

local library and find out what it has to offer you and your family. This year's National Library Legislative Day was earlier this week. Why not give your legisla- tor a call? Tell him or her how important your library is to you. I will. Then I'll celebrate my local library by reading a book. I believe in the importance of libraries.

Paula Ford lives in Albion, N.Y. Her essay aired May 5 on WPSU.

have spent \$9 million. But libraries are used for more than entertain- ment. There are comput- ers, fax machines and photocopiers — things that may not be available any- where else in a small town. There are programs that help patrons with everything from finding a job to filing their income tax returns. For kids, libraries have educational story hours and summer reading programs. Girl

been reading to her ever since I'd found out I was pregnant. My daughter's first out- going was to the Williams- burg Public Library to meet the library staff. She was 5 days old. Throughout her child- hood, wherever we lived, we would visit the local libraries at least once a week. Today, my daughter is a librarian, and her father and I could not be more proud.

would go to the Ebersburg Public Library and bring me a brown paper bag filled with books. When I finished them she'd go get me more. At first, I read easy books. Then I progressed to the Boxcar Children series, which I loved. Later in the summer, I was reading about Pipa Longstocking and Cedric Woodlawn. That sum- mer, books transported me far from my sickbed and trans- formed me into a lifelong book- worm.

YOUR LETTERS



Newark (N.J.) Star Ledger/Drew Sporneman

Second Mile kid speaks up
Those investigating Jerry Sandusky should listen more to his adopted son, Matt, and less to Sandusky's accusers. "My life changed when I came to live here," Matt said in a Dec. 20, 1999, Sports Illustrated article. "There were rules, there was discipline, there was caring. Dad (Jerry) put me on a workout program. He gave me someone to talk to a father figure. I never had. I have no idea where I would be without him and Mom (Dottie). And they've helped so many kids besides me."

I am one of those many Second Mile kids who became a part of Jerry's "family." He has been a best friend, tutor, workout mentor and more. We've worked together, competed together, traveled together and laughed together. I lived with Jerry and Dottie for three months. Sandusky's been there for me for 13 years and stood beside me at my senior parent's football night.

I drove 12 hours to attend his mom's funeral. I don't know what I would have done with- out him. Readers, please listen to what Matt said and closely examine the history and record of the people who are accusing Sandusky.

Segt. Allan Myers, U.S. Marine Corps
San Diego

Take in a concert this month
Congratulations. For an amazing ninth time, State College has been named one of the best communities for music education in America. May is a perfect time to attend a concert and see why.

At the recent North American Music Festival in Virginia, State College Area High School groups swept the awards and were the top scoring ensembles in choral work and instrumental music. Our students benefit from a uniquely comprehensive program staffed at all levels by some of the best music educators in the country.

The spring concert schedule is posted at seacd.org under activities/music and ends

Joanna Jones
State College

Voucher bill too costly
A recent report by Pennsylvania's Education Law Center shows that the school voucher bill (SB 1) before the legislature would cost taxpay- ers more than \$1 billion in its first four years.

It also shows that less than 8 percent of the funds would go to kids from the "worst" 144 schools in the state, while two-thirds of the \$1

with the gala Jazz Night concert on June 1. Senior citizens and students are admitted free, and all other tickets are only \$3.

It is heartwarming to see the smiles of elementary students, so proud of their new skills and teamwork; it is equally great to see the confidence, poise and talent at any middle school or high school music event. Please join music families in taking in a concert this month.

Benjamin Franklin wrote more than 200 years ago: "When a religion is good, I conceive it will support itself, and when it does not sup- port itself, and God does not care to support it, so that its professors (adherents) are obliged to call for the help of the civil power (government), 'tis a sign, I apprehend, of its being a bad one."

Edd Doerr
Silver Spring, Md.
The writer is president of the group Ameri- cans for Religious Liberty.

LETTERS POLICY

The Centre Daily Times accepts original letters of up to 200 words. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. A letter writer is limited to one letter every 30 days. Letters are subject to the normal editing process. Letters from within the CDT's primary circulation area receive prece- dence. Send letters to cdletters@centredaily.com or to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 89, State College, PA 16804; fax 238-1811; call 231-4640.

PROGRAM DUDGE — I could see the horror unfolding. As a police officer, I knew that I would be getting a much closer view of the utter destruction and wanton mass murder that was being per- petrated upon this nation.

Driving into ground zero shortly after the twin towers fell was a scene reminiscent of Dante's "Inferno." Ash was falling from the sky and lower Manhattan seemed as if the earth had opened up to expose us to hell. The recovery opera- tions were fraught with perils of falling debris, the threat of sec- ondary attacks and the constant reminder of death — but not death in the traditional sense.

You did not see whole bodies strewn about; you came across body fragments — a leg here and an arm there or maybe a headless torso. And if you did not see any body parts, the scent of burning flesh was inescapable to those who could still breathe.

Let us not forget that many of those who died that day had leapt to their death instead of being incinerated by the fires left behind from those hijacked airplanes.

Of those victims who did not jump from the upper floors of the World Trade Center towers, many of their remains have not been recovered, as they were vaporized by the intense heat of the fires.

What occurred on 9/11 were not the actions of a man but of a monster, and Osama bin Laden was that monster. He was the maestro who orchestrated this mayhem and he could escape the consequences of his actions. He was called to account May 2 and his death is but a small com- fort to those who lost loved ones almost 10 years ago.

Although many may feel unease at the spontaneous cele- brations that sprang up around the country, this sense of inap- propriateness is misguided. Peo- ple were not cheering the death of a man, but of a monster; and this monster can never harm us again.

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