

Library news

Bookmobile for Meadows is a success

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library circulated 9,717 books during the month of July: 4,858 adult titles and 4,859 juvenile. July is traditionally the library's largest circulation month with summer story hours, summer reading programs and adult leisure time for reading. Reference questions totaled 351; Book Club books circulated 287 and interlibrary loan books totaled 64. There were 53 new adults and 36 new juvenile borrowers joining the library in July. New books added 175, books withdrawn 16 and registrations totaled 78. Registrations for Fall story hours will be announced in the near future.

Our on-going monthly delivery of reading material to the Meadows and Hi-Meadows Apartments is receiving much appreciated praise. Our delivery person, Jane, and her red 'book-mobile' loads up with books the first Monday of each month and takes a quantity

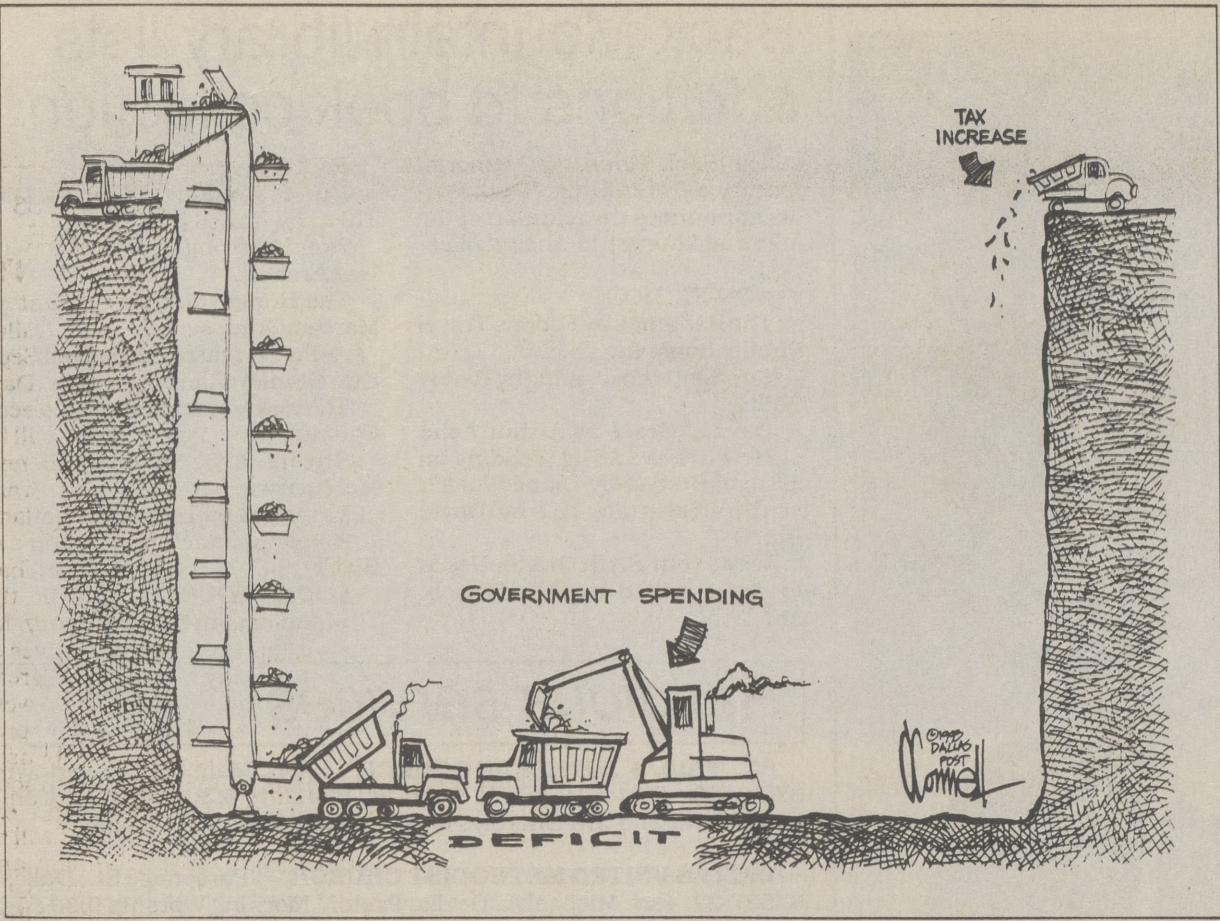
of books, both special requests and current interesting titles. The residents of both complexes have expressed their gratitude for this service provided by our library.

New books at the library: "Ageless Body, Timeless Mind" by Deepak Chopra, M.D. is the quantum alternative to growing old. Contrary to our traditional notions of aging, we can learn to direct the way our bodies metabolize time. In this book, the author combines mind/body medicine with current antiaging research to show why—and how—the effects of aging are largely preventable. By intervening at the level where belief becomes biology, we can achieve our unbounded potential. We are given new tools to create perceptions of aging.

"Mischief" by Ed McBain is the latest novel of the 87th precinct. The Dead Man is back! The nemesis of the 87th precinct returns with a vengeance. Zeroing in on his favorite foil, he bombards the squadroom with direc-

tives that seem to describe in detail exactly what he's up to this time—but not quite. What he's planning is his most devilish million-dollar caper to date. In the squadroom, an otherwise slow March night is enlivened by the murder of a graffiti writer under a highway bridge. Unrelated developments intertwine in the ending.

"The Rest of Life" by Mary Gordon contains three beautifully rendered novellas which illuminate the elliptical combination of carnal and spiritual desire in all lives. In "Immaculate Man," a social worker in her forties whose specialty is battered women becomes the lover of a priest. "Living at Home" is the story of an Italian foreign correspondent and she is a psychiatrist who cares for autistic children. He wants nothing but the woman's body until he is seized by news of another revolution, famine or plague; another destination. "The Rest of Life" the woman of Turin is 15 and her lover is 16. They were rebels.



J.W.J.

Gays in the military is an important issue

By J.W. JOHNSON

Fairies on the front lines?
Faggots in the foxholes?
Queers in the Quonset huts?
The above references are not used in derogation of millions of gay and lesbian Americans, or to denigrate those homosexuals serving in the military; rather, these are rhetorical expressions which reflect the reality of the homophobia which permeates this society.

The issue of homosexuality and the military has risen to the surface in the last 12 months with the Clinton administration's efforts to change tradition and military law regarding the military service of homosexuals.

Simply put, the administration wanted to make it legal for homosexuals, upon joining the military, to declare their sexuality; in essence, seeking sanctification of the homosexual lifestyle by declaring its fact to be legal within the confines of a military organization.

And to be perfectly clear right up front, the issue from this chair has absolutely nothing to do with homosexuality. I know, have worked with, and admire the talents and efforts of many homosexuals. And it's clear from a growing body of evidence that homosexuality is a genetically dictated difference among the men and women who discover themselves to be homosexually oriented...in short, gays by genes, not by choice.

The issue is not homosexuality; rather, it is military service

and the objectives of that service as those objectives are outlined by military command responding to circumstance.

It should also be pointed out that I, (unlike many who are discussing this issue) have served in the military, being honorably discharged during the Vietnam War.

And to this veteran, the issue is this clear and this simple: for the same reason that you would not have men and women, husbands and wives, serving together in the military, you also do not want open avowed homosexuals serving together in the military.

Of course, there are many of you right now clucking your tongues and ranting about how the military now has many homosexuals serving without problem.

The difference is that the homosexuals currently serving are like the child in a playpen; the child's boundaries are literally defined by the playpen itself; military law and tradition define the boundaries for homosexuals currently serving in the military. As such, only those homosexuals possessing much self discipline are now serving and are likely to join under the current rules.

With official sanction of homosexuality by the military, how long do you think it would take before the radically oriented homosexuals would be joining if for no other reason than the military, by virtue of its objective, has a multitude of young, usually single, men from which to choose a prospective lover or mate?...the thoughts or acting upon all of which has nothing to do with the military

objective.

And that's the point. Whatever would stand in the way of compromising the military objective...wives serving with husbands (lovers serving with lovers?) should not, and cannot be acceptable, if we are to have an effective military organization.

Would you want to go out and fight the enemy if you knew the guy in the next bunk was your mate? No, you would want to protect the mate, often with your own life and therefore, perhaps at the expense of the military objective.

There are those who've trotted out the objections to blacks serving in the military, saying the objections raised back then are the same objections being raised now about homosexuals serving in the military.

In terms of not compromising the military objective, racial bigotry is a far cry from the very real concerns that military commanders have about personal loyalties to the military versus protection of, and loyalty to, a loved one. Military commanders justifiably are concerned that the first loyalty will be to protect a loved one, rather than loyalty to military commanders.

And that's why gays should not be permitted to openly declare their homosexuality in the military. Not because they are homosexuals. But because to do otherwise runs the risk of creating an environment where not being a soldier first also becomes acceptable.

The economic viewpoint

The region's report card: how we stand

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

What is the state of the region of Northeastern Pennsylvania? The answer may reside in a new report published by the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania (EDCNP) titled "1993 State of the Region, Characterizing 1993 as 'a year of change'". The report notes the new Clinton Administration, changes in the political leadership in the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, changes in new economic development opportunities and potential changes in relation to the economy of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The report stressed two new publications recently issued by EDCNP titled "Regional Economic Development" A Strategic Action Plan for 1992 and Beyond" and "Land Under Siege: A Search for Managed Growth in Northeastern Pennsylvania."

The travel development industry is noted as being negatively impacted by the recession but "efforts are underway to reinforce and support the travel development industry to enable it to enhance its economic benefits to Northeastern Pennsylvania. The document notes that in April of this year, the first Pennsylvania eco-tourism conference was held through the auspices of the tourist promotion agencies throughout the region and EDCNP.

Another highlight of the report is the notation that the manufacturing operations of the region are being helped through loan programs of EDCNP, the work of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center, and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Technology Council "Community Excellence Initiative Program". Furthermore, Pennsylvania's Ben Franklin Partnership and other programs are helping to support

the manufacturing base.

The census of 1990 results are almost all available at the present time, and changes are occurring with respect to the designation of metropolitan areas, especially Monroe and Pike Counties. Pike County is now included as part of the New York-New Jersey Metropolitan Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area. Monroe County has been removed from the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Some of the strategic plan initiatives noted in the document include, among others, the following:

—Plan, develop and implement an industrial clusters programs to bring together business and industry establishments in the same sector.

—Promote and enhance the five river corridors located within Northeastern Pennsylvania.

—Continue to promote the appropriate use of technology as a basis for enhancing economic competitiveness.

—Develop additional enterprise zones within the region.

—Develop additional incubator buildings within the region.

—Support and enhance energy self-sufficiency.

—Tap into targets of economic growth such as appropriate use of the Blue Coal Lands through the Earth Conservancy.

—Examine the potential to designate the Pocono Mountains as a special and unique part of Pennsylvania.

—Expand the regional business retention program.

—Expand the regional information and data center.

—Increase revolving loan funds to encourage business expansion.

The state of the region report notes the need to advocate the formation of a regional assembly of local governments in Northeastern Pennsylvania to join to-

gether in order to improve the ability of local governments to afford the delivery of needed services.

Workforce development is noted as a major activity, including a report published in May 1992 by EDCNP on labor supply/labor demand.

Most importantly, business education partnerships are noted as being a critical approach to improving the economy of the region. Defense and economic growth have an important role to play as defense conversion issues emerge as a high priority within the Commonwealth and the region. Noted in the document is the important role which Tobyhanna Army Depot plays with close to 4,000 jobs being available and the possibility of additional jobs as more base closures occur through the country.

Telecommunications is noted as one of the most powerful instruments for economic growth. A new regional Task Force on Telecommunications has been organized to help promote telecommunications and integrate economic development policies for the betterment of the region.

The new report notes economic indicators including civilian labor force, total employment, total unemployment, unemployment rates, average hours worked, average weekly earnings, durable goods manufacturing employment, non-durable goods manufacturing employment, wholesale/retail trades employment, and service trades employment.

A copy of the report can be obtained by contacting EDCNP, 1151 Oak Street, Pittston, PA 18640.

Howard Grossman is Executive Director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He lives in Dallas.

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