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The News Journal at 75: Local experts look into the future

By JAMI KINTON
News Journal

MANSFIELD -- A sampling of three local opinions offers a bright outlook for the next 75 years in Mansfield, the United States and the world.

Cheryl Harner, president of the Greater Mohican Audubon Society, said as science progresses, benefits to the environment will increase.

About this Series

This installment is part of the News Journal's 75th anniversary celebration. The Mansfield News and the Mansfield Journal merged in December 1932.

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"I choose to be an optimist," Harner said. "In the future I think all homes will have geothermal heating or be solar-powered. I don't think we'll be mowing our lawns. We'll all have prairies or right now they're working on genetically engineered grasses that will help make our habitats better.

"Hopefully we'll end up with a cleaner environment."

She also hopes science helps slow global warming.

"At one time, we were extremely concerned about the ozone layer, but good science prevailed and chlorofluorocarbons, that were creating the holes in the ozone, were eliminated," Harner said. "Everyone can do little things to help reduce the effects of global warming. Recycling, car pooling and mowing your lawn less are all things we can do to cut down on this."

Harner said the species she expects to become extinct include those that depend on polar ice.

"If global warming is not slowed, the polar bears and others will suffer," she said. "Right now the glaciers are literally melting out from beneath them."

Harner said Americans need to be mindful that the United States is not an isolated island.

"Our birds fly to South America and what happens to their environment will have an effect on our birds someday," she said. "Our butterflies are another good example. They travel 60 miles north every decade.

"Although science will take us far, we have to all do our part, too," Harner said. "If we all work together, I foresee our environment as

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having a very positive future."

From a technology standpoint, The Ohio State University-Mansfield Coordinator of Instructional Technology Mike Collura said he has seen a lot of changes the past several years. He predicts there is more to come.

"Everything about computers has changed dramatically," Collura said. "When I used to do e-mails, it was on a black screen with green letters called monochrome. Now everything is so colorful and powerful. I don't think I can even describe how fast they've become. The data a personal computer can process now is a million times faster than it was 10 years ago."

Collura said everything has become smaller and faster, and he sees that pattern continuing.

"In the future, if you take out the monitor, I would say the rest of the computer would be about the size of an iPhone," he said. "I would say the next step would be to not have to type out anything. You would just say words into it."

Eventually, Collura said he predicts monitors will disappear altogether.

"I think the screen would just be like a holograph," he said. "Before long, I think everything will be wireless, and if you think we're connected now, soon, we're really going to be connected. We'll be a world without wires."

OSU-M associate professor in education Lynn Johnson said he has been in the field for 38 years.

"Over the years, our focus in education has been like a pendulum swinging," he said. "For a while, we'll put an emphasis on creativity and then things will make us go back to more conservative teaching. It just depends on the times."

Johnson said creativity will need to be the future focus.

"We need to be raising our children to be problem solvers and be able to think creatively," he said. "Global warming and foreign oil are going to be major problems in the future and so we'll need to have creative thinkers to be able to figure out how to handle these problems."

Johnson said he predicts every student will have a hand-held computer at their disposal.

He also hopes extra-curricular activities will not disappear.

"We need to stay focused on whole child development, tending to the physical, social and emotional aspects of a child," he said. "Extra-curriculars makes for much better whole child development."

Johnson said if current patterns continue, levy and budget issues will remain.

"Laws need to be changed in order for these issues to disappear," he said. "We need more of an equality of funding."

Technology will help for better communication between parents and teachers, Johnson said.

He added that buildings must be modified in the future to best take advantage of future technology. Johnson said he sees a focus placed more on the global community.


"With the way things are going, we will need a definite emphasis on learning other cultures," he said. "That will be the focus of social studies classes."

STORYCHAT 

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Mike Collura - OSU

"In the future, if you take out the monitor, I would say the rest of the computer would be about the size of an iPhone," he said. "I would say the next step would be to not have to type out anything. You would just say words into it."

AYE - IGHTE!!!!  I'm up for that one.

Posted: Mon Dec 24, 2007 7:34 pm

" Mansfield will no longer be the regional center ..."

HA! Ha Ha Ha ha haaaaaa.....Thatz funny

Whoever says it was in the first place!????? <LOL!!!>

So maybe Shelby will supercede it as Richland Co. seat??

How about Butler?? 

...possibly Mansfield/Ontario/Lexington as a single civic entity by maybe 2026??

Posted: Mon Dec 24, 2007 7:20 pm

thats 15 second of my life i'll never get back...what a waste of a post..

Posted: Mon Dec 24, 2007 5:16 pm

It is with some interest that I note that no one at the News Journal attempted a look into the future.

Some of the people who will be the decision maker for 75 years hence haven't even been born yet. They will have no ties to current methodology or sentiment. They will be driven by the social events and inventions of their time.They will look on 2007 as a nostalgic period of their grandparents.

I'll make a stab at predicting the future of news dissemination. The current trend of soliciting and then publishing the unfiltered, unedited opinions of the masses will eventually (along with declining financial viability) cause local news gathering to spiral into oblivion. There will be no News Journal and if any news center survives (which I doubt) any news will be presented from some type of regional entity. There will be no local papers (ie Marion, Bucyrus, Mansfield ,and others) News will travel through cyber-space and enter our awareness through some super email, web site, or some still to be developed device or method.

Mansfield will no longer be the regional center as it will wither and die as its population declines, its schools die from citizen neglect, and it is no longer relevant as a center of commerce and business.

OH by the way Happy New Year!!

Posted: Mon Dec 24, 2007 4:58 pm

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