

# THE TRI-VOLUNTEER

1. REGISTRATING.

2. DIRECTING.

3. QUENCHING.



J.W.J.

## Right to a gun is not found in Constitution

By J.W. JOHNSON

Have you been following the recent controversy over the Boston banning of the so-called "Super Soaker" water gun?

It seems that the Mayor of Boston (he claims to have only discouraged promotion of the toy) has banned the sale of these weapons in the city of Boston, following the death of a child there.

It also seems that the death came after a child had 'soaked' an adult with one of so-called 'toys', whereupon the adult went home, retrieved a real weapon, shooting the boy and killing him.

The toy has also been used by some children when it was filled with bleach, and has blinded some children...well, then, of course it should be banned, right?

—Item: During the years 1979-1987, handguns were involved in an average of 9,200 murders, 12,100 rapes, 210,000 robberies and 407,600 assaults each of those years.

—Item: On an average day, 10 children, 18 and under, are killed with handguns.

—Item: In 1988, 62 of the 78 law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty were killed with handguns.

Item: An estimated 200 million firearms are in the possession of private citizens in the United States. Some 60 to 70 million of these weapons are handguns.

Shouldn't the sheer weight of this mean a ban of at least handguns?

One need only look at our morbid wallowing in the reflected glory of our so-called successful Gulf War effort to see this will be difficult. It's equally evident in our slang. This nation is so wrapped up in the mental cavalry of force backed by weaponry that our very language is littered with verbal shell casings. We're a nation riddled (see what I mean) with the idea of might equals right.

Just listen to our militaristic national anthem, and its recent stint in the top 20 pop and country music charts following the Gulf War.

Or how about our entire sports mentality, when we're either "throwing the long bomb" or "rifling" singles to center field. We can't even have a casual, non-

threatening conversation in this country without it being "shooting the bull." And, uh, lest I be accused of "going off half cocked" or "shooting from the hip", read on...

Perhaps because of, and certainly despite of our so-called entertainment being filled with incredible violence, the real killing continues, particularly among the young. Yet attempting to curb such violence receives only lip service until a famous person is involved, i.e., former press secretary, James Brady, injured during an assassination attempt on former President Ronald Reagan, or when a famous personality such as Beatle John Lennon is gunned down.

In discussing death by weapon, a distinction needs to be made between the types of crimes involved: crimes of passion and crimes against persons and property.

Legislation could help in the former case. Words would not help in the latter. Murder is already against the law.

However, anti-gun control advocates argue that control legislation attempts to manage inanimate objects (guns) instead of animate acts (persons using guns).

That's a valid argument. Passage of stiff, mandatory sentences for gun use in the commission of any crime is long overdue.

In the final analysis, use of the weapon is the primary issue. Anti-control advocates are correct that some criminals will always obtain and use guns. That's because a criminal's intent is to commit a crime using deadly force.

However, the corresponding argument that handgun control would then disarm the law abiding, and allow criminals to run loose upon a helpless citizenry, is invalid because the vast majority (more than 90 percent) of deaths which occur as the result of handgun use result from crimes of passion or accidents, not defense against a criminal.

In fact, and because of easily available and concealable handguns, our society has far more of its law abiding loved ones murdering other law abiding loved ones that it does criminals murdering law abiding citizens. And it's not because the criminal fears death at the hands of a gun wielding citizen that few citizen/criminal

confrontations actually occur. It's because crimes of passion and crimes with criminal intent generally involved vastly different sets of circumstances.

It also seems that anti-control advocates have little faith in our constitution as a whole to keep this nation strong and free; instead relying on a deliberate misinterpretation of its Second Amendment as a foundation for anti-control views.

The constitution does not, in fact, categorically and automatically give every citizen the right to be a vigilante committee of one.

The Second Amendment, when read in its entirety, and when placed in the context of the constitutional debates at the time, has absolutely nothing, repeat nothing to do with private ownership of guns. The amendment reads:

"A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

Clearly, the writers of this amendment were preserving a collective right, not an individual right. A review of the debate at the time reveals no doubt that the premise behind the Second Amendment was fear that individual states would be at the mercy of a federal army; hence the assertion of states' rights to mount its own army. That concept evolved into National Guards and, at the local levels, constables, sheriffs and police departments...all for the security of a free state.

Anti-control advocates consistently torture the meaning of this amendment by only reading and asserting its second phrase. As well, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled on several occasions that the Second Amendment does not guarantee individual rights to gun ownership.

Now if anti-control advocates want to assert the right of individual gun ownership as a matter of state, local or federal law, that's an entirely different question...a question which can be addressed in the political process, the proper forum for such debate.

But, please, do not seek refuge in the Second Amendment for an individual right of gun ownership. That right simply isn't there. It never was.

## Library news

### The Library has become computerized

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is proud to announce that we have received the Memorex Telex computer through the joint effort of the Luzerne County Library System, which is the CD Rom Union Catalog.

In May of 1991, we sent our shelf list to BroDart for the conversion of the district libraries into the CD Union Catalog. The system is ready to use and is a great information source for the library and the patrons. The computer has the records of all the 10 libraries in the County district system on it and each author, title or subject you call up will direct you to the availability of the particular item and where it can be found.

We are using the standalone public access catalog, Le Pac which give patrons fast, easy access to the library's catalog. The system has a number of standard features

built into it, designed to make searching as user-friendly and at the same time as powerful as possible. The LePac automation reference manual is with the computer for additional help.

The CD Rom Union Catalog is like a card catalog on screen, only much faster. The Union Catalog is amazing and most people will be able to use it the first time they try. It is here for the patrons to use.

The end of the summer reading program will be held in the children's room at the library on Friday, Aug. 14 from 1 to 3 in the afternoon. The party is for the library reading teams of the Olympic Reading Team.

The Book Club has received a selection of new books for their shelf as follows: "Sorry To The Grave" by Dell Shannon is a mystery that returns to the southern California locale. It is up to detective Dan Valentine to uncover a strange, lethal pattern among Josephine's former patients. A story with snowballing tension.

"Decked" by Carol Higgins Clark is a mystery that debuts Regan Reilly, a female detective, who is back in Oxford for the 10th reunion of her Junior Year Abroad at St. Polycarp's. A dead body turns up under the bushes, an old roommate of Regan's.

"Looking For Leo" by Gloria Nagy is the story of Lindy Lampi, a world-weary veteran of a Beverly Hills childhood who is facing one of the biggest challenges of her life. Her little girl, Tess, is ill, confined to a hospital bed and needs a bone-marrow transplant.

"Kelly Park" by Jean Stubbs introduces us to Flavia Pollard, chef-patronne of an acclaimed bistro south of the Thames—but a bistro now closing its doors. Her life thus far has been a malange of satisfaction and disappointment; her career as a successful restaurant owner has given her wondrous fulfillment, but her soul has been wounded by a ruling husband.

### Three retire from Offset Paperback

Three employees recently retired from Offset Paperback.

Softus (Duke) Jensen worked for Offset Paperback for over 14 years. Mr. Jensen was an Apprentice in the Prep Department. Prior to OPM, Duke was employed by Empire Catering and Pioneer Manufacturing Company.

Rita Kugler, formerly Rita

Wisneski, was employed by Offset Paperback for over 18 years. Rita held various positions in the shipping, order fulfillment and purchasing departments. Prior to OPM Rita was employed by the Luzerne County Association for Retarded Children and College Misericordia.

William R. Bowen was employed

for over 19 years in Offset Paperback's Cover Press Department as a pressman. Mr. Bowen's printing career also includes employment at Haddon Craftsmen and Keystone Printing.

Offset extends its congratulations, best wishes and good health to all three retirees in their retirement.

### Sr. Lythgoe named Mercy communications director

Sr. Maureen McCann, RSM, President of the Sisters of Mercy, Dallas Regional Community announces the appointment of Sr. Anne Lythgoe, OP, as Director of

Communications for the Sisters of Mercy effective August 1, 1992.

As Director of Communications, Sister Anne's primary responsibilities include the internal and

external publications of the Dallas Regional Community, communication with area media and networking with the national Communications Office of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Sr. Anne received her master's degree in 1983 from the Newhouse School of Public Communication, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

and has an extensive background in graph design, organizational communications and public relations. Among other areas, she has served her community in retreat ministry as the retreat coordinator

at the Dominican Retreat House, Elkins Park, PA and as the program director at the Dominican Retreat, McLean, VA.

### Atty. Mark McNealis named law firm principal

Atty. Mark P. McNealis of Sweet Valley has been named principal in the regional law firm of Hourigan, Kluger, Spohrer and Quinn, P.C.

McNealis has been a member of the firm's Commercial Department with responsibilities in the areas of Commercial, Industrial and Residential Real Estate transactions; Zoning; Subdivision and Land Development Law, including extensive practice before all municipal and governmental authorities; Banking and Finance; Corporate Law and Commercial Litigation.

A graduate of John S. Fine High School, Nanticoke, Atty. McNealis received his law degree from Temple University School of Law, Philadelphia, and holds a bachelor's degree in Government and English from King's College, Wilkes-Barre. He is also a graduate of the Leadership Wilkes-Farre program.

McNealis serves on the Board of Directors of the Rural Health Corporation of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the North Lake Improvement Association.

He and his wife Anne Daddio McNealis have a son, Sean Michael.

## Learn & Play Places for Little Folks

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## Misericordia

College Misericordia  
Dallas, PA 18612

FALL 1992  
GRADUATE COURSE SCHEDULE

EDUCATION			
EDU 500 01	Issues & Trends In Education	3	Thur. 6:00-8:30 pm
EDU 504 01	Curriculum Design	3	Mon. 6:00-8:30 pm
EDU 505 01	Teaching/Learning	3	Thur. 6:00-8:30 pm
EDU 581 01	Seminar Elem. Ed	3	Mon. 3:30-6:00 pm
EDU 585 01	ST/Staff Development	3	Wed. 6:00-8:30 pm
EDU 585 02	ST/Cooperative Learning	3	TBA
EDU 585 04	ST/Curriculum Update	1	TBA
EDU 591 01	Curriculum Specialization I	3	TBA
EDU 592 01	Curriculum Specialization II	3	TBA
EDU 594 01	Professional Contribution Plan Seminar	3	Tue. 4:00-6:30 pm
EDU 595 01	Professional Contribution	3	TBA
EDU 599 01	Independent Study	3	TBA
NURSING			
NSG 500 01	Analysis of Micro/Macro Systems	3	Fri. 12:30-2:20 pm
NSG 500 02	Analysis of Micro/Macro Systems	3	Wed. 7:30-9:20 pm
NSG 505 01	T-eaching/L-eaming Strategies	3	Wed. 6:00-8:30 pm
NSG 505 02	T-eaching/L-eaming Strategies	3	Fri. 2:30-4:20 pm
NSG 506 01	Adult Health: Micro Systems Nursing I	3	Fri. 9:30-11:20 am
NSG 508 01	Community Health: Macro Systems Nursing I	3	Fri. 9:30-11:20 am
NSG 508 02	Community Health: Macro Systems Nursing I	3	Wed. 5:30-7:20 pm
NSG 512 01	Concepts and Theories in Nursing	3	Wed. 5:30-7:20 pm
NSG 512 02	Concepts and Theories in Nursing	3	Fri. 9:30-11:20 am
NSG 522 01	Macro II: Child Nursing	3	Fri. 4:30-6:30 pm
NSG 550 20	Issues & Trends in Nursing & Health Care (Meets Monday & Thursday, 8/24 to 10/15)	3	8:10-10:30 pm
NSG 575 01	Nursing Thesis Seminar	3	Fri. 12:30-2:20 pm
NSG 575 02	Nursing Thesis Seminar	3	Wed. 5:30-7:20 pm
NSG 585 01	Thesis Advisement	3	TBA
ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT			
OM 500 01	Organizational Behavior	3	Tue. 6:00-8:30 pm
OM 500 30	Organizational Behavior	3	Sat. 1:00-5:00 pm
OM 510 01	Financial Management I	3	Fri. 2:30-4:20 pm
OM 510 30	Financial Management I	3	Sat. 8:00 am-12:00 noon
OM 515 01	Research Methods	3	Wed. 7:30-9:20 pm
OM 530 01	Legal Aspects of Administration	3	Mon. 6:00-8:30 pm
OM 540 01	Grant/Contract Development & Management	3	Tue. 6:00-8:30 pm
OM 553 01	Fundamentals of Employment Benefit Management	3	Thur. 6:00-8:30 pm
OM 559 30	Special topics in Administration	3	Sun. 1:00-5:00 pm
OM 595 01	Professional Contribution	3	TBA
OM 596 01	Administrative Practicum	3	TBA
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY			
OT 550 30	Theory Analysis	3	Sat. 8:00am-12:00 noon

EVENING MEETING DATES: Monday, August 24 to Tuesday, December 8.  
WEEKEND MEETING DATES: September 26-27, October 10-11, October 24-25, November 7-8, November 21-22, December 5-6.

**Registrations Currently Being Accepted**

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**Continuing Education**

**Room 129**

**Administration Building**

**For Information, call (717) 675-3862.**