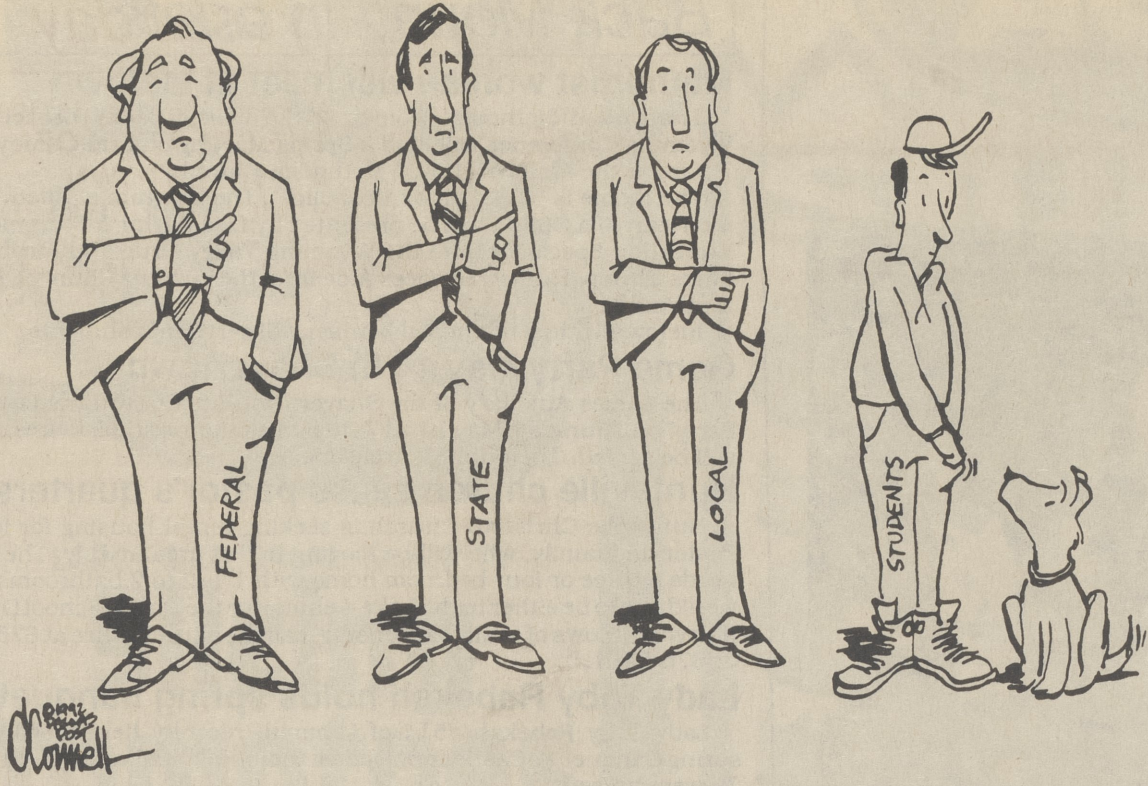


WHERE WILL FUNDS FOR SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES COME FROM?



J.W.J.

A kid can't even eat dirt anymore

By J. W. JOHNSON

Earth Day—just two weeks ago. You would have had to have been living in a plastic soda bottle not to have at least heard of it. But what is Earth Day?

As issues of collective importance often are first raised by extremists on either side of the political spectrum, Earth Day was first observed in 1970. The event was launched by radical, left-wing activists out to emasculate corporate America—the making of profit seen then by those extremists to be equally as sinful as spoiling the environment in the process.

What Earth Day has evolved into some 20 years later is an observance which will not be marked by hundreds of millions of people in 140 different countries. The radicals are still out front leading the charge; thankfully, those closer to the middle of the spectrum have chosen to at least hear the message and act upon it. The message is:

There is only one Mother Earth, and we, its caretakers, have not only raped the woman, but have attempted to poison her food and water with toxic wastes, strangle her with foul air, and suffocate her under mountains of garbage.

Toward the latter, it's marvelous to see municipal recycling programs underway. It wasn't marvelous to see several months ago at Christmas yet more examples of gross excess in packaging, leading to more and more landfill problems.

All cite just one example of personal experience. I went doll shopping for my 6 year-old niece. It had to be a certain doll; Santa had received a specific request.

I traveled far and wide in my quest (and no, I'm not going to tell you the name of this doll; if its marketers want to tell you let them do so by advertising in this newspaper).

Anyway....I finally found the doll

in question. What I also found there, and everywhere throughout the trip, was that the doll only took up about 20 percent of its packaging...you've all seen them: the fifteen inch doll in the yard and a half box.

This is an obvious waste of energy to make the original packaging, in addition to providing that much more bulk for a landfill to bury. The marketing theory is that the bigger the box, the more likely it is to be seen and begged for by the child.

On the other hand, it seems that corporate America has finally (and because it is not only socially conscious, but it will also become profitable) jumped on the environmental bandwagon. Almost daily we now see T.V. and magazine ads touting environmental awareness by this or that corporation. It would behoove those corporations to move beyond the public relations effort as it is now not only the radicals who are screaming about the environment, but the so-called silent majority are at least acknowledging individual responsibility for environmental awareness.

Another personal experience example: While serving in the military, I was a vehicle mechanic. Back in the 1960's we repaired the vehicle by repairing most of its components. Now mechanics don't know how to repair because most automotive components are made to be thrown away and replaced. Just where do we think all those used, unrepaired components go?

Not that I agree with all the issues still being promoted by the extremists; for example, some see nuclear power as an enemy.

Agreed, nuclear power and its attendant toxic wastes are frightening. But what are the alternatives in a society which values its individual liberties over its collective concerns. The world's supply of oil is limited and coal production will never be able to keep up with demand. Unless we go to collective housing (as opposed to single-family homes) on a large scale, the alternative energy sources of solar, wind, geo-thermal or tides are just not financially unfeasible unless approached collectively.

For those who haven't been living in the aforementioned a plastic soda bottle, you also must have noticed that many politicians have run up the environmental flag of late. There are a few with long-standing beliefs, i.e., the liberal turned Libertarian, Jerry Brown; President Bush who is long on environmental rhetoric, and short on environmental action; and Bill Clinton who says what he thinks is necessary to say.

How are we going to pay for taking the necessary action now that we've become environmentally aware? According to public information distributed by Congressman Joseph McDade, nearly \$1 billion is spent by the military in northeast Pennsylvania alone, with \$300 billion earmarked for the entire military budget this year.

Perhaps now, as the world begins to see the folly of the military/industrial complex, we can begin to enjoy some peace dividends. And one of the first beneficiaries should be putting those dollars not spent on the military where our environmental mouths are, and should be..

The economic view

Knowledge will be power in 21st century

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

In a book which marks the end of the trilogy series prepared by Alvin Toffler, perhaps the most well known US futurist, the new power allies of wealth, knowledge, and violence are expressly interpreted as being the dominant characteristics of the 21st century. In his other books, "Future Shock" and "The Third Wave" Toffler has correctly forecast the information explosion which has woven its impact web across the world.

In his new book, he identifies changes in global and domestic power as shifting rapidly away from established centers. He notes that "only rarely does an entire globe-girdling system of power fly apart in this fashion. It is an even rarer moment in history when all the rules of the power game change at once, and the very nature of power is revolutionized. Yet that is exactly what is happening today. Power, which to a large extent defines us as individuals and as nations, is itself being redefined."

One of the most riveting insights which he makes is that "the most important economic development of our lifetime has been the rise of a new system for creating wealth, based no longer on muscle but on mind...The spread of this new knowledge economy is, in fact, the

explosive new force that has heralded the advanced economies into bitter global competition, confronted the socialist nations with

their hopeless obsolescence, forced many "developing nations" to scrap their traditional economic strategies, and has now profoundly dislocating power relationships in both personal and public spheres." To accent the powerful influence of knowledge, Toffler notes that "information flowing from these technologies will transform all our production and distribution systems, creating vast power vacuums that completely new groups and institutions are already racing to fill."

Toffler believes the entire industries are racing to position themselves for the future by building their own special-purpose networks while others are racing to lay in place global multiple purpose networks that will carry message for anyone. He believes we are literally seeing the laying of the economy's infrastructures for the 21st century through the emergency of "several types or layers of electronic networks; private nets primarily designed for the employee of a single firm; hook-ups between individual companies and their customers and/or vendors; and industry-wide networks. The newest industry is so called generic networks-common carriers-which are needed to connect these lower-level networks to one another and to transport messages for everyone else.

In looking at the global perspective, Toffler notes that the gap between nations which have often been viewed as north and south is

really a gap which is informational and electronic; that is, between the slow and the fast. The winds of technology are rapidly overcoming the traditional ways in which nations jump start new development opportunities. As an example he cites that it is not necessary to lay copper or even fiber optic cable across thousands of miles of jungle, ice or sand. Portable phones will communicate directly with the nearest overhead satellite which will pass the message along. Other advantages will similarly slash the huge cost of telecommunications, bringing them within reach of today's impoverished countries.

Finally, Toffler provides a list of assumptions upon which Power-Shift springs. Some of the assumptions noted include the following:

-Conflict is an inescapable social fact.

-Power struggles are not necessarily bad.

-Violence, which is chiefly used to punish, is the least versatile source of power. Wealth is a far more flexible tool of power. Knowledge is the most versatile and basic. Knowledge is even more maldis-tributed than arms and wealth.

If, indeed, knowledge is power, then the power brokers of tomorrow at a local, county or regional scale will be those who control the assembly of information and can use it effectively in making decisions of importance which will influence many generations well into the new millennium.

Library news

There's a special book sale on at the library

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The display case at the Back Mountain Memorial Library is featuring a collection of Breyer Model Horses borrowed from Karen Appel of Dallas. Karen is 14 years old and in 9th grade at Dallas Senior High School. She has been collecting these horses for four years and now owns 71 horses. Needless to say, this girl loves horses, which is why she started collecting them. Most of her horses have been purchased through magazine articles and mail order catalogs. They can be bought locally in some areas and also available sometimes at flea markets.

Karen also makes halters, bridles, saddles and tack and has her own business selling these. She sells these through mail order in catalogs. Her company name is Sugarhoof Ranch Tack Company and the name of the farm is Sugarhoof Ranch. The display includes Appaloosas, Hunters, Percheron, Palomino and other kinds of horses.

The display will be at the library until June 3.

The library will be conducting a special book sale from now on until the library auction, which begins July 9. The books in the basement store rooms will be sold for \$1.00 a bag plus one free bag. Buy one, get one free. There are many good books there to choose from.

The book booth at the auction is looking for children's books and cookbooks for the booth. These are good sellers and are often hard to come by. These books and any other materials for the auction may be brought into the library at any time when we are open.

The Book Club will meet on Monday, May 18 at 1:30 in the reference room at the library. The program will be "Show and Tell" special items brought by members for sharing. Members are urged to attend and guests are always welcome. Refreshments will be served.

The library has a 1989 edition of the Thomas Register of American Manufacturers for sale. This is a

23 volume set and included products and services, company profiles and a catalog file. We would like to sell the set for \$50 which would be a bargain for the right person.

New children's books at the library: "Little Mouse's Birthday Cake" by Thacher Hurd is a special story about learning that birthdays can be full of surprises.

"Where's Our Mama?" by Diane Goode tells what happens when two children become separated from their mother in a bustling Paris train station. The setting is elegant and stylish.

Eric Carle's "Dragons, Dragons and Other Creatures That Never Were" is a celebration of mythology and legends from around the world. Playful centaurs, mysterious garuda and others.

"Dial-a-Croc" by Mike Dumbleton and Ann James gives the readers the fun of an unusual business partnership that develops into a real friendship. An interesting story.

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