

EDITORIAL

School trip cancellation is, regrettably, necessary

Cancelling school trips to major cities that could be targets of terrorist attacks is prudent, but it also is tinged by an unwelcome awareness that we in the United States no longer enjoy the privilege of feeling separated from the cares and fears that afflict most of the world's population. An accident of geography that gave us huge oceans on each side is no longer sufficient to protect us from those who would do us harm. Now the risk posed by those enemies has become one step in the calculus of our daily activities.

With Washington and New York City off the agenda, school officials have the opportunity to schedule trips to other locations that have much to teach about our history and mankind's strengths and failings. Harpers Ferry, West Virginia is one such site, and it's easier to reach than the nation's capital. Another alternative is the Iroquois Museum near Howe Caverns in upstate New York. Each of these destinations presents an important vision of the forces that built America, both good and ill. There are many more to choose from.

It's not a pleasant prospect on which to speculate, but chances are that a few years from now we will have accommodated ourselves to the danger of an attack from within, or else we will have given up one of our great freedoms — to move about our nation at will — to those who would impose a society based on intimidation. But for now, school officials are right to take the more conservative path, while not surrendering entirely to fear.

Saving the land in Jackson Township, one farm at a time

Individuals and government have cooperated to assure that Jackson Township retains its essential rural character, an example that many communities would do well to emulate.

The township has been home to an agricultural security area for more than 25 years, and 1,853 acres of land are included in the most recent seven-year renewal of the designation. Thirty-two land owners are participating in this commitment to maintaining a landscape that has changed little over recent centuries, and preserving working farms that nurture livestock, plants and trees.

This arrangement is not permanent; it depends on the willingness of the participants to renew their land's status each seven years. We hope they continue to do so.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



One remarkable aspect of the conflict in Iraq has been the virtual flood of news and commentary to be found on radio and television and in print. Thanks to the Pentagon's policy of "embedding" reporters with military units, the news reporting has been fresher and more timely than in any other war. It also has been less objective than in some past instances, in part because a reporter whose survival depends on the skill and dedication of the guy with a gun in the next foxhole tends to see his protector in his best light. I know I would. And that's a good thing — too often the media has ignored the everyday lives of the men and women who fight, believing in the morality of their cause, but required to use the most inhumane methods to achieve the desired end.

Commentary is an entirely different matter, and much of it has been ignorant, obnoxious and even dangerous. What do I mean? Well, when America's self-described king of talk radio says we don't have to worry about drilling for oil in the Arctic, because we'll be poking holes in Iraq in a few days, he is providing copy for terrorist recruiters to use in their quest to intensify hatred of America and Americans. And he's not alone — the boneheaded opinions have been flowing faster than the oil from a blown-up well, as armchair generals and would-be statesmen spout line after line of aggressive opinion from the comfort of their armchairs. Like most of the people who are prosecuting this war in Washington, they haven't served in the armed forces, many escaping the Vietnam-era draft the same way one of their favorite targets, Bill Clinton, did, with education deferments.

This freedom of expression, I suppose, is one of the benefits we hope to confirm upon Iraq when the bombs and bullets stop flying. I just wish sometimes that it was handled with more care and less bombast.

I'm glad that the Oscars and NCAA basketball tournaments stuck to their schedules despite the fighting in Iraq. These activities act as diversions for civilians and soldiers alike, and postponing them would have implied that they are to be taken more seriously than they merit. I suspect there's a certain comfort for our men and women stationed in the Mideast to have a distraction from the real dangers they face, just as there is for us at home.



Snow geese by the thousands gathered recently at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area near Reading. Local bird watchers traveled there to see the geese, Tundra Swans and other varieties that make a stop there on their trips north. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

Public must wake up, seek action, at Harveys Lake

Editor,

Harveys Lake Borough Council's current state of denial over the issues raised recently regarding the police force is not serving the best interest of the residents that chose to elect them. Instead of pointing fingers and blaming the media for bringing the shortcomings to light, decisive action is called for that will insure that this problem is corrected and nothing like it will embarrass or put the borough at risk ever again. At last week's meeting it was

announced that the borough was seeking more civil service applicants for the position of part-time police officers. Why not go one step further and have all current officers take the civil service exam and be done with it. This would protect the employees as well as the employer, whom if I might remind council, are all the residents of Harveys Lake and not just the vocal minority we have seen at the last couple of dog and pony shows they have passed off as council meetings. I'll be the first to admit I was

thoroughly entertained by last month's meeting that was commandeered by the Mayor and Councilwoman Eaton in order to air the borough's shortcomings and to deny personal responsibility. As they say, "You can't buy this kind of entertainment," although there is a price to be paid and the real shame is the residents of the lake are footing the bill. Does the current council have the resolve and integrity to do what is best for the borough or is business as usual going to be continued and the self interest

of a few be allowed to take precedence over the well being of the many? The only way to insure our elected officials take the proper steps is to voice our opinions publicly and I urge all citizens of the lake, whether they agree with me or not, to attend council meetings and become formed and involved. Knowledge is power folks, and being kept in the dark is nothing to brag about.

Robert "Hot Dog Bob" Prescott
Harveys Lake

New books added at Back Mountain Memorial Library

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

FICTION
"The Vanished Man" by Jeffrey Deaver
"Ties That Bind" by Phillip Margolin
"Small Town" by Lawrence Sanders
"Back Story" by Robert B. Parker
"Full Tilt" by Janet Evanovich

"Seek My Face" by John Updike
"Somersault" by Kenzaburo Oe
"Keeping Watch" by Laurie R. King
"Tropic of Night" by Michael Gruber
"What I Loved" by Siri Hustvedt
"The Young Man" by Brendan O'Carroll
"Shroud" by John Banville
"The Pleasure of Eliza Lynch" by Anne Enright
"Property" by Valerie Martin
"Drop City" by T. Coraghessan

Boyle
"The Clarinet Polka" by Keith Maillard
NON-FICTION
"The Laws of Money, the Lessons of Life" by Suze Orman
"Imperfect Justice" by Stuart Eizenstat
SCIENCE FICTION
"Crossroads of Twilight" by Robert Jordan
"The Risen Empire" by Scott Westerfield

"Acorna's Rebels" by Anne McCaffrey
BIOGRAPHY
"Use What You've Got" by Barbara Corcoran
AUDIOTAPES
"Prey" by Michael Crichton
"Resurrection Men" by Ian Rankin
BOOKS ON CD
"Report from Ground Zero" by Dennis Smith



70 Years Ago - March 31, 1933

CONTAGION GROWS IN THIS SECTION

Care on the part of parents in watching carefully for any symptoms of scarlet fever was stressed as nine new cases were reported through this section. The new cases include five of the ten children in one family, Harris Hill.

Additional arguments for the formation of a Shavertown borough were cited in a statement issued by W.H. Stang, in behalf of the Shavertown Borough committee, protesting against several alleged nuisances and calling for action, with reference to the extreme danger caused by narrow thoroughfares.

Some of the items you could get at the American Stores Co. were: peaches, 10¢; sardines, 2 cans 9¢; pancake g.pit. 1lb 5¢; butter, lb. 19¢; sliced bacon, 2 1/2 lb pkg. 17¢.

Only Yesterday is compiled from the back-issue files of The Dallas Post

60 Years Ago - March 26, 1943

IDETOWN CHURCH FOLK DEDICATE ROLL

The large maple Honor Roll in the Idetown Church was dedicated at the church. The congregation made up of parents, wives and children of the servicemen, took part in the service, repeating in unison that they dedicated the honor roll to the boys who are fighting for their homes.

Cadet Warren Hicks, former reporter for The Dallas Post and later acted as news editor, received his Silver Wings in the United States Army Air Corps. Some movies that played at the Shaver Theatre: "Heart of Rio Grande" with Gene Autry; "Yokel Boy", with Joan Davis; "My Heart Belongs To Daddy" starring Richard Carlson and Molly O'Driscoll

50 Years Ago - March 27, 1953

SEWAGE TROUBLE CLOSES SCHOOLS

There were no classes at Dallas-Franklin schools. Students were dismissed as soon as they arrived because of overflowing septic tanks in the school's elaborate sewage system. The heavy rains and subsurface drainage had filled the nine septic tanks beyond their capacity with ground water.

Owners of used car lots had been plagued with a series of petty thefts recently. Hubcaps were stolen from cars on L.L. Richardson's used car lot.

Thieves also stole hub caps, a spare tire and other accessories from a Cadillac car on Russell Parson used car lot.

Members of Lehman, Jackson and Ross Township school boards passed a resolution forming three way jointure at a meeting in Lehman-Jackson library. Action was the culmination of several months of planning and negotiation.

40 Years Ago - March 28, 1963

DALLAS TO GET NEW FIRE SIREN

Dallas central fire alarm will be retired after thirty-five years honorable and devoted service and replaced with a new one, it was decided at a meeting of Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company. The vintage warning system had a tendency to sound at will due to short circuiting.

A six-week course in protection for the family unit, protection at school and safeguards for the community incase of disaster, natural or nuclear, will be presented at the Dallas Senior High School.

Some of the Easter items you could get at Evans Drug Store: filled baskets, 49¢ to \$2.98; Easter nests \$1 to \$1.98; jelly eggs, 50¢; chocolate Easter bunnies, 10¢ to \$5.69.

30 Years Ago - March 29, 1973

BANKS BROTHERS HEAR GRIPES ABOUT POLLUTION

Almost 100 residents of Jackson Township gathered at the

fire hall for a face-to-face confrontation with the Banks brothers, Jack and Bernard, owners and operators of the American Asphalt Paving Company. For several years complaints have been growing about excessive blasting and air and water pollution occurring at the company's plant in Jackson Township.

Dr. Werkheiser, superintendent of the Dallas School district, reported to the school board at a meeting, that the school cafeteria had a loss of \$1,180.53 during February. Dr. Werkheiser attributed the loss to the increased cost of food, especially meat, and the decrease of foods distributed by the Bureau of Government Donated Foods. Marine Lance Cpl. John R. Whitlock, Dallas, reported for duty at the Marine corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

20 Years Ago - March 30, 1983

EXIT FINALLY APPROVED

Construction of a separate exit from the Dallas Post Office on to Foster Street has been approved by the federal government. The entrance to the Post Office will remain as it is on Church Street, but traffic within the post office lot will be routed one way through to the exit.

Eugene Hudak announced to the citizens and taxpayers of Luxerne County that he will seek reelection to the office of Clerk of Courts.

The Dallas Senior Varsity Cheerleaders placed first in the 3rd Annual Pennsylvania Invitational Cheerleading Competition.

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