



J.W.J.

Earth Day, red tape and red lights

By J.W. JOHNSON

As the euphoria of Earth Day is shunted away in our video tape mentality each spring—we can recall that we were concerned with it; just roll the tape—what is needed is continuing grass roots involvement in the real world fact that we cannot continue to mortgage our environmental future.

And we have been doing so throughout history. Some background...

Scholars will tell us that civilization began with grain growers in Mesopotamia, ending up today as what is now desert in the country of Iraq.

How did it become desert? Our forebears developed irrigation systems which could not be sustained in that part of the world. The parallels today are continued forest destruction, and acid rain, both caused by our economic activities.

Our basis for these economic decisions begins with our assignment of a higher value to a dollar of income we receive today than to a dollar promised for delivery a year from now. We have a tendency to 'discount' the future dollar to a lower present value.

In the same way we discount future costs. The further into the future a cost is delayed, the lower its current value.

We as a nation must convince our governments and our economic engines to stop discounting the

future. We have only one planet, and we're only renters.

Pet Peeves
I don't know about you but the following really aggravates me:

—The people who go into (generally) an eating establishment, pick up a newspaper, read it, and then put it back on the pile without paying for it.

—The folks (no doubt living in lower Slobovia for the last 20 years) who continue to be unaware that a right turn on red is permitted.

—The morons who drive 25 miles per hour in a 45 miles per hour zone until, you guessed it, there is a passing zone. It's at this point that the world famous idiot driver's leg spasm miraculously strikes the driver, causing him or her to accelerate to or beyond the speed limit until, you guessed it again, the passing zone is gone and you are stuck. This only happens, of course, on the way to the seventh and deciding game of the World Series, the birth of your first child, or the public lynching of those folks who won't turn right on red. And I'm sure none of us would want to miss that.

—And finally, the folks who, after failing to turn right on red and after going 25 miles per hour in a 45 miles per hour zone get to town, then proceed to the drive-in window (at any bank) whereupon a year's worth of banking business is conducted. There are times when I'm almost persuaded to join the NRA...almost.

Readers are encouraged to anonymously send in Pet Peeves for publication in future columns.

Construction Definitions
A good friend of mine recently passed along the following definitions...and you know who you are:

—Contractor: A gambler who never gets to shuffle, cut or deal.

—Bid opening: A poker game in which the losing hand wins.

—Bid: wild guess carried out to two decimal places.

—Low bidder: A contractor who is wondering what he left out.

—Engineer's estimate: The cost of construction in heaven.

—Project manager: The conductor of an orchestra in which every musician is from a different union.

—Critical path method: A management technique for losing your shirt under perfect control.

—OSHA: A protective coating made by half baking a mixture of fine print, split hairs, red tape and baloney, usually applied at random with a shotgun.

—Strike: An effort to increase egg production by strangling the chicken.

—Delayed payment: A tourniquet applied at the pockets.

—Completion date: A point at which liquidated damages begin.

—Auditor: people who go in after the war is lost and bayonet the wounded.

Wrecked warship found in Harveys Lake

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

The wreckage of an ancient warship has been discovered in the murky depths of Harveys Lake.

Norwegian explorer Bjorn Fjord discovered the wrecked ship Tuesday, March 31. To prevent suspicion from being aroused, Fjord has disguised the top of his submarine to look like a fishing boat.

"There must be something special about the muck in Harveys Lake to have kept the ship so well preserved," said Fjord. "The 13 bodies of crewmen we've found all seem to have died violently, but without any wounds. At this point, we're theorizing that the poor blokes drank the water."

Fjord, a mystic, had fasted for seven years in the remote moun-

tain tops of his homeland until he recently had a vision of Harveys Lake.

"I searched for pictures on postcards for months before I found the right lake, Harveys Lake," said Fjord.

"Along with the vision, there was a voice, so booming, so powerful, I thought my eardrums would explode," said Fjord. "The voice said 'take SCUBA lessons!'"

Fjord believes the 40-foot long wooden ship is British, sent on a secret mission to recruit Native Americans to help repel the Spanish Armada.

"We have found certain documents promising the Native Americans parts of Spain if they would help Drake repel the invaders," said noted British archaeologist Sr. Truckle Stodgelichen, who is

assisting Fjord.

Stodgelichen believes that the ship sailed across the Atlantic and up rivers until it found its way to Harveys Lake.

Fjord believes there is a teleportation device on the bottom of the lake, linking it with Loch Ness, and the Bermuda Triangle.

PennDOT engineers are searching for the devices to see if they can be used to alleviate traffic congestion on Route 309.

Fjord said he's had more visions, sent to him by people from the planet Neptune, telling him to go to Bermuda posthaste. And once again the visions have been accompanied by practical advice.

"The voice said, 'Bring hard salami!' It's a delicacy to them," explained Fjord.

—April Fool

Water Forum will continue April 3 at PSU

The Back Mountain Citizens Council, the League of Women Voters, and Penn State Wilkes-Barre are sponsoring the final session of a two-part seminar on groundwater on Friday, April 3, at 7 p.m. on the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus in Lehman.

The first part of the series was held on March 24. The topic, "Groundwater Resources," covered

water tables, aquifers, and the effects of land use on groundwater.

Part two, a panel discussion, will focus on land use affecting groundwater, and proposals for regulation and enforcement. Panelists include: Representatives George Hasay, Jr. and Phyllis Mundy; Larry Taylor, Susquehanna River Basin Commission; David Kaufman, PA Gas

& Water Co.; James Ward, geologist and chairman of the Back Mountain Water Commission and Louise Wasserott, president of the

League of Women Voters. Moderator will be Ray Boyle, vice-president of the Back Mountain Citizens Council. The event will be held in the Center for Technology and the community is urged to attend. Admission is free.

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