

# Editorial/opinion

The DALLAS POST

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## Off the Top

BY DEBBY HIGGINS  
Post Editor

For the first time in a long time, I have been humbled. At first, my humble pie was a bit too much to swallow, but eventually my throat (and brain) relaxed enough to get a good belly-full of what it feels like to lose control. I can't say I liked that full feeling, but I quickly realized I could do nothing about it.

It all began when my hot water heater decided to spring a leak and unwater my basement with several inches of nice, cold water. I was lulled into believing this was a short-term, easily remedied situation; the drenched basement the worst of the problem. Boy, was I wrong!

After determining the miracle of modern ingenuity was beyond repair, I was faced with the prospect of purchasing a new one. Just what I needed! A major cost-outlay right after the Christmas binge and right before tax-time. Minor details compared to what was to come.

Thank my lucky stars I have a family member who is skilled in the art of installation. My helpful talented brother said he would take out the old heater and install the new one. Easier said than done, however. Oh, yes, my first major expenditure of 1988 came as ordered; just prior to the first big-time snowstorm of the year. Whew!

But in the meantime, two teenagers, with their fetish for squeaky-clean, bouncy hair, and a penchant for removing billions of odor-causing skin bacteria several times a day, continued to insist on constantly heating gallons of water in which to bathe. Ever try to fill a bathtub, bucketful by bucketful? I was beginning to feel like one of the brooms in the "Sorcerer's Apprentice". A small amount of water doesn't get you clean - TONS of water are needed to pass the purity and non-odiferous test. Raise your hand to be sure.

Carrying water quickly produces muscles like a truck driver and causes intense situations in your back. I have decided the modern body is not equipped to handle 19th century activities.

Meanwhile, back in 1988, my poor husband comes down with a dandy case of the Russian flu. And then, of course, Mother Nature throws a fastball in the form of the year's coldest weather.

But life goes on; the buckets keep heating, and the war on odor continues to rage. Days, (that seemed like months) go by and the children get sick. And my brother encounters work and time problems, and the weather gets colder, and my family gets sicker, and the buckets keep heating.

Finally, everything culminated in a new, working water heater, and a trip to the doctor for the sick ones. Life, as I knew it, resumed its normalcy.

With my trip to Cancun canceled because life at home took an about face, I had time to reflect. I thought how silly I was to get so bent out of shape over something that at best was minor inconvenience. Our ancestors endured much worse. That pioneer stock braved cold, sickness, famine, hard work, and isolation to survive. They did it and they did it well; and they carried and heated buckets of water fetched from a well, outside, EVERY DAY for their entire lives - generations of lives, really. They nursed their sick and they didn't cry about it or skip town to avoid it.

My problems, on the other hand, rated a one-half on a scale of ten things to get upset about. Life was, and can be, much harder.

So, while I was catering to my aching muscles, I felt pretty foolish about the whole situation. I realized I cannot control every aspect of living and crying or getting upset does no good.

Humble pie is best when taken on the chin. It hurts much less that way and funny thing; the wounds heal very quickly.

## Fiegelman says...what a field of winners!

BY RICHARD FIEGELMAN  
Special to The Post

By the time this column appears in print, the Iowa caucus will be over and the results history. With a total of 11 major (four Republicans and seven Democratic) candidates in the running, questions still remain as to whether any of them are qualified to be President of the United States. The Iowa caucus may be unimportant in itself save that the winners can stamp "frontrunner" on their foreheads, and hustle up some more campaign funding. Money more than ever is the name of political game 1988. I thought it might be interesting to take a brief look at each candidate, and then examine a few more not in the running who we may see at some future time. First on the Republican side:

1. V.P. George Bush - George's claim to the job is that he's next in line. He's making a half-hearted effort to show us that he's a regular guy. Sorry George, if you have the silver spoon be man enough to admit it. George knows a lot more than he's telling about Iran-scam, but yes, he's too much of a wimp to stand up and act like a man. Harry Truman would have booted his rear-end all over the oval office. A vote for George is a vote for another four years of question marks, kickbacks, and complacency.

2. Sen. Robert Dole - Dole has been too busy throwing pineapples in the bushes. The television specials have been portraying him as a man of character, but where he stands on many issues is unknown. We do know that he has a powerful, famous wife. This delivers Oprah Winfrey's, Phil Donahue's, Helen Gurley Brown's, and most employed with book out psychologists' votes.

3. Cong. Jack Kemp - If you want Ronald Reagan x four, and football on every night of the week, vote for Jack. If you are poor, middle class, intelligent, can walk and chew gum, or human, don't vote for Jack Kemp.

4. Pat Robertson - No longer calling himself Reverend, Pat is now a politician. Is he going to return all of the dough he made as a Reverend? Ha Ha! If you are human and respect equal rights for all, don't vote for Pat Robertson.

On the Democratic side:

1. Former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt - Little is known about Bruce, but he was last seen bicycling across Iowa. No hills you know. Bruce may make an interesting dark horse if the leaders falter. He certainly must have more character than the present (for now) governor of Arizona, Evan Mecham.

2. Sen Paul Simon - Paul is the grass roots candidate. He's been pounding the pavement. Paul is also a Pee Wee Herman look-alike. If Babbitt's not careful, Paul may steal his bicycle for this adventure.

3. Sen. Ted Kennedy - Oops, sorry...

4. Cong. Richard Gephardt - Dick looks like the favorite in Iowa which could catapult him to the top of the heap. He seems to be a man of level head and even tongue, a rarity these days. If Dick stays away from Donna Rice and arms deals, he could be taking the oath one day.

5. Gov. Michael Dukakis - (that's no caucus) - Mike seemed to be the favorite after the Hart attack, but he seems to be in the doldrums. This could change as the campaign continues. If Mike is elected and proves to be anything like the last New England president, John F. Kennedy, this nation may have hope yet. At least for optimism's sake.

6. Gary Hart - Gary could be a John Kennedy clone also, except that Norma Jean is no longer with us. Gary should learn that after his philandering, he can't expect to caucus.

7. The Rev. Jesse Jackson - Jesse would possibly make an interesting president, but after his "hymie" remarks of a few years ago, and his association with Farrakhan, that brotherhood jive doesn't cut any ice here. With maturity, and separation of church from state, we may be looking at Mr. President 1996. If this country matures with him.

8. Sen. Albert Gore - Albert is certainly a darkhorse. His youth may offer refreshment, but with a wife named Tipper running around trying to ban albums, he may have problems. If the liberals start making merry with his last name he's sunk.

No matter what happens, the next ten months will be a fun-filled frolic of name-calling, mudslinging and the usual cheap fare which accompanies our due process. I wouldn't have it any other way. See you next week...

## Rooney thinks Rather just wanted the truth

BY ANDY ROONEY  
Special to The Post

A great many of my left-wing, liberal, pinko friends are still angry at Dan Rather because of the confrontation the television news anchorman had with former Vice President George Bush. (I say "former" vice president because once a person becomes a candidate, he stops being what he was and starts devoting his time to running for office. George Bush is being paid for being a full-time vice president but obviously he isn't putting in a 9-to-5 day on the job.)

The reason so many liberals are mad at Dan is that they think he has helped George Bush become president. They aren't mad at him because he asked hard questions or because he was rude to the vice president of our country. Being rude to a candidate is different from being rude to the vice president.

Some people see the Rather-Bush affair in a different light, of course. They're pleased because they think it helped Bush's campaign and showed Dan Rather for what he really is, a hard-core left-winger who ought to move to Moscow if he doesn't like it here.

Almost all of us use the little bits of information that come our way to re-enforce the opinions we already have. We sort out the information and reject the stuff that doesn't work for us. A survey a few years ago showed that 60 percent of the Republicans think journalists have a liberal bias. These people are using the Bush-Rather debate as ammunition of their own and they're shooting it back at the newspeople.

Fortunately, I am an even-handed, fair, open-minded neutral observer who does not allow personal opinion or emotion to cloud my view of this incident. I'm able to see right from wrong in the argument between a wimp candidate who answers every question about his involvement in the arms-for-hostages deal with Iran by saying "I've already answered that" and my friend, the distinguished journalist, Dan Rather. I will, however, keep my opinion to myself in this matter and stick to the facts.

The day after the ill-starred interview, mobs of reporters and cameramen stalked out the CBS News building seeking comment from anyone who went in.

"Mr. Rooney," they yelled, trying to appeal to my ego by calling me "Mister" instead of "Hey, Andy!"

"Mr. Rooney, what did you think about the Dan Rather interview with George Bush?"

"I didn't see it," I lied, because I had to get to work. I also lied because I like Dan but thought he was a little wrong and didn't want to say so on television.

What no one understands is that Dan Rather is a news nut. News is his religion. While it is unlikely, Dan Rather is perfectly capable of doing a rudely aggressive interview with George Bush one day and voting for him the next without telling anyone he did it.

This obsession with news and the attempt to suppress personal opinion on the job is one of the attributes Rather shares with his predecessor, Walter Cronkite. When both Democratic and Republican leaders were trying to interest Cronkite in running for office, Walter said privately, "If they knew what I really think, probably neither of them would want me."

The public is always uneasy when reporters ask hard questions. Political candidates have made a science of avoiding real answers and the public seems to accept that. The candidates' favorite evasive response to a hard question is that the one Bush uses so often. "I've already answered that question." A candidate uses it when he or she hasn't answered the question at all and for some reason many Americans accept it. They think the candidate must have answered it and they've forgot what the answer was.

If everyone but me remembers what George Bush's answer was to the question "Before it happened did you know about the deal to give weapons to Iran in exchange for the hostages?" let me know what it was.

## '87 was religiously rough

BY CLYDE DUPIN  
Special to The Post

It was a tough year for morality and ethics. It started with Oral Roberts' fund raising appeals and got worst with the Jim Bakker sex and money scandal.

The Jim and Tammy Bakker PTL scandal was one of the top newstories of 1987. In March, Jim Bakker resigned after exposure of sex scandals and financial corruption. In May, Bakker was defrocked by his own Assemblies of God denomination when accused of homosexual activity and financial abuse.

Then came ex-preacher, Gary

Hart and the Donna Rice affair which sidetracked the front runner for the Democratic presidential nomination. Then in December, as though morality and honesty aren't important qualifications to be President, he re-enters the race.

The events of 1987 are a reminder that ethical conduct and morality are inseparable from ultimate values. The ultimate values are based on religious faith. The PTL scandal shows what dishonesty and materialistic thought can do when they replace God. Many true Christians have been hurt, but truth and righteousness will prevail and evil will be exposed and judged.

## Letters

To The Dallas Post:  
Please accept our heartfelt thanks for the beautiful article on page 3, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 1988. This masterpiece by a Master Writer concerning the death of our "Rosie" December 31, 1987, was appreciated by every member of our family, and by the comments received many, many other people.

We purchased 12 copies of the paper and gave them to our out-of-town family and friends.

We, of course, being long-time subscribers, know and have admired your writing for these many years.

Leo F. Mohen and Family

Dear Editor:  
"Democratic values in action", that is one way to describe the political career of Massachusetts Governor

Mike Dukakis. Now serving his third term as Governor, Mike Dukakis wants to bring all Americans leadership and economic stability that residents of Massachusetts now enjoy.

Since taking office unemployment in Mass. has plummeted from 11 percent to under 4 percent, and over 350,000 new jobs have been created since 1983. Mike Dukakis has also cut taxes three times, balanced numerous budgets and has turned

Mass. into an economic show place. This record of excellence was recognized when Newsweek magazine asked governors across the country to choose America's most effective governor. They chose Mike Dukakis.

Sincerely,  
John Clisham  
Wilkes-Barre

## The Post says "thanks"

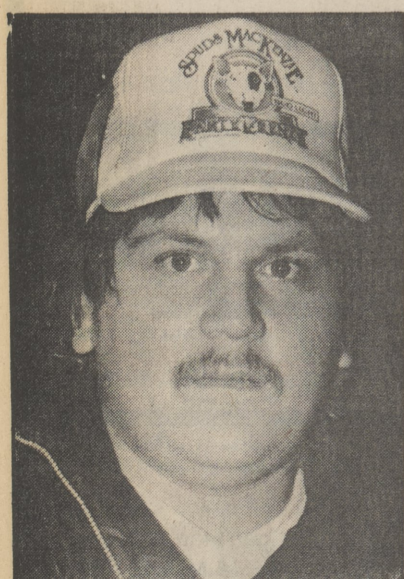
The Post wishes to thank Mrs. Arlene Richards Updyke for coming forward to identify the school children in our recently published, old photographs.

Mrs. Updyke a Back Mountain resident, is pictured in one of the photos as a student at the Beaumont school in 1908. She was able to call upon her excellent memory to recall all but a very few of the names of those pictured. The second photo, also

taken at the Beaumont school, was dated 1911 by Mrs. Updyke. We extend our gratitude to this most cooperative Back Mountain native for her assistance.

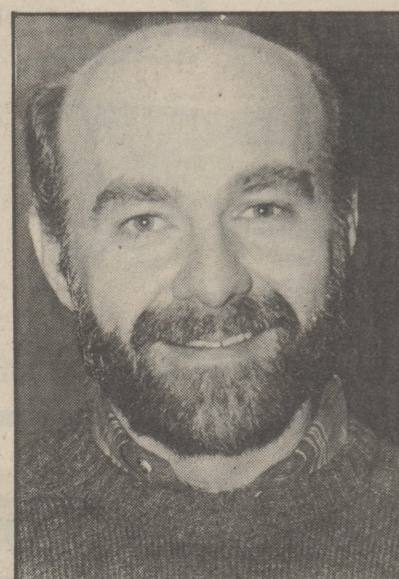
Look for an upcoming feature story in The Dallas Post about Mrs. Updyke, a lady who has led a very exciting life. Mrs. Updyke has lived, experienced, and is a part of much of the rich history of the Back Mountain.  
Debbly Higgins, Editor

## The Post asks: "How do you say 'I love you' on Valentine's Day?"



Ed Fedrow

Ed Fedrow  
Assistant Foreman  
Dallas  
"Maybe some candy. Last year she got 21 roses, a bottle of Asti Spumanti, and a night on the town."



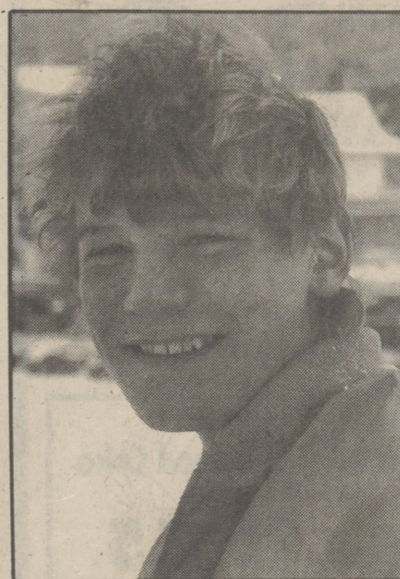
Joseph Yurko

Joseph Yurko, 37  
Hair Dresser  
Shavertown  
"Appreciating all the people in my life and love all my family friends and people I meet every day."



Joe Menziff

Joe Menziff, 15  
Student  
Larksville  
"Take her to the food kitchen."



Joe Sims

John Sims, 14  
Student  
Harveys Lake  
"I'll take her for a ride on my trike."



Bernadine Chimock

Bernadine Chimock  
Wife and mother  
Dallas Township  
"Starting out with a beautiful card, a big kiss when he comes through the door and having his favorite meal, lasagna."



Jenny Ondish

Jenny Ondish, 18  
Asst. Manager  
Kunkle  
"A sweet card and then dinner and to the movies."