

THE POST-CRESCENT'S OPINION

Thumbs Up and Down



To those who participated in National Night Out events all over the Fox Cities, for their commitment to their community.

The idea is to get neighborhoods together to form watch groups, talk about other crime-related concerns, build relationships with police departments and just get to know each other.

Local police frequently cite community involvement as a key reason this is a low-crime area. The National Night Out events help foster residents' involvement.



To a group of former Center Valley Grade School students, for being true to their school. In a project that took shape nine years ago, the former students and a group of other volunteers have restored the old one-room schoolhouse, which was built in 1887 and closed in 1958.

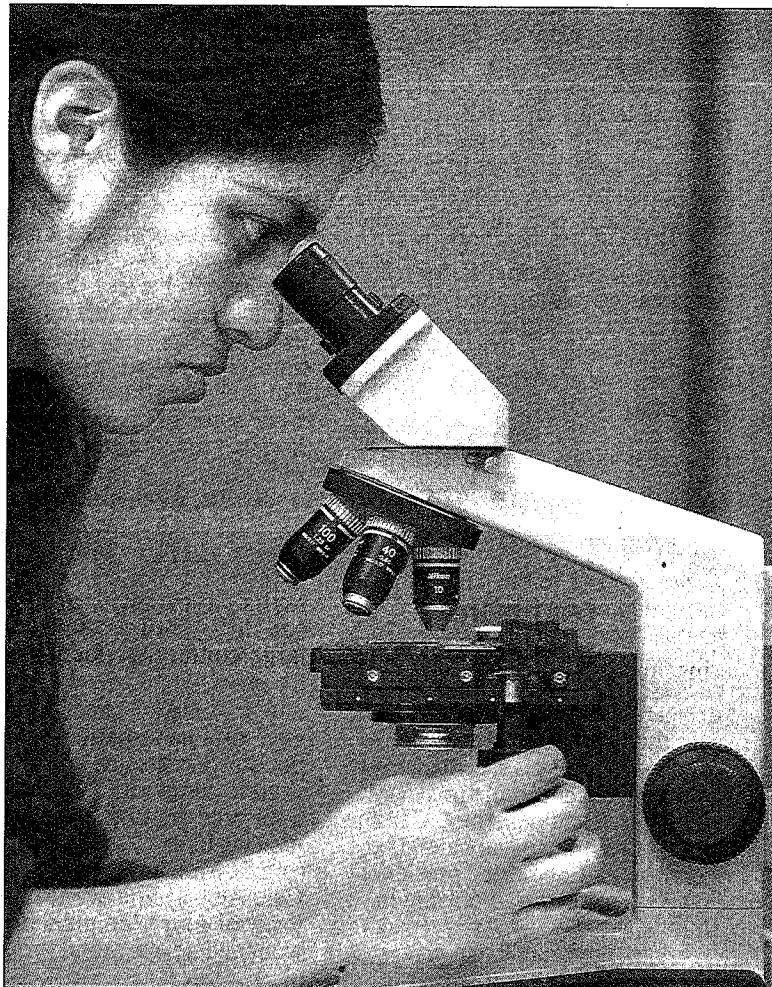
They bought and then transformed the school into what it looked like when they attended. Now, it's open to the public and will be used as a site for school field trips, to show kids how schools used to look. The folks who worked on this project deserve credit for their dedication.

To the Cedarburg School Board and the Cedarburg Education Association, for open-door negotiations.



The district and the teachers union are negotiating a new contract, an often-contentious process that almost always takes place in closed meetings.

While this is perfectly legal, there's no law requiring they be done without public observation. However, both sides agreed to shed some light to better educate



Post-Crescent archive photo by Dan Powers

UW-FOX VALLEY STUDENTS will have their tuition frozen this year.

COVERAGE ON POSTCRESCENT.COM

Video: A look at a National Night Out event in Appleton.

the public about the process, a noble goal.

Their first public meeting was Monday, and according to a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel report, went well. Here's to more successful meetings in Cedarburg, and

the hope that other school boards and unions are inspired to do the same.



To the University of Wisconsin System's Board of Regents, for recognizing part of the mission of the system's two-year colleges.

While the regents on Tuesday voted to increase tuition at UW's four-year colleges by 5.5 percent this year, they wisely chose not to raise tuition at the 13 two-year

campuses, including UW-Fox Valley in Menasha. It'll remain at \$4,268.

The idea, UW officials said, is to make sure the two-year schools remain as more affordable alternatives, especially for nontraditional students. It makes good sense.



To the state of Indiana and the Environmental Protection Agency, for approving a large increase in the pollution of Lake Michigan.

Indiana and the EPA are allowing oil company BP America to dump 54 percent more ammonia and 35 percent more suspended solids into the lake from its refinery in northwest Indiana. The pollution also includes significant mercury discharges into the lake.

The decision has drawn protests from neighboring states and the mayors of several lakefront cities, including Chicago, Milwaukee and Green Bay.

While the expansion of the refinery meets a need, it can't threaten an already endangered lake - and one of the state's most valuable natural resources.



To the state of Wisconsin and the state Legislature, for making some low-income college students scramble

to find money to go to school.

The state decided in late June, according to the Oshkosh Northwestern, not to dispense need-based financial aid for the upcoming school year to students because the state budget, which was supposed to take effect July 1, hasn't been passed.

That's an unfortunate decision, which leaves those students in a bind not long before the new school year is starting. The Legislature, of course, shares the blame for creating this situation by not getting a budget passed in time.