

gineer with AWK Consulting Engi-  
plan to prevent the kind of damage  
resulted from Hurricane Ivan in 2004.  
rocks and a gabion wall to shore up

It didn't include dredging Bull Creek  
south Avenue bridge to the mouth of  
er as Tarentum officials expected.  
1700 projects, estimated to cost  
by be the prelude to dredging.  
consultants said concerns over en-  
could make it difficult to get permis-

Bull Creek further upstream was  
o we find it difficult to believe the EPA  
ps wouldn't approve dredging this sec-  
under several bridges in this area, in-  
broad bridge, caused much of the  
urricane Ivan. Widening these bridges  
ensive, so lowering the creek bed by  
st fix.

county agreed to take over this proj-  
tum could not come up with a required  
ree on the best way to use this grant.  
s the key is dredging the creek.  
he grant covers that purpose.

## on briefing ...

Clinton's capitalization on his "bit-  
Mrs remark, Barack Obama came out  
n. "She is running around talking  
an insult to sportsmen, how she values  
ment. She's talking like she's Annie  
said. With regard to citizens' gun  
c Holliday, Senator ... While admit-  
we chosen his words, "daddy." Obama  
r this week said, "(W)hen I hear my  
whom have spent decades in Wash-  
out of touch, it's time to cut through  
lk at the reality." We have, and the  
s to achieve Obama's reality is quite  
First Pennsylvania poll after  
gaffe shows Mrs. Clinton widening her  
the American Research Group of 600  
t primary voters shows Obama trailing  
centage points. This, when a previous

one school's misunderstanding of the  
First Amendment. That would be  
a big mistake. It's true that policies like the  
one at Tomah High are rare —  
few public schools are overtly  
antagonistic toward religion. It's  
also true that a growing number  
of school districts are becoming  
proactive on religious-liberty  
issues, developing constitutional  
policies and practices.  
Richardson, Texas, to cite one  
of many good examples, has a  
Religious Practices Advisory  
Committee of parents, commu-  
nity leaders and educators  
working together to uphold the

Tomah High policy completely  
ignores the First Amendment.  
Under current law, as the U.S.  
Department of Education guide-  
lines explain, "Students may"  
express their beliefs about reli-  
gion in homework, artwork, and  
other written and oral assign-  
ments free from discrimination

Establishing religious freedom  
and private speech endorsing reli-  
gion, which the Free Speech and  
Free Exercise Clauses protect" —  
to quote the U.S. Supreme Court's  
ruling in *Westside Community  
Board of Education v. Mergens*.  
A.P., in other words, is not the  
government. As long as he other-  
wise fulfills the school assign-  
ment, he's free to express his  
views about his faith.

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scholar at the First Amendment  
Center. His e-mail address is  
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## Rich Hill damage

I would like to respond to John Burns' letter as to  
who uses Rich Hill Road in Harmar and Indiana  
townships.

I have been traveling the road for 16 years. So 10  
years ago would have been around the time the  
housing developers began the construction that  
uses Rich Hill Road, a road that was in need of  
resurfacing then.

A sports center was built and hundreds of cars  
drive over Rich Hill Road to reach it. From October  
to April in the evenings and on weekends, cars wear

forably to Lincoln's second man-  
gural. Note from that Philadel-  
phia address:  
"Most working and middle-  
class while Americans don't feel  
that they have been particularly  
privileged by their race ... as far  
as they're concerned, no one's  
handed them anything. ... They  
... feel their dreams slipping  
away" ... opportunity comes to be  
seen as a zero sum game, in  
which your dreams come at my  
expense.

"Anger over welfare and affir-  
mative action helped forge the  
Reagan Coalition. Politicians  
routinely exploited fears of crime  
for their own electoral ends. Talk  
show hosts and conservative  
commentators built entire ca-  
reers unmasking bogus claims of  
racism while dismissing legiti-  
mate discussions of racial injus-  
tice and inequality as mere polit-  
ical correctness or reverse  
racism."

In Barack's mind, black anger  
and resentment at "racial injus-  
tice and inequality" are "legiti-  
mate." But the anger and resent-  
ment of white folks, about  
affirmative action, crime and  
forced busing, are born of mis-  
perceptions — and of "bogus  
claims of racism" exploited by  
conservative commentators to  
keep the racial pot boiling and re-  
tain power, so the right can con-  
tinue to do the bidding of corpo-  
rations, the real enemy.

Barack has stumbled into the  
eternal failing of the left-wing  
populist. He cannot concede that  
the anger of white America —  
that its right to equal justice has  
been sacrificed to save the con-  
sciences of gull-desotted liberals  
— is a legitimate anger. The  
truth that Barack dare not speak  
is that reverse discrimination is  
pandemic and that folks in Mid-  
dle Pennsylvania have a valid  
grievance that ought to be ad-  
dressed.

Obama's remarks about small-  
town America told us little about  
small-town America but a lot  
about Barack. He is yet another  
cookie-cutter liberal who has ab-  
sorbed the prejudices of that

## LETTERS

around the potholes in both directions just as their  
young soccer players will zigzag around the fields.

There are five or six businesses between Route  
910 and Jacoby Road that generate a great deal of  
traffic. Most of that traffic appears to be heavy  
trucks like tractor trailer rigs and tow trucks.

I believe there is plenty of traffic on Rich Hill  
other than the residents of the developments that  
Mr. Burns would like to see penalized for living  
there. After \$1,700 worth of work was required on  
my car last year, I feel I have been penalized  
enough. Please fix the road!

Patricia M. Carlier  
Cheswick

Election letters: Letters  
supporting candidates running  
in Tuesday's election must be

received by Thursday at noon.  
The Valley News Dispatch does  
not print letters from candi-

dates or their relatives, but we  
will consider those dealing  
with substantive issues.

## TOPIC OF THE WEEK

Home foreclosures are increasing in the Pittsburgh area. Congress and  
President Bush are considering expanding a program that allows borrowers  
who owe more than their homes are worth to refinance with a federally  
insured loan. Do you support that direct approach to helping homeowners?

