

EDITORIAL

# Teachers' timing, tactics reflect badly on them

The relationship between teachers, students, the administration and taxpayers in the Lake-Lehman School District is being strained in many ways, and things are likely to get worse before they get better. The district is facing several large challenges simultaneously:

- Labor unrest at a level not seen in many years, as the teachers' union and board are at odds over a new contract
- An expected budget deficit that offers little hope for relief
- A construction project that - like most similar undertakings - will probably cost more than planned

The pressure of all these factors creates a threat to the district's greatest strength, a remarkable level of cooperation and respect among faculty, students and administrators. Working with a tax base that lacks commercial entities of any size or number, Lake-Lehman has made great strides in its academic standing in the last decade, even as it has struggled to function with inadequate and outdated facilities. Then came a point at which there was no choice but to renovate and expand Ross Elementary School and replace the dilapidated middle level building, putting additional stress on the district's finances. Unfortunately, for themselves and the district, teachers are asking for higher pay and more benefits at just the wrong time.

Not only is the teachers' union's timing off, its tactics are inappropriate. We understand there is a negotiation going on, and don't regard the union's excessive demands as a final stand. If past experience holds true, the sides will eventually find common ground, and it's likely to be much closer to the board's offer than to the teachers' wish list. That kind of back-and-forth is to be expected. What's troubling is the union's move to put students in the middle of the conflict by refusing to do "extra work," which is defined as anything beyond a 7.5 hour day. The result may be canceled field trips, inactive clubs and perhaps a loss of opportunities for students who could earn extra credit or otherwise sharpen their resumes in anticipation of college.

From their own point of view, the teachers are putting themselves in position to be blamed for future tax increases, which seem almost certain to occur, even if their salaries aren't the full cause of them. It's likely few of the people who provide the district's payroll will be sympathetic to well-compensated teachers who withdraw services from the very children they're committed to helping.



Framed by boathouses on Harveys Lake. Photo by Timothy J. Raub.

LETTERS

## Thanks to community for generous support of family

Editor,

On behalf of Gina and Bill Ackerman and their three adopted children from Russia, I would like to thank all those who supported our tremendously successful spaghetti dinner on April 20. The dinner was the first of a series of events that will help reunite the three children with their 4-year-old brother, Aleksei, who is still in a Russian orphanage. To date, about 30 percent of our \$20,000 goal has already been raised.

"From Russia With Love...Reuniting a Family" is a powerful story. As it unfolds, hope, faith and love all triumph over despair

and tragedy.

Gina and Bill adopted the three older children from a Russian orphanage in August of 2000. They learned of the children's relationship with their younger brother only after the older children began to speak English. (Aleksei was in a different orphanage.) The Ackerman's are seeking to adopt Aleksei this summer pending the arduous adoption process and the financial resources to do so. Complicating the story and creating a sense of urgency is that Aleksei has a cleft palate and will require surgery in order for him to be able to speak.

The generosity of the community and the willingness to embrace a special needs child on the other side of the world is nothing short of inspiring. To those who donated the food, drinks, deserts and raffle items; the Huntsville Christian Church; Lake-Lehman High School for the use of the cafeteria; all those who volunteered, attended or donated to the event, please accept our heartfelt appreciation for your kindness and encouragement. We are also very grateful to the members of the media for helping to tell this special story.

Our goal is to raise much of the remaining \$14,000 by July,

the expected time frame when Aleksei could be adopted and brought to America. Other events to offset the cost of this adoption and to reunite the siblings are in the planning stages.

Prayers, ideas and financial support are welcome. Donations can be made to:

The Ackermans  
Huntsville Christian Church  
1160 Church Road  
Dallas, PA 18612  
or by calling 675-1761.

Thank you for opening your hearts to children in need.

Bill Jones

### Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Some of the commentary after the latest Tiger Woods romp in a major golf championship offered the opinion that other contenders had given up trying to catch the player who is now seven-of-seven when entering the final round with a lead. While the play of Vijay Singh, Phil Mickelson and Retief Goosen left a lot to be desired on a Masters Sunday, it's hard to believe these world-class golfers didn't arrive at the first tee hoping to win and ready to give their best efforts, even if Tiger's stellar record was weighing on their minds. Did the prospect of catching and passing the best player of his era — perhaps of all time — affect their performance? I expect so, and the result was ragged rounds at just the worst time.

Curtis Strange, the analyst whose own playing career included a pair of U.S. Open victories, went so far as to suggest that by acknowledging Tiger's greatness, other players are showing weakness. "Even if I knew someone was better than me, I'd never admit it," he said. But Strange comes from a different generation and another planet in the economics of professional sports. Extreme competitiveness was a requirement simply to survive on the PGA Tour or in the National Football League 20 years ago. Salaries or winnings were in five or six digits for a whole season, and sponsorships were measly add-ons from local investors who took a chance that a player would hit it big. Compare that to the Masters, where Singh collected \$187,600 for a week's work after shooting the worst Sunday round of the top 17 finishers, or to the millions that are paid to average baseball players each season. There's no doubt it's tougher to keep the competitive juices flowing when the checks get that big.

We should be less concerned with a pro athlete's psyche than with the ridiculously high profile sports and entertainment have in our culture. Just like overpaid CEOs, sports and movie stars are compensated at a rate that wildly overstates their importance in our lives, and present a perverted image of success to young people. I'd venture to say that one brilliant medical researcher does more good for us than 100 selfish, reckless celebrities, but you won't find entire sections of newspapers or hours of television programming that focus on chemists or physicists. Then again, if that was the case, they might spend most of their time preening for the camera instead of doing work that will outlast the final round or 9th inning.

Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?

A: Only in The Dallas Post

## The Dallas Post

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

P.O. BOX 366, DALLAS, PA 18612 • 570-675-5211

Ronald Bartizek  
GENERAL MANAGER

William J. Dunn Jr.  
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC.

Darlene Sorber  
OFFICE MANAGER

Timothy J. Raub  
REPORTER

Ruth Proietto  
AD PRODUCTION MANAGER

Terry Quinn  
PAGE DESIGN



Carol King

The Friends' 14th Annual Spring Luncheon last week was a great success, with 131 in attendance. We thank The Dallas Post for its part in publicizing the event.

We want to remind everyone of the presentation at the library

## Friends of the Library lunch draws 131

this Saturday, April 27, by Charlotte Raup, a Master Herbalist and Pennsylvania State Master Gardener. The time is 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. She will demonstrate the making of herbal vinegars for medicinal uses or for cooking, and talk about the usage of the top 20 medicinal herbs.

College Misericordia's Circle K recently held a children's book drive. The books collected were donated to the Back Mountain Memorial Library and to the libraries at the Gate of Heaven Elementary School and College Misericordia. Club members who conducted the drive included Megan Cochi, president; Francine Geertgens, vice president; Nicole

Risboskin, secretary; and Joanna Moore.

Author David Baldacci will be speaking at the Celebrity Luncheon on Thursday, May 9. It will be held at Genetti's in Wilkes-Barre. Those attending are asked to arrive between 10:30 and 10:45 a.m. Baldacci will speak at 11 a.m. and answer questions after his talk. Luncheon is served at 12:30 p.m. For information about tickets, call Mary Reddy at 696-3967.

**AUCTION REMINDERS:** DONATE your time as a volunteer, and your antiques, books, nearly-old collectibles, odds and ends, and new goods.

**TAKE A CHANCE** on (1) the Auction Quilt, made by the Back Mountain Friendship Quilters. It's on display behind the front desk. The donation is \$1. (2) the gigantic stainless steel grill on display in the library. The grill is brand new and is valued at \$4,500. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or a book of 6 for \$10. Drawings for both items will take place on Sunday, July 7.

The library still has available some 9"x12" framed slateboards made from blackboards in the former Dallas High School building, which now houses the library. They're priced at \$25.



70 Years Ago - April 22, 1932

### WARDAN KUNKLE SEEKS ELECTION IN BOROUGH

Wardan Kunkle made a strong bid for election as county committee man from the north district of Dallas borough. For the past five years he has been president of the Dallas borough council.

Charles E. Watkins, Muncie Indiana, addressed Greeat Dalals Rotary, issuing a challenge, to every member of Rotary to support the Three Year Reconstruction Program of Greater Wyoming Valley.

At the local A & P Store, some items you could buy: sugar, 10 lbs 42¢; milk, 5 cans 29¢; corn flakes, pkge 6¢; bacon, 1 pkgs. 23¢; peanut butter, lb. 10¢; fig bars, lb. 10.

60 Years Ago - April 24, 1942

### 'SALVAGE FOR VICTORY' TO BE HELD

Determined to clear the area

of all waste materials usable in national defense industries, a crew of 150 volunteers workmen will man a 30-truck detail and conduct a clean-up campaign along every street of Dallas, Shavertown and Trucksville.

Annual war bonds purchases of more than \$100,000 in the Back Mountain Area were indicated as returns from the "Pledge for Victory" campaign came in to Charles A. Stookey of Dallas, chief of Air Raid Zone No. 9.

Mrs. Jane Lohmann, since 1925 an employee of the Trucksville Post Office, has been appointed acting postmaster to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Nicholas Staub.

50 Years Ago - April 25, 1952

### BACK MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIREMEN BATTLE BLAZES

Trucksville, Shavertown, Dalals, Kunkle and Noxen volunteer firemen battled a blaze on the ridge in back of the Roushey Plot Sunday afternoon and evening. A second fire was responded to at Hays Corners.

At the Sandy Beach Drive-In Theatre, some of the movies that played: "Sands of Iwo Jima" starring John Wayne.; "The Return of Jesse James" with John Ireland . Ann Dvorak; "I Shot Billy The Kid", Don Barry, Robert Lowery; "Force of Arms" William Holden, Nancy Olson;

"Never Trust A Gambler Dane Clark, Cathy O'Connell, Tom Drake.

Thomas Coleman, 16, son of Mrs. Ruth Coleman and the late Basil Coleman, had the honor of portraying the typical American boy on the Elks National Youth Day posters being distributed all over the United States in preparation for Youth Day.

40 Years Ago - April 26, 1962

### ROUSHEY LEADS DRIVE FOR A NEW INDUSTRY AT NOXEN

Raymond Roushey has been appointed to handle contacts with prospective tenants for the vacant Armour Leather Company plant.

Fire of an undetermined origin completely destroyed a barn during the high winds on the 70-acre Algert (Lefty) Klamovich Farm on the Alderson-Beaumont Road at Beaumont.

Back Mountain Protective Association Community Service Award is to be presented to Howard W. Risley, Editor and Publisher of the Dalals Post, at the Irem Temple Country Club.

30 Years Ago - May 4, 1972

### PRISON EMPLOYEES PRESENT PETITION SCORING POLICIES

A petition objecting to enforcement policies at State Correc-

tional Institution, Dallas, was signed by a large number of employees.

Only after holding a family conference did Harry D. Swepston Jr. decide to accept the Dallas Area School District's bid to become one of its school directors. It was his wife and children who finally convinced him to serve on the school board.

James Connolly has been named general sales manager for Native Knits division of Native Textiles, and Indian Head Company.

20 Years Ago - April 21, 1982

### L-L COACH HITCHCOCK HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Floyd "Shorty" Hitchcock, head wrestling coach at Lake-Lehman and NCAA Division I wrestling champion, will be one of six inductees into the newly created Bloomsburg State College Athletic Hall of Fame

Lack of interest on the part of the community and service clubs in the Back Mountain indicate that they will be no Back Mountain "Citizenship Award" this year.

Merrice Hall, College Misericordia will be the setting for the 1982 Dallas Post Homemakers School. Homemakers School Home Economist, will demonstrate a variety of recipes. Debbie Zurinski will be mistress of ceremonies.