

EDITORIAL

Fresh thinking about traffic worth pursuit

Last week's meeting between members of the Dallas Borough Council, the hopeful developer of a large retail complex in Dallas Township and engineers from the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT) brought to light an intriguing possibility — the installation of a traffic circle at the present "five points" intersection where Route 415, Main, Church and Lake streets meet. While the immediate focus of the meeting was to address potential congestion posed by traffic going to and from the proposed development, it progressed into a broader discussion of present and future concerns over traffic and its impact on both the economic soundness and quality of life in the Back Mountain.

Chuck Mattei, the PennDOT chief engineer who has been very accommodating to people who have approached him about this issue and others, such as safety along Route 309 in Shavertown, broached the idea of a "roundabout," the preferable term, and said his department had been looking for a place to build one. He suggested such an arrangement, properly done, could handle more traffic, more conveniently than other solutions, many of which have already been applied to Back Mountain highways.

Given the complexity of roads in the center of Dallas, there's no guarantee that a roundabout is feasible, or would be effective. While commonly referred to as a five-way intersection, the area is actually comprised of eight separate streets and roadways within a couple of blocks, and any improvement — roundabout or not — must include all of them in its plan. But that doesn't mean this idea isn't worth pursuing, and the time is ripe to do so. Mattei offered that preliminary work could begin soon, in time for the roundabout or other solutions to be included for consideration as PennDOT prepares its new long-term plans this spring and summer.

An eager core of advocates from the public and private sectors will try to keep the Back Mountain in general and this possibility in particular in PennDOT's sights. As they proceed, though, they must also consider that it may be wiser to channel housing and commercial growth in ways that conform to the topographic realities of our region rather than focusing only on added capacity that comes at too high a price.



Bundled up against the cold, along Beaumont Hill Road. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

Someone must be held accountable for shuttle tragedy

Editor,

Who will pay for the mistakes that caused the disintegration of the Columbia?

Will this be the same kind of coverup that has occurred with the destruction of the Twin Towers and the loss of 3,000 plus lives due to the mistakes of our CIA, BBI, DIA, and other agencies who received 30 warnings and ignored them, resulting in the Twin Towers destruction? To

this date not one reprimand or demotion has resulted from these errors of management.

One NASA engineer has already come forward and said that he was forced to retire because he had fought for an escape pod for each of the four vehicles including the Columbia and was reprimanded and forced to retire.

Who ignored the recommendation from this engineer and what will be done about his neglect of

duty?

NASA officials knew that the vehicle had potential damage at lift off yet refused to come forward and make the potential damage known to the astronauts before the vehicle was destroyed on Saturday's attempted landing. Is this the way we are running our space program — putting our astronauts at risk and not letting them know the potential danger when it becomes apparent to NASA and its

engineers? This was supposedly corrected after the 1986 accident and at that time it was promised that any potential problems were to be made known to the astronauts as soon as NASA was aware of them.

NASA must take the appropriate action to rectify these errors of management and make the proper reprimands.

Thomas Dombroski
Trucksville

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Apparently feeling that arguments against the admissions program at the University of Michigan aren't sufficient to level the playing field for white males, the Bush administration is taking aim at Title IX, the landmark law that seeks to equalize opportunities offered by men's and women's college athletic programs. Since its inception in 1972, girls and young women have hit courts, fields and pools in unprecedented numbers, proving the theory of "build it and they will come." But now, in response to whining from colleges and universities that haven't been able to balance the needs of both genders — or haven't cared to — the administration is considering rolling back the years to a time when men were men and women were on the sidelines cheering for them. Well, anyone who has attended a girls game from pee wee soccer on up to the WNBA could tell them it ain't that way any more.

One of the most persistent arguments against funding women's sports has been that they don't generate the interest and income of men's competition. As a result, some schools have chosen to shut down minor men's programs rather than try to build up the women's side. Perhaps the most common example is wrestling. But according to one study, nearly as many wrestling programs were disbanded in the years 1984 to 1988 — a period when Title IX was suspended for review by the U.S. Supreme Court — as in the following 12 years after the law was reinstated. This would seem to indicate that some sports are withering on their own, not being pushed into the grave by the field hockey team.

The real problem is football, which except for a minority of high-profile programs, struggles to cover expenses just as much as lacrosse or swimming. Except football costs more, a lot more. The major reason is that Division IA schools can offer 85 scholarships, many of them going to players who don't get off the bench until the last few minutes of their final game as seniors, if then. Since a National Football League team has a roster of 53 players, it's awfully hard to understand why colleges need so many more recruits. One economist contends that if football scholarships were reduced by 25, the savings could fund a wrestling program and one other sport.

I like big-time college sports as much as anyone. And I'd place the recent showdown between the Duke and UConn women's basketball teams in that category, as would the 9,000+ fans who packed Cameron Indoor Stadium, selling out a women's event there for the first time. So, let's hear less about lack of interest and more about opportunity for all students, regardless of gender.



70 Years Ago - February 17, 1933

JOBS FOR JOBLESS CUT SCHOOL COSTS

Dallas borough and Kingston township have both benefited their school systems by the employment of Emergency relief workers in the improvement of their buildings and grounds.

Some of the items you could get at the American Stores Co. were: bread 3 for 10¢; apple butter 2 jars 25¢; diced beets 3 cans 25¢; mixed vegetables 3 cans 25¢; sugar corn 2 cans 19¢.

Movies that played at the Himmler Theatre: "Trouble in paradise" with Kay Francis; Texas Bad Man with Tom Mix; Faithless with Robert Montgomery, Conquerors with Richard Dix.

60 Years Ago - February 12, 1943

NEW SIGNALS EXPLAINED TO AIR RAID WARDENS

Two hundred air raid wardens jammed the library and corridors of Kingston Township High School to listen to Zone 9 and District leaders outline the new air raid warning system. At

the conclusion of the meeting wardens in the Shavertown and Trucksville districts received night sticks and whistles.

Twenty-eight Back Mountain boys, many of them from the eighteen-year-old age group, took their final physical examinations at Wilkes-Barre Induction center. They are part of a big contingent of 114 men called for induction by Local Board No. 1 of Wyoming.

Dallas War Price and Rationing Board was criticized by a Shavertown citizen because members of the Board object to discussing rationing at their homes or places of business. It was the contention of this citizen that the board has adopted an "independent attitude" and has failed to adjust its office hours to the convenience of the public.

50 Years Ago - February 13, 1953

DR. ROGER OWENS RESUMES PRACTICE HERE

Dr. and Mrs. Roger Owens and children, Susie and Sherrill who have spent the last two years in Germany where Dr. Owens was Dental Councilor for the First Division returned home aboard the Army transport, General Hodges. Dr. Owens will resume his practice in Dallas.

Henry L. Jones, Huntsville has been named Chairman of the Northeast Area of Pennsylvania for the 1953 Cancer Crusade to be conducted by the American Cancer Society. Mr. Jones announced a goal of \$92,000 for the Northeast Area.

William Simms, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Alfred B. Simms of Lehman, received his honorable discharge from service with the U.S. Army. Simms served six months in Korea and eleven months in Japan.

40 Years Ago - February 14, 1963

SCHOOL BOARD SHOWS QUORUM DESPITE STORM

Dallas school directors eyed anticipated raises in salary for teachers at a meeting in the Senior High School Library estimated the increases in terms of millage. Discussion of the PSEA requested salary schedule, with regular increments of \$300, resulted in approval for purposes of budget estimation.

John Butler's Scout Troop 232 camped out in the Shavertown Shopping Center, despite brisk winds and plummeting temperatures. The boys were nestled comfortably in sleeping bags resting on mounds of straw and clustered about pot bellied stoves in the center.

Power was uninterrupted when George Laverick, West Pittston, escaping serious injury, sheered off Pole 20 at Harveys Lake and four guard-posts with his car and plunged fifteen feet to the ice, which held.

30 Years Ago - February 15, 1973

LEHMAN SUPERVISOR SPENCER RESIGNS FOR HEALTH REASONS

Bruce Spencer, Lehman Township Supervisor, tendered his resignation at the boards regular

meeting. He indicated he was acting on the advice of his doctor, who recommended the move to conserve Mr. Spencer's health.

The Boy Scout Troop at Lehman, No. 241, after 30 years in existence, is now inactive due to the lack of leadership. William Dawe was the last scoutmaster of the pack. William Simms, one time member of the troop, held the position of scoutmaster for eight years.

Lake-Lehman girls' basketball team enjoyed a good season in the "B" division of the Wyoming Conference. The girls have ended the first half with a 5-1 record.

20 Years Ago - February 16, 1983

'FREE STORE,' A BIG HIT IN THE COMMUNITY

Shoppers in the Lake-Lehman School District received a special treat when the Lake-Lehman Education Association held its first "Free Store." The "Free store" offered clothing, toys and other articles to local customers completely free of charge. The items were all donations from members of the Association (teachers at Lake-Lehman) and their friends.

Harry Lefko, Dallas School Board member, has resigned from his position as a member of the District's negotiations committee but not from his position as board member.

Registration was brisk during the last hour of the Red Cross Bloodmobile at Dallas United Methodist Church, as people came from work to donate their pint of blood. In all 264 people registered.

New books added at BMT library

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

FICTION

Final Justice by W.E.B. Griffin
The Adventures of Flash Jackson by William Kowalski
The Seduction of Silence by Bem LeHunte
The Dante Clubby Matthew Pearl
Ice Ageby Brian Freemantle
A Memory of Warby Frederick Busch

NON-FICTION

The Punch: one night, two lives, and the fight that changed basketball forever by John Feinstein

Wiring a House by Rex Cauldwell

BIOGRAPHY

Leadership by Rudolph Giuliani

SCIENCE FICTION

The Briar King by Greg Keyes

STORY COLLECTION

Pushcart Prize XXVII: best of

the small presses edited by Bill Henderson

REFERENCE

Writers Market 2003

AUDIO TAPES

Kitchen Privileges by Mary Higgins Clark
My Losing Season by Pat Conroy

YOUNG ADULT

Before the Creek Ran Red by Carolyn Reeder

Taxpayer assistance

The Kingston Township Board of Supervisors announces that both the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of revenue and the Don Wilkinson Agency will have taxpayer assistance available for residents at the Township Municipal Building, 180 East Center St., Shavertown on March 6, from 1-4 p.m.

Assistance will be provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue for state tax filing and by the Don Wilkinson Agency for local tax filing.

For information call 696-3809.

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