

EDITORIAL

It's an excellent year for resolutions

It's tempting this time of year to write a column of flippant, irreverent resolutions — tongue-in-cheek suggestions really — to people in the news. Who can resist taking a convenient shot at such easy targets as Trent Lott, Britney Spears, or the "Raelians" who claim that cloning a baby is only the first step in their quest to produce adult humans in a matter of hours with an "Accelerated Growth Process." But all the obvious buffoons and blather abounding in the world today are disguising the hard truth — we are at a crossroads as a nation and as citizens of an ever-shrinking Earth, and we need to get serious about addressing problems that are both present and looming on a variety of fronts.

So, here's a list of potential resolutions for the next year, decade and generation, accompanied by the hope that they will become reality as necessary. If we don't take some of the steps suggested here and elsewhere, we could very well miss the opportunity to pass on to our children and grandchildren a world in which they can find beauty and fulfillment, perhaps even survival.

For General Motors, Ford and other auto makers: To commit their companies to the goal of raising fuel economy, safety standards and production methods well beyond anything dreamed of by the most liberal of critics, inspiring other manufacturers to follow their example. In the process, they may find that being progressive corporate citizens is good business.

For members of the U.S. Congress: To respond in a pragmatic, thoughtful manner to the growing pressures on our system of health care, assuring that every American can receive adequate attention and medicines, placing the interests of individual citizens above those of drug companies and insurers. To defend the rights of individuals, not the privileges of campaign donors. To follow their consciences and good sense, not the urgencies of their party leaders.

For drug companies: To recognize the enormous good they can do for the health of people throughout the world, and to respond by assuring a ready supply of low-cost pharmaceuticals where they are needed to combat diseases and conditions that have lingered for decades, even though we know how to eliminate them.

For major media corporations: To reinvigorate the sense of mission and commitment that has dwindled as revenues have grown, reclaiming their rightful position as searchers of truth rather than miners of profit.

For the Bush administration: To accept that as the most powerful nation on Earth, the United States must hold itself to a standard higher than simply pursuing our own interests, and must set an example for countries that will inspire them to join the family of nations that welcome differences within their citizenry and the world. And to recognize that the rich aren't better than the rest of us, just richer, so stacking the deck in their favor is not healthy for us or the world.

For entertainment and sports writers: To tell us if a movie was good or bad, a performance memorable or forgettable or an athlete skillful or clumsy; and to leave the financial reports to the business pages.

For college and university administrators and trustees: To be certain the opportunities and experiences they offer are made available to a wide range of students, not just those who can afford hefty tuition or excel at carrying a football.

For every elected, appointed, hired or volunteer official at every level of government: To place the long-term interests of the citizens you represent above convenient short-term gain or political expediency.

For all of us: To become more aware of the forces that shape our lives, and more active in fighting for the things we value and against those we abhor.

Your opinion is welcome

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

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.



Old barn in the snow. Photo by Jim Phillips.

New books added to Back Mountain Library collection

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

FICTION
 "Kentucky Sunrise" by Fern Michaels
 "I, Richard" by Elizabeth George
 "The Edge of Doom" by Amanda Cross
 "Hotspur" by Rita Mae Brown
 "Hollywood Tough" by Stephen J. Cannell

"That Old Ace in the Hole" by Annie Proulx
 "White Doves at Morning" by James Lee Burke
 "The Seduction of Water" by Carol Goodman
 "Forbidden Fruits" by Julia Hamilton
 "Kings of Many Castles" by Brian Freemantle
 "Adele" by Emma Tennant
 "Lucy" by Ellen Feldman

NON-FICTION
 "The Conquerors: Roosevelt, Truman and the destruction of

Hitler's Germany" by Michael R. Beschloss
 "Bush at War" by Bob Woodward
 "Nine for Nine" by Andrew Morton
 "Energy Breakthrough" by Sarah Mountbatten-Windsor, Duchess of York

MYSTERY
 "When the Women Come Out to Dance" by Elmore Leonard
 "Lying Wonders" by Susan Rogers Cooper
 "A Pawn for a Queen" by Fiona

Buckley
BIOGRAPHY
 "Agent 146: the true story of a Nazi spy in America" by Erich Gimpel

LARGE PRINT FICTION
 "Reversible Errors" by Scott Turow
 "The Kiss" by Danielle Steele

LARGE PRINT NON-FICTION
 "The Cell: inside the 9/11 plot and why the CIA and FBI failed to stop it" by John Miller



70 Years Ago - January 6, 1933

HARVEYS LAKE MONASTERY WILL BE RECONSTRUCTED

Sacred Heart of Jesus Monastery at Harveys Lake, damaged by fire, which resulted in a loss of several thousand dollars, will be rebuilt immediately, according to an announcement made by Rev. L.S. Brigmans, superior in charge.

At a recent meeting of the Dr. Henry M. Laing fire company, Warden Kunkle was elected president to succeed Addison Woolbert who has served in that capacity for two years.

Some of the items you could get at the American Stores Co. were: tomatoes, 3 cans 25¢; peaches, 3 large cans 29¢; bread, loaf 7¢; coffee, lb. 21¢;

60 Years Ago - January 1, 1943

SUPERVISORS VOTE TO BUY AIR RAID SIRENS

Dallas Township Council of Defense passed resolutions requesting the purchase of four air raid sirens-one by the

school board and three by the supervisors-at a meeting at the office of Squire John Q. Yapple in Goss Manor.

Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company at a meeting refused to abide by a recent decision of Dallas Borough Council to abandon the nightly 9 o'clock curfew in the interests of national defense.

The Junior Choir of Huntsville Christian Church brought joy and good cheer to the old and shut-in of their community Christmas morning when they sang carols from door to door.

50 Years Ago - January 2, 1953

FREAK FIRE SETS DOLL TO BLAZING AT STORE

A Christmas night fire which might have caused extensive damage to Crompton's Tots and Teens Shop in Shavertown, turned out to be harmless when Dr. Miller of Pittston driving by, smashed the plate glass window which had already been cracked by the heat, and pulled a blazing doll from the window display.

Some of the movies that played at the Shaver Theatre were: "Somebody Loves me" with Betty Hutton; "Springfield Rifle" with Gary Cooper; "montana Territory" with Lon MacAllister and Wanda Hendrix; "Everything I Have Is Yours" with Marge and Gower Champion.
 Dr. C. G. Perkins, Truckasvi-

ulle, heads the staff at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital for 1953, succeeding Dr. J. C. DeSanto.

40 Years Ago - January 3, 1963

BRUTAL COLD SWEEPS AREA

Brutal cold swept into the area along with a bitter northwest wind which piled new fallen snow into drifts, immobilized cars, froze plumbing, and forced the thermometer down to sub-zero temperatures. Service stations were swamped with calls.

Dallas schools suffered minor damage to plumbing as a result of the sub-zero temperatures. Lake-Lehman schools had no shut down though drinking fountains were frozen in some of the more exposed locations in the new high school.

SP 4 Peter Fritsky, Jr. Fernbrook, son of game warden Peter Fritsky, was selected "Soldier of the Month" by 25th Signal Battalion, Company B, Karlsruhe, Germany.

30 Years Ago - January 4, 1973

FIRST BABY OF 1973 BORN AT 4:55 A.M.

Glenn W. Eyet Jr. Dallas was advanced to comptroller and assistant secretary. Mr. Eyet had previously served as cashier and assistant secretary.

The winner of the Daring's "First Baby of the Year" contest was B. Corcoran, Dallas who guessed that the first baby would arrive in the area at 4:15

a.m. The first baby born was Amy Beth Kern, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Kern, Dallas, Amy arrived at 4:55 a.m.

At a meeting of the Oak Hill-Civic Association, President Jack Cleary announced the three signs will be erected the three entrances to Oak Hill: at 42nd Street and Route 415; at Idetown Road, off Route 118, and at Idetown Road near Briarcrest Road.

20 Years Ago - January 5, 1983

KUDERKA STEPS DOWN AFTER 29 YEARS AT POST OFFICE

Kelly Elizabeth Wagner, 7 lb. 12 1/2 oz. baby girl, was born to William R. and Michelle Wagner of Dallas. Kelly is the couple's first child and the winner of the Dallas Post's 2nd Annual New Year's Baby contest. Katrina Marea Fanti of Dallas was the Post's "First Baby".

Ray Kuderka, Sr., superintendent of postal operations at Dallas Post Office, ended his 28 years in the Federal Service. Kuderka spent 26 years of his tenure at the Dallas office. Prior to that he served two years in the U.S. Army.

A rash of burglaries throughout the Back Mountain has local police convinced that the ring of thieves has become more brazen with the holiday season. Suspicion that a burglary ring has been the contention of law enforcement personnel for several months.

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Heating grants available

UGI Utilities, Inc. is helping eligible gas and electric customers apply for federal energy assistance dollars to keep their homes warm this winter.

These grants, which do not need to be repaid, help customers with limited or fixed incomes pay their heating bills, repair or replace a heater and avoid utility service shut off. Last winter over 10,000 UGI customers received money from this fund. The average grant was \$239.

For more information on federal energy assistance, and how to apply, customers should call UGI's toll-free phone number: 1-800-UGI-WARM (1-800-844-9276).

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

A: Only in The Dallas Post