

J.W.J.

Horror is greater with better press agent

By J.W. JOHNSON

The brutal horrors now being revealed in newly independent Bosnia and Herzegovina come to us in living and dying color:

—Pictures of emaciated prisoners at death camps.

—Eyewitness accounts of the systematic raping of thousands of women.

—Children being fed bread upon which insecticide has been poured so they could be laughed at as they died horribly.

And all this is in the name of 'ethnic cleansing'

Now where have we heard that term before? Or perhaps it was heard using different words. Does the term "final solution" jog your memory?

Having access to the media is most important weapon any group can have in seeking to promote its point of view.

For example, with the unspeakable atrocities being revealed daily in Bosnia, the world can finally see that Germany and its people do not have a lock on the ability to be inhuman...to, for example, impose a "final solution" in elimination of Jews during World War II.

Of course, the systematic slaying of Jews by the Germans in World War II was a human tragedy on a monstrous scale; but it has also been true that better press agents have always made the aptly named and justifiably infamous "holocaust" a household word. When other nations and other peoples have also suffered at the hands of human monsters; i.e., the current events in Bosnia and Europe's gypsies were also systematically slain by Hitler during World War II, but their numbers were comparatively small, and they had no media voice.

Therefore, the word 'holocaust'

has become a household word, and other genocides have fallen by the awareness roadside...as would have the current one in Bosnia were it not for an independent media.

Equally true is that media access is critical to maintaining a certain point of view. Take, for example, the current perspective on AIDS in this country.

Virtually everyone has an opinion about the scourge known as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, terrifyingly otherwise known as AIDS.

(My own belief is that everyone has the AIDS virus and it's those among us who are particularly susceptible to environmental degradation whose bodies, first, permit the AIDS virus to become active and, later, then succumb to the side effects of the full-blown illness.)

And Magic Johnson, of course, is that enormously talented and personable basketball player who recently announced that he is infected with the virus known to cause AIDS.

The publicity surrounding Johnson's acknowledgement is that the activity that got Johnson into trouble is taking a back seat to Johnson's otherwise pristine image; indeed, his magic smile being used to tell people about the horrors of AIDS without enough emphasis on the behavior which caused the problem in the first place.

Instead of Johnson telling us that his behavior was wrong, he's simply telling us to use condoms. In other words, and according to many persons, Johnson ought to be as much publicly pilloried for his courage.

Lost in the much ballyhooed courage of Johnson in acknowledging his infection with the virus which causes AIDS are the "women,

women and more women" which Johnson has admitted was his life-style.

Also lost in the AIDS discussion is that this disease, while deadly, affects a relatively small number of people, less than 225,000 people in the United States having been diagnosed with full-blown AIDS.

And, like other groups with better press agents, for the first time in history we have a communicable and contagious disease which obviously presents a major and national health problem, but whose progenitors have not been quarantined.

Why is that?

Because the vast majority of the people with AIDS are among the most talented, creative and brightest people we have, and as such they have media access. Therefore we've been made to feel guilty about even considering a quarantine which at another time and place, and given the deadly nature of this disease, would have been done without even thinking about it.

AIDS is a frightening specter hanging over this country, indeed, the entire planet. Medical Science is working hard to find some answers. Bringing it under control will not be easy.

And you can be sure that if this were an affliction of primarily white, straight males, the emphasis on what is being done, and what to do about it in the meantime, would be vastly different than it is today.

The irony in both these issues is that without an independent media, we would be unaware of much of what is going on in Bosnia. At the same time, this so-called independent media continues to be manipulated by AIDS activists and other groups with media access.

And you thought this job was easy.

Library news

Gwen Zarambo's trolls are on display

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has a collection of trolls in the display case for the month of September. These were borrowed from Gwen Zarambo of Dallas. Gwen will be in 7th grade at Dallas Middle School. She is 12 years old and started to collect them because they were colorful and she liked them. There are 30 trolls in the display including a funny pink haired one which was the first one she received. She now receives new ones as gifts, for birthdays and holidays.

The three large ones seated in the center of the case are called Troll kids, and they can change their clothes with each other. There is a Santa troll and a miniature Santa with troll Christmas elves; one with red boots and one with green. The Thanksgiving man and lady were given to her by her Mom

and Dad and she set up a Thanksgiving table for the display with the goodies she made herself. There are two St. Patrick trolls standing on blocks which spell LUCK; a special pizza one with a table including pizza and Italian bread.

There is a springtime boy; Happy Birthday girl; Halloween trolls for pencils; 2 Easter ones with an Easter egg and a sleepy boy and girl. A special pillow has a treasure troll who is a cheerleader and a troll clown with balloons. There is a necklace treasure troll. There are 3 valentines with two larger ones; a small key chain and a magnet; 3 babies in diapers; a surfer with surf board and sea shells and an LA Raiders football troll. A unique troll is a gift from her Grandfather from Norway. These trolls make a colorful display and will be at the library until September 23.

New books at the library: "Sinful" by Susan Johnson is the story

of Sinjin St. John, Duke of Seth, who had never met a lady who could bring him down to his knees; until Chelsea Fergusson slipped into his carriage, begged him to grant one small favor—and forever changed his life! He tried to act the gentleman with the delectable minx, but he needed him to save her from marriage to a man she didn't love. A sensational, sizzling and sensual novel.

"Seven For A Secret" by Victoria Holt includes seduction, scandal, suicide, and murder—as the secrets that unfold in this enthralling new novel, where love and truth will triumph at last. A simple rhyme held the key to a tragedy that hovered over the seemingly idyllic hamlet of Harper's Green. Frederica Hammond held fast to hope and to dreams of a bright future. She and her friends see their surroundings crumble under the weight of secrecy.

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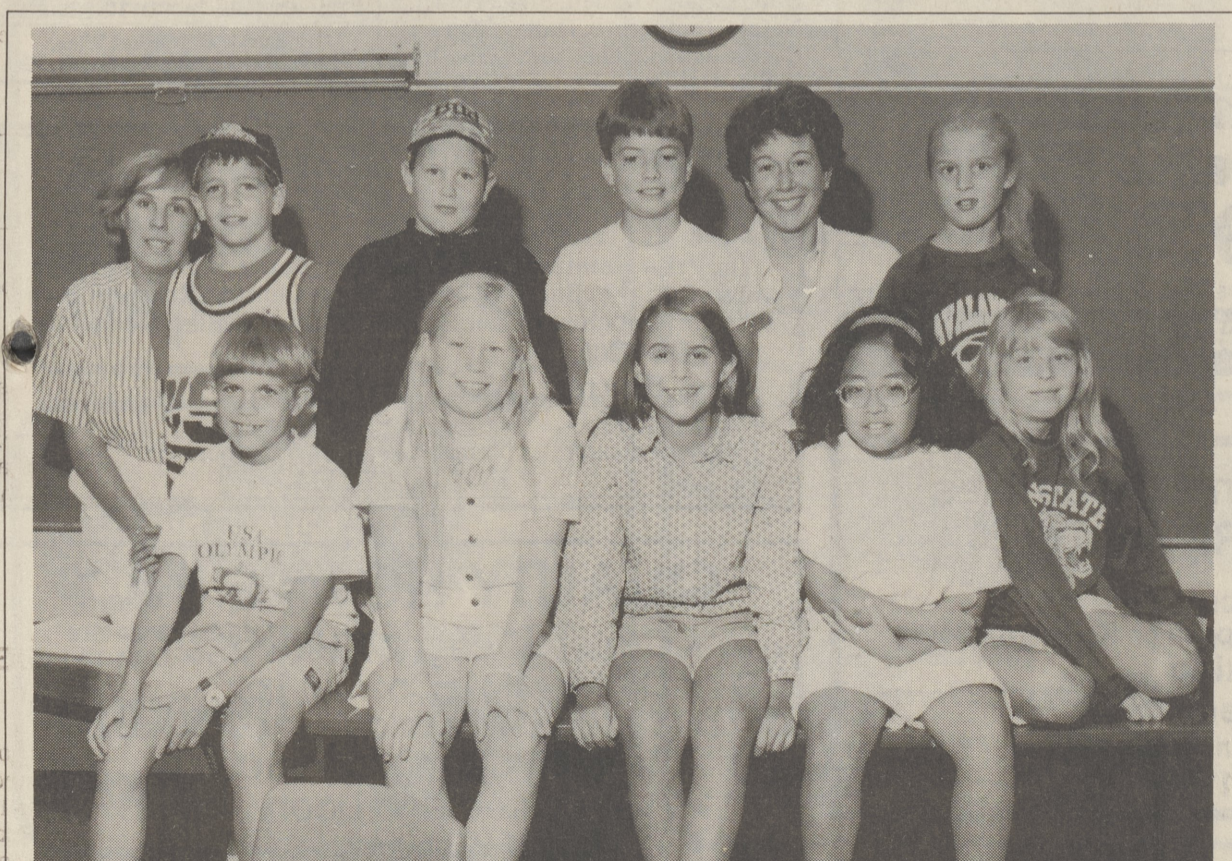
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Dallas Elementary students spend the summer with great books
 Returning Dallas Elementary students attended a Great Books Reading Camp in August. The group read and discussed short stories from around the world. The Great Books Program was recently introduced at Dallas Elementary as an extra-curricular enrichment activity through the efforts of Ruth Tetschner, Principal, and parent volunteer group leader Ann Ross. Shown here, seated, from left, Nathan Bohlander, Heather Vodzak, Norah Krakosky, Ellen Kim, Jessica Stefan. Standing, Chris Stefan, who joins the program as co-leader this school year; John Nackley, Michael Laity, John Schultz, Ann Ross, Maureen McGuire. Absent from photo: Abby Ahmad, Seth and Doug Yeager, and Keith Sprau.

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