up these plates right now," shouts the Mom to her pre-teen son. "I can't, I'm doing homework," responds the son, who has quickly grabbed a book he happened to find lying on a chair in the kitchen.

Scene 2, in the basement. The Dad is finishing drywall. "This XXX, XXXing stuff is the work of the devil," he mutters before noticing the camera closing in on his reddened face. "On the other hand, it's easier than stripping bark from pine trees," he continues sweetly.

Scene 3, about 3 a.m. Saturday. Teenage daughter has just arrived home from a movie, along with 14 close friends. "How come there's never any food in this house," she complains, as her friends proceed to go through the kitchen closets like a cloud of locusts. "Can they stay overnight?" she asks, oblivious to the sun peeking over the horizon. A second camera is in the parents' bedroom and catches the Mom as she sits up to check the clock. "You know what time it is?" she curtly asks the Dad, who is trying his best to appear sound asleep so he won't have to answer.

I don't know about you, but I think these snippets of life in a typical suburban home contain as much drama as any washed up rock star and his witless family, even if we don't have blue hair and nose rings . . . yet.

**Q:** Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?  
**A:** Only in The Dallas Post

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# New books at Back Mt. Library

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

**FICTION**

- "Warning of War" by James Brady
- "The Viking Funeral" by Stephen J. Cannell
- "The Stone Monkey" by Jeffrey Deaver
- "Fallen Dragon" by Peter F. Hamilton
- "Body of Lies" by Iris Johansen
- "The Pursuit" by Johanna Lindsey
- "The Passion of Artemisia" by Susan Vreeland
- "Stones of Jerusalem" by Bodie Thoene
- "Wild Ginger" by Anchee Min
- "Midnight Runner" by Jack Higgins
- "In the Forest" by Edna O'Brien
- "Three Fates" by Nora Roberts
- "Everything's Eventual" by Stephen King
- "The Nanny Diaries" by Emma McLaughlin
- "Oxygen" by Andrew Miller
- "Heaven and Earth" by Nora Roberts
- "Fox Girl" by Nora Okja Keller
- "Amazonia" by James Rollins
- "The Birthday of the World and Other Stories" by Ursula K. LeGuin

**NON-FICTION**

- "My Stroke of Luck" by Kirk Douglas
- "War in a Time of Peace" by David Halberstam
- "Tour Eiffel" by Jean-Paul Lubliner
- "Harry Truman and Civil Rights" by Michael R. Gardner
- "The Fasting Girl" by Michelle Stacey
- "Trust Me, Mom-Everyone Else is Going" by Roni Cohen-Sandler

"Better in the Poconos: the story of Pennsylvania's vacationland" by Lawrence Louis Squeri

**LARGE PRINT FICTION**

- "Sarah's window" by Janice Graham
- "The Sigma Protocol" by Robert Ludlum
- "Death on the Downs" by Simon Brett

**YOUNG ADULT**

- "Ancient Civilizations of the Americas" by Antony Mason
- "Ancient Egypt and the Middle East" by Robert Morkat

**REFERENCE**

- "World Book Yearbook 2002"
- "World Almanac and Book of Facts 2002"

"How Do You Spell Haagen-Dazs" by Carl Hausman and Sherry Hausman

**AUDIOTAPES**

- "Edge of Danger" by Jack Higgins
- "Death in Holy Orders" by P.D. James

## Dallas Borough evaluating Neighborhood Crime Watch program

Dallas Borough residents interested in organizing a neighborhood crime watch patrol program are asked to contact the Dallas Borough Police Department at 675-0161 or the Dallas Borough administrative office at 675-1389.

Upon evaluation of the level of interest the Borough will announce a date for a general community meeting.

**ONLY YESTERDAY**

70 Years Ago - April 15, 1932

### TANNERS BANK OF NOXEN CONSOLIDATES WITH WYOMING NATIONAL

The first consolidation of banks to the history of Wyoming county occurred with the announcement of consolidation of Tanner's Bank of Noxen and Wyoming National Bank of Tunkhannock.

Some of the items you could get at your local A & P stores were: sugar corn, 4 cans, 25¢; butter, 3 lb., 67¢; cigarettes, 1 carton, \$1.25; P & G Soap, 10 cakes, 29¢; Sunbrite Cleanser, 2 cans, 9¢; Camay Soap, 2 cakes, 15¢.

At the Himmler Theatre, some of the movies that played: The Camp with Jackie Cooper, Wallace Berry' Nevada Buckaroo with Bob Steele; Unexpected Father with Zazu Pitts, Slim Summerville and The Bit Parade with Karl Dane.

60 Years Ago - April 17, 1942

### NEW REGISTRATION IS EXPECTED TO DRAW 1000 FROM THIS REGION

More than a thousand men of Dallas and vicinity, will register in the Fourth National Registration under the Selective Service Act. The coming registration, which will include men between the ages of 45 and 65, is in the nature of an occupational survey, designed to place older men in defense and other vital industries an release the young and physically fit for service in the armed forces.

Fred M. Keifer, Shrine View resident, was unanimously chosen director of Dallas Township Schools to succeed his neighbor,

George Gregson, at a special meeting of the school board to fill Mr. Gregson's unexpired term.

Robert Fleming, son of Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Fleming of Dallas was among the three leaders of a class of 200 cadets finishing their ground school training at the Naval Air Station at Jacksonville, Fla.

50 Years Ago - April 18, 1952

### GIRL SCOUTS INCREASE TWENTY PERCENT

Dallas District Girl Scout troops increased 20 percent during the last two months, according to a report given by Mrs. James Edwards, chairman of organization for Dallas District. There are now 25 active troops in Dallas District.

The opening of Trout season attracted thousands of anglers to Harveys lake. Folks with docks found them over-run. Alfred H. Runstall, Point Breeze, said he couldn't get near enough to his won dock to fish.

Airman 1st class Donald F. Shaffer, Airplane and Engine Mechanic flight D, 11th Air Rescue Squadron left for Japan to compete in the FEAF Boxing Tournament. Shaffer is from Dallas, and has already won in competition for the lightweight championship of Andersen Air Force Base.

40 Years Ago - April 12, 1962

### POST MANAGES CAMPAIGN FOR HAROLD FLACK

James B. Post, formerly of Hanover Township who serve as a State Representative from the Second Legislative District an now resides in Dallas, will serve as primary campaign manager for the candidacy and re-election of State senator Harold E. Flack, 20th Senatorial District.

Destruction of rural mailboxes in Dallas Township has reached a state where Chief of Police Frank Lange will call on United States Postal Inspectors to help apprehend the vandals. Several boxes have been destroyed in the Fernbrook and Overbrook Avenue areas.

Charlene Maker, Dallas, received a third place award at King's College for the Science exhibit which won for second place and a silver medal at her own high school, West Side Central Catholic.

30 Years Ago - April 27, 1972

### ADEQUATE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY SUBJECT OF REPORT

The assurance of adequate supplies of safe drinking water in the Back Mountain area during the next 50 years was discussed at a public meeting. In a report prepared by Gibert Associates, Reading, the key recommendation was the formation of a Back Mountain Community Authority.

Dallas Board of School Directors and the Dallas Education Association have completed a contract agreement for the 1972-73 school year. Agreement for salaries and fringe benefits was reached.

A petition protesting the excessive noise of mini-bikes operated in the vicinity of Machell and Sterling Avenues was presented to Dallas Borough Council at a meeting by Mrs. Robert W. Brown, wife of one of the borough councilmen. The petition, which was signed by 19 person, asked that mini-bikes be prohibited within 1,000 feet of homes.

20 Years Ago - April 14, 1982

### WRESTLERS BRING HOME FIRST PLACE HONORS

Charlie Roper, Jerry Ogurkis, Mike Richards and Carey Falcone brought home to Back Mountain Wrestling Club first place honors in the AAU Junior Olympic Regional Tournament held at North Schuylkill High School.

The Philadelphia Eagles came to the Back Mountain to play members of the Back Mountain police departments in a basketball game for the benefit of the March of Dimes.

Sgt. Donald J. Rollman, son of Bernard J. and Bette S. Rollman of Dallas, arrived for duty in Hanau, West Germany.

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