

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dallas native seeking funds for Russian trip

Dear Editor:

My name is Rose Alaimo. I am from Dallas, PA and am currently a student at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. This July I am going to be pursuing a project that I have been passionate about for some time. I will be traveling to Yaroslavl, Russia to work in a children's orphanage for three weeks, and I am trying to fund part or all of the trip with your help.

I will be working through a non-profit program called Cross Cultural Solutions which sends volunteers all over the world to work in various countries and for various causes. The program in Russia involves more than one placement - during my stay I will be working mostly with orphaned children, some of whom are disabled or come from severely abusive homes, but may also be placed working part-time in a shelter for elderly women.

Why do I want to go to Russia to volunteer with children? Because the situation with orphaned children in Russia is becoming a crisis. The first problem is the number of children. In January of 2003, the number of orphaned children in Russia was recorded to be 867,800, and this number is slowly increasing. There is not nearly enough funding within the country to adequately take care of these children, and this leads to the second problem. Many of these children, in addition to not having enough food and/or clothing, are lacking sufficient education, so if they are not adopted, their lives upon leaving the orphanages are far from accommodating. Every year at least 5,000 of them end up in court, another 3,000 end up living on the street, and 1,500 commit suicide. The rate of drug use, alcoholism, and prostitution among these young adults is horrific. Most simply do not have the skills needed to find work and earn a living.

I know I cannot change much of this in the three short weeks of my stay. My position as a volunteer this summer will include helping the children with their English skills, which will give them a major advantage in life. In addition, I will be assisting in any way that will be needed, including helping the kids with their school work as needed and giving them attention, which they sorely need, by

playing games with them and helping them with arts and crafts. I am a musician and will, hopefully, have a chance to introduce some of the children to music, whether it is to teach them the basics of playing an instrument or just helping them to read music. Giving any one of these kids a passion for something like music and helping them along in any way could potentially be the edge that child will need in order to be able to make a living and survive when he or she leaves the orphanage.

Why I need your help with fundraising: Many people are shocked that I need to pay so much in order to do volunteer work. The reason is so that I do not burden the people I am trying to help. Again, the program I have enrolled in is completely non-profit and the cost of my program covers only what I will need for food, housing, and in-country orientation. Any help you can provide would be amazing and so appreciated - you would be directly helping these children with your contribution.

I have given much thought to how I could adequately thank anyone who helps with this project. So, since I have been told I should have some internet access from places in Yaroslavl, I've decided to send periodic e-mails and pictures from Russia to anyone who decides to contribute. This will hopefully help you to feel more involved in how your contribution is directly helping some of these children. If you decide to contribute and are interested in receiving e-mails, e-mail me at RA244@cornell.edu, subject heading "Russia," so that I can add you to the e-mail list.

If you decide that you would like to help fund this work, you can either go to <http://my.crossculturalsolutions.org/> where you will click on "find your volunteer," enter my last name (Alaimo) and then follow the instructions from there. Since this organization is a non-profit, any contribution you make is 100% tax deductible. Or, if you prefer, you can send your contribution to my home address: 55 Grandview Ave., Dallas, PA 18612 and make all checks payable to "Cross-Cultural Solutions"

Thank you so much for reading this and for any help you decide you can give.

Rose Alaimo

STRANGE BUT TRUE

• Next time you're doing a little home-improvement work, you might want to keep in mind the sad fate of Hans Pender, a do-it-yourselfer from Salzburg, Austria. While doing a bit of work on his home, he became entangled in a 60-foot length of heavy wallpaper. He tried to free himself, but, according to a police detective called to the scene, "The more he struggled, the tighter the paper wrapped him up." The poor man suffocated to death.

• Have you ever wanted to be a thaumatologist? Probably not; in all likelihood, you haven't even heard of the word. FYI: Thaumatology is the study of miracles.

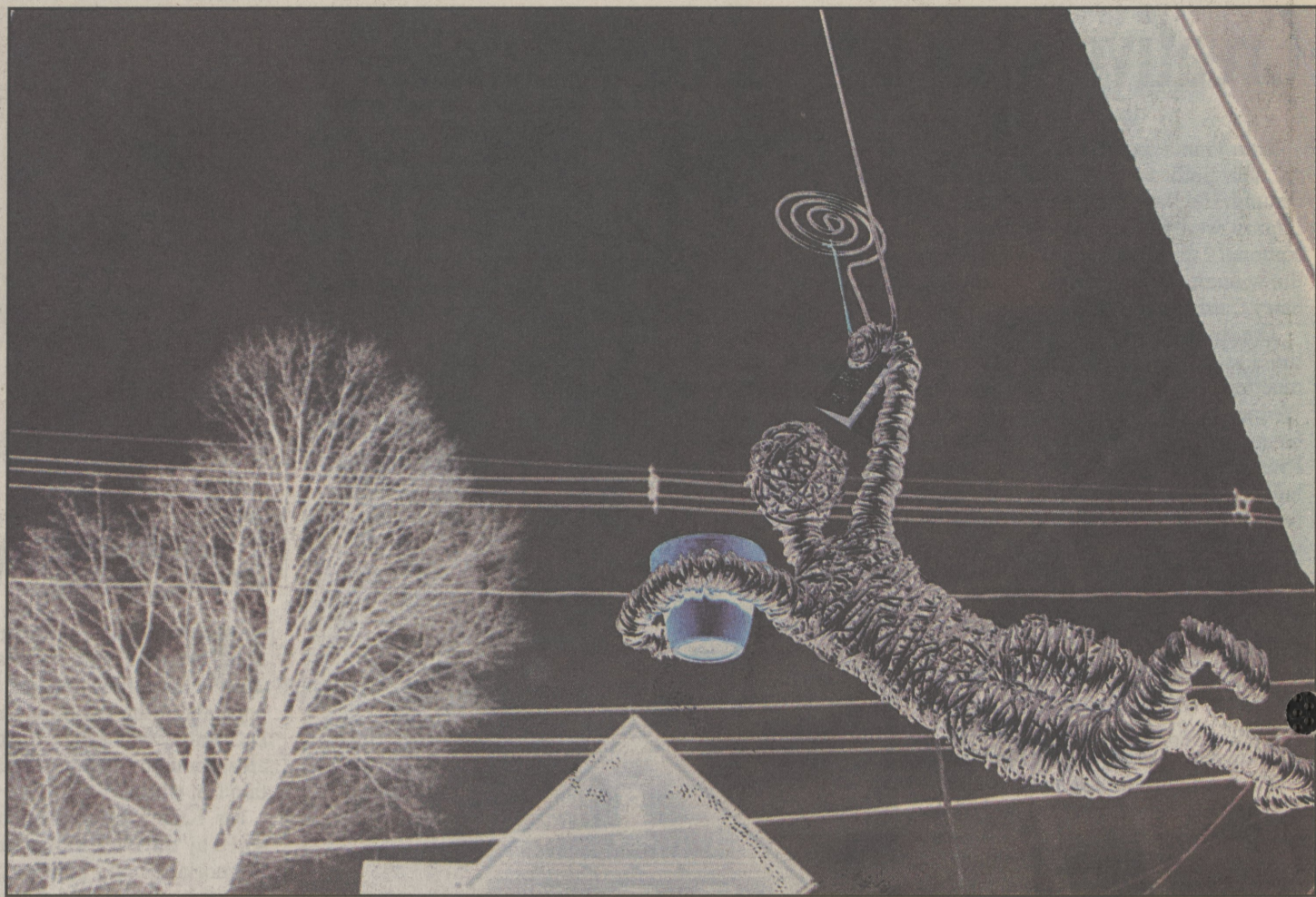
• In William Shakespeare's day, it was evidently considered poor form to send play-goers home sad. It was common practice at that time for actors to perform a comic song and dance at the end of a tragic play so that the audience would go home in a cheerful mood.

• At some point you've probably seen Steven Spielberg's 1982 movie "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial." But I bet you didn't know that the film's original title was "A Boy's Life."

• It's been reported that when Frank Sinatra was dying, his daughter, Nancy, stayed home to watch the final episode of "Seinfeld" instead of going to the hospital to visit her famous father.

Thought for the Day: "If you must hold yourself up to your children, hold yourself up as an object lesson and not as an example." -- George Bernard Shaw

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High over Lake Street, these wire sculptured men made by Sean Brady, of Plymouth, hang and play tricks with our senses.

Buzz about annual library auction starting already

LIBRARY NEWS

That buzz you hear in the Back Mountain lately is not just the return of the bumblebees as they begin pollinating your newly-blossomed flowers ... it's actually the excitement of the Back Mountain Memorial Library's upcoming Auction Kick-off Dinner and Mini Auction. This event is a gathering of people involved in, and especially those interested in, the Annual Auction, scheduled for July 5, 6, 7 and 8.

The dinner will be held on Monday, June 4, at the Appletree Terrace at Newberry Estates in Dallas with cocktails (open bar all evening) and hors d'oeuvres beginning at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Attendees will have their choice of BBQ salmon with citrus sauce, top round beef or grilled Caesar chicken at the grilling station and/or choice of penne or linguine with various sauces at the pasta station. Afterwards, everyone is tempted to complete their dinner selection with a variety of pastries, cookies and French vanilla ice cream with hot fudge sauce at the dessert

station!

The main event of the evening, however, will be the Mini Auction including several surprise items to appease the "bidding bug" that may be starting to grow within you! The cost of the dinner is \$28 per person and reservations may be made at the library. The deadline is May 26.

With Mother's Day only a week away, a ticket to the Auction Kick-Off Dinner may be just the unique gift you've been searching for ... and what Mom wouldn't love to spend a night out with her favorite child!

The library also offers several other ideas for gifts for your mother, including an assortment of silk flower arrangements at our Spring Sale, currently displayed in our foyer. Or perhaps, a personalized brick in honor of ... or in memory of ... to become

part of the library's entry walkway would be a permanent gesture of your love for your Mom. Engraved bricks may be ordered for a donation price of \$100.

The Slightly Read Bookshop located in the downstairs of the library still offers the "Best Bargains in the Back Mountain" and has recently added to its collection of reading materials, perfect for all of those springtime gift-giving events.

Moms and Dads too, are reminded that we will have three programs available this summer for teens and near-teens to increase their love of reading. The ages for the groups are as follows: Donuts & Discussion ages 10, 11 and 12; YA Book Discussion Group, ages 13 and up; and Relax & Read for ages 12 and up.

All area teens are welcome to attend organizational meetings for these groups: 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 21, for Donuts & Discussion and at 7 p.m. the same evening for the young adults. Dates, times and books

will be voted upon at these meetings, so it is important for all registered participants to attend.

Teens participating in the book discussion groups will be required to purchase their own copies of the books or borrow them from other libraries as the moderators will be using the copies from the Back Mountain.

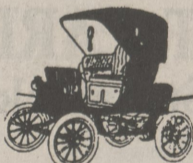
Relax & Read participants will begin their program on June 11. These teens read books of their choice and write a short review for other teens to review. All teens will be eligible to win a gift certificate from Target.

Mrs. Bauman, Children's Librarian, will be attending the Dallas Summer Fun Night at the Dallas Elementary School from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9. She will be handing out information about the summer reading program, "Get a Clue @ Your Library."

It's also time to mark your calendars! Registration for the summer story hours begins on Wednesday, June 6, after 9:30 a.m.

70 YEARS AGO

Irem Temple Country Club was the scene of a lovely affair Wednesday evening when members of the Dallas Junior Women's Club entertained their mothers at their annual Mother-Daughter Dinner. Ruth Hull was song leader, Mrs. Thomas Shepherd Moore was a gracious toastmaster and Miss Elizabeth Love, club president, welcomed the mothers and guests.



ONLY YESTERDAY

The identity of the May Queen who will be crowned at Dallas Township High School's May Day festivities later this month will remain a secret until the coronation. General committee members include Mrs. Thomas Kepner, chairman; Mrs. Grace Nicholson, Mrs. John Girvan, Harvey Kitchen, Mrs. Melvin Mosier, Mrs. Fred Hughey, Mrs. Elizabeth Love, Ronald Doll and Professor Maurice Gorton.

The Standard Bearers of the Queen Esther Society of the Trucksville M.E. Church will hold their annual Mother-Daughter Banquet on Monday evening at the church. The program is to include the following members: Mrs. Ethel Oliver, Mrs. Kenneth Haskins, Susan Palmer, Mrs. Harry Savacool, Mrs. Cedric Griffith, Mrs. Fred Haughwout, Mrs. Lara Patterson, Miss Roxie Smith and Mrs. G.W. Reynolds.

60 YEARS AGO

All officers were re-elected at a meeting of the Trucksville Vol-

unteer Fire Company. They are: S.D. Finney, president; Jacob Harrison, vice president; E.W. Piatt, recording secretary; Charles Perkins, Sr., financial secretary; Francis McCarthy, fire chief; Herber Jenkins, first engineer; and Lester Skelding, second engineer.

Betty Adams has been chosen May Queen and Rosemary Chukinias Maid of Honor at the annual May Day Festival to be held at Dallas Township High School. Attendants will be: Audrey Lamoreaux, Louise Moss, Ruth Prudhoe, Peggy Martin, Mary Foote, Clare Ann Evans and Jacqueline Mahoney.

The junior class of Dallas Township High School will present a three-act play entitled "Spring Fever" in the high school auditorium. The cast includes: Peggy Martin, Nancie Hessler, Torrence Gensel, Thomas Bunney, Phyllis Kunkle, Charlotte Boston, Betty Vavrek, Wilma Hess, Joseph Tondora, Robert Henney, Glenn Howell and Arthur Roberts.

50 YEARS AGO

Dorcas Society, Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, plans an International Tea Friday evening in the social rooms of the church. Mrs. Fred Eck and Mrs. William Hockman are co-chairmen. Mrs. Ralph Gerhart has charge of publicity, Mrs. Frank Moyer, program; Mrs. Obed Hontz, tea-tables; Mrs. Fred Malkemes, tickets.

Winners of the recent art contest among Junior High School students were: Judy Joos, Carole Mashinski and Barbara Bigus with honorable mention for Brian Joos and Grace Bachman, in the Dallas-Franklin-Monroe

Township entries. Winners at Westmoreland: Louise Hadsall, Bonnie Lou Gross and Mary Ruth Andrews with honorable mention for Barbara Hildebrand and Susie Williams.

Troop 147, Girl Scout of Saint Therese's Church, Shavertown, held its Easter party and hat show Tuesday evening when each girl modeled her version of an Easter Bonnet. Prizes were won by Kathy Monahan, prettiest, Charlene Makar, most original, and Alice Dorosky, funniest.

40 YEARS AGO

Vandals again damaged the mailbox belonging to J.W. Rusenko, Lake Hill Road. The postal container was smashed again last week, fourth time in recent months. Rusenko, who has lived quite a while on the thoroughfare which leads from Beaumont to Harvey's Lake, warns the culprits that he has notified the Postal Inspector.

30 YEARS AGO

Women of the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church honored past chairmen of their annual Antique Show at a luncheon at the Lodge, Newberry Estates. Past chairmen honored included: Mrs. Russell Parson, Mrs. Charles Flack, Mrs. Edwin Ruth, Mrs. Peter Arnaud, Mrs. Henry Doran, Mrs. Robert Maturi, Mrs. Oswald Griffith and Mrs. Joseph Schneider. Chairmen for the 1977 show included Mrs. Donald Evans, Mrs. Floyd Sanders, Mrs. James Moore, Mrs. Robert Greenwood, Mrs. John Prater and Mrs. Walter Kozemchak.

Carl Dymond, Sr., Joe Parduska and Rick Bennett entertained the audience with a whistling

act dressed in top hat and tails in the Mother's Club Minstrel held at Dallas High School.

Recipients of awards at the annual Gate of Heaven Science Fair were: Mary McGuire, Theresa Kalnoskas, Seana McDonald, Kathy Parsons, Anita Aikman, Michel Jorda, Mary Joan McLaughlin, Megan Donnelly, Heather Gless, Alice Spencer, Maria Malak, Michael Hession, Robert Scruitsky, William Scruitsky, Bernard Sult, Robert Oley, David Hartzel, Matthew Crane, John Luke, Michael Bermick and Ann McGuire.

20 YEARS AGO

Ten Gate of Heaven sixth, seventh and eighth grade students, accompanied by faculty members Debbie Wysocki and Abe Simon, will travel to Harrisburg at the capitol where they will receive the Governor's Energy Education Award for the projects they entered in the program. Making the trip are: John Gilgallon, Keith Jones, Tony Finarelli, Jeff malak, Robin Latosek, Mario Sholtis, Susanne Stair, Carne Reid, Virginia Johnson and Gregory Stahovec.

Project Business, of program of Junior Achievement, designed to bring resources of business into the classroom, is proving to be a successful venture. Started by Dallas Junior High School teacher John Bancala, Project Business makes young students aware of the basic operations of the business community.

An approach initiated by Bancala allows the teacher and local businesses to form a classroom partnership as Encon and Native Textiles both have administrative personnel participating in the program.

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