

# The Dallas Post

## EDITORIALS

### Phyllis Mundy has earned re-election

The Dallas Post endorses Phyllis Mundy for state representative in the 120th legislative district. There is really no contest between her and the Republican challenger, Norm Gavlick, who has had little to say about why he should replace Mundy, and has made no visible attempt to get whatever message he has out to the voters of the Back Mountain.

We can only assume, then, that Gavlick's message is summarized in the slogan on posters stabbed into local lawns; "Fighting Back." As meaningless rhetoric goes, this is near the top. What is Gavlick fighting against? Apparently, the fact that Mundy, a Democrat, is liked and respected in what he refers to as a "Republican district," as if a slim edge in voter registrations makes us all mindless clones of a particular party.

It's true that Phyllis Mundy first gained office in 1990 in a race without opposition. After Republican incumbent Scott Dieterick ran into legal troubles, a crowded field of his party mates slugged it out in a primary which Dieterick won, only to withdraw from the general election. But that start did not deter Mundy from throwing herself full tilt into the business of being an active legislator who has fought for her constituents' interests while maintaining the principles on which she ran for office, and apparently conducts her life. While many of her positions could be labeled progressive, Mundy brings an air of accountability along on her trips to Harrisburg, supporting passage of a "Sunset Bill," which would require state agencies to prove their necessity and effectiveness every five years.

Perhaps Mundy's greatest asset is her apparent ability to ignore partisanship, a trait that is particularly noticeable in the Back Mountain. Here, she works closely with township and borough boards that aren't just dominated by Republicans, they hold every office. Yet, she has lent her support to numerous efforts that aid this region, most notably the latest improvements to Route 309, which, when completed, will make the highway safer and less frustrating to travel.

One need only refer back to that 1990 race to learn that Mundy's priorities and positions haven't change with the political winds. In 1990, she touted the three "E's," environment, education and ethics. This year, she's added a fourth — economic development which can lead to new and better jobs, while maintaining her emphasis on education so that our young people will be prepared to succeed in their chosen careers.

Norm Gavlick has made education a key point in his campaign as well, mainly by hopping on the anti-teacher bandwagon. While few would argue that the relationship between teachers and taxpayers couldn't be better, his proposals deal almost exclusively with the financial aspects of education. These are certainly important, but not to the exclusion of other considerations. Gavlick's best point is one shared by many people in both parties — giving the voters more opportunity to participate in their government through initiative and referendum. In this instance, Gavlick is ahead of Mundy; the people should have the opportunity both to register their preference on significant issues and to place important questions on the ballot. The third part of Gavlick's equation, recall, would be a mistake, at least the way he describes it, which is a sort of mid-term vote of confidence on elected officials. That notion is more appropriate in a parliamentary system, not our democracy.

Finally, Gavlick hasn't shown any ability to run a positive, focused campaign. He and his minions have scattered half-truths, misrepresentations and outright lies across the district with utter disregard for the voters' sensibilities. Others have commented that Gavlick has a bright future in his party, but we have seen no evidence of that in his shallow, nasty campaign.

Phyllis Mundy has served her constituents and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania well, earned their respect, and deserves to return to office as representative from the 120th district.

Knowing full well the gesture is meaningless, but The Post endorses U.S. Representative Paul Kanjorski for re-election. Kanjorski stands out at a time when pettiness pervades our national life, and commentators decry a lack of vision among our leaders. You may think he's crazy for proposing inflatable dams and the Earth Conservancy, but at least he's thinking about something. Sadly, many of the proposals Kanjorski has floated — only to see them savaged by partisans and the press — are already reality in other places, and have contributed to a stronger economies elsewhere while northeast Pennsylvania remains mired in high unemployment and low-wage jobs.

If Kanjorski's ideas do nothing beyond returning 15,000 acres of fallow land to productive use, he has done our region a great service, and one that eluded others for nearly 20 years.

While we're at it, here's a good word for State Senator Charles Lemmond, who is running without opposition. After this election, Lemmond will begin his sixth term representing a large and diverse district that includes all of the Back Mountain. He has served with distinction while maintaining close ties in his hometown of Dallas Borough and the surrounding communities. He also deserves credit for the attention Route 309 has received, as well as several other actions that have aided our region.



### Boo!

This quartet of pumpkins graced an area home for Halloween. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.



John W. Johnson

It's difficult to believe that a third-rate liar and criminal could be elected a United States Senator from the State of Virginia. A U.S. Senator.....can you believe it?

You remember Ollie....the former Marine Corps colonel who parlayed lying and other criminal acts into a \$25,000 per speech road show. The real irony here is that—and before he became the fair-haired boy of the religious right—Oliver North was not that conservative.

He saw, however, the opportunity to get his bacon out of the fire, by hitching his star to the religious right wagon...and he's been riding it ever since.

And whatever small scraps of patriotism-born fervor which could have been felt about the actions of North in the Iran contra affair (you remember that; when we were trading guns for hostages; or was that, hostages for money to buy guns; it's hard to keep track of all the liars).

In any event, whatever patriotism could have been felt by North's presumably pristine motives, went out the window when he decided to join forces with Jerry Falwell

### North shows danger of mixing politics, religion

and that ilk. Of course, this alliance is forged from the reality that these men are using one another.

The political sympathies North might gain from God and country breast beating are North's continuing refuge against those who point out that he's little more than a common criminal.

Conversely, and in the age of those who rail against so-called sin being the last should throw stones, Falwell is using North to focus away from the misdeeds of his fellow televangelists...not to mention, bring dollars into the dwindling televangelism coffers.

Notwithstanding his holiness Rush Limbaugh's endorsement, this unholy alliance of military man North and the religious right should cause alarm among all freedom loving Americans.

Ours is not a theocracy—thank you forbears—where religious leaders work bible-in-gun with military leaders to run a government. Our forbears also had the foresight to take ultimate military control from the military.

On the basis of his own admissions, North should have gone to prison, along with the others who aided and abetted him in his quest to make temporal law subservient to some messianic vision of doing

"what I felt was right."

And the religious right should get back to the side of the line which separates church and state. It would be foolish for us to believe the radical right-wing religious element of our nation is little more than a three-piece suit away from the rest of the world where theocracy rules.

Remember Iraq?

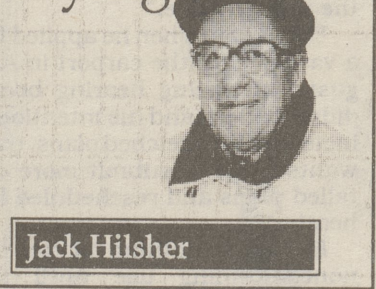
The religious right uses money and elaborate computerization in order to inflict its view on you...not only to tell you how to vote, but also to persuade politicians to mandate so-called Christian values.

In fact, and rather than compete in the intellectual marketplace for the fervor of citizens, the religious right instead wants to command it, an attack on the very foundation from which the attack itself receives life...the First Amendment...or, put another way: we should have the freedom of liberty and the freedom from religion.

Liberty, (and for those who choose an active faith) religion, are sources of strength for millions of Americans. The best way to preserve those strengths is to keep heavy-headed religion away from government, and heavy-handed government away from religion.

*The union of Ollie North's candidacy and the religious right is an unholy alliance*

### As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

Bess, Mamie, Ladybird, Pat, Betty, Nancy, Roslyn....enough already! We're talking about president's wives, right? So which one was a world-famous newspaper columnist with an output of six days a week for nearly 16 years? Answer - None of the above. That wife's name was Eleanor, and her husband, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. And we're talking the years from 1936 to 1952.

It would be tempting to say here that many wish those two were back in Washington, back in the White House, alive and kicking...one at the helm of our country and the other at her typewriter. Tempting yes, but I won't say it...this space belongs to Eleanor Roosevelt.

As for typing, Mrs. R didn't really spend that much time on producing her enormously popular column, "My Day." It appeared in over 80 papers but she herself appeared all over the world. One day she might be in Guadacanal, another day, Buckingham Palace. One day she could be greeting Madame Chiang Kai-shek, another day, Amelia Earhart.

In 1933 a now famous New Yorker cartoon showed two coal miners at work in a darkened

### Looking back at America's most influential first lady

tunnel; one is saying, "Oh, migoosh, here comes Mrs. Roosevelt!" Intended to be funny it was actually the truth. In that same year wire services carried a photo of Mrs. R. traveling underground in a West Virginia mine car! No one knows which came first, the cartoon or the actuality.

In September 1943 Mrs. Roosevelt traveled over 14,000 miles visiting U.S. troops in Australia and the Pacific. Her enthusiasm tickled the Austrians and in New Zealand the Maoris named her "Queen of the Great Democracy." Her reputation as a diplomat was international. Adlai Stevenson said, "Her glow had warmed the world." She had an influence on both the world and on her husband, the President of the United States.

Remember Nancy Reagan murmuring instructions to Ronnie at a press conference? That was small potatoes compared to Eleanor and Franklin, for she was his most trusted observer. She went everywhere and anywhere when he couldn't. People trusted her and spoke frankly as a result. She was more of a listener than a talker...honest and compassionate. She was unique.

So too was the "My Day" column unique. She wrote about children, married life, what women could and should do. She would discuss books and plays, and music. When she wrote about

picking raspberries, her mail (an astonishing 1,000 letters per week) would be filled with recipes for raspberry pies and preserves.

It would be interesting to learn how many readers she had. To determine the exact number of column readers is a black art. Some researchers claim most newspapers pass through three or four hands before being discarded, and this throws off any normal count of subscriber reading percentages.

About six years ago the Ladies Home Journal ran a poll surveying 1,000 women to determine the most admired First Lady. Twenty

eight percent named Eleanor Roosevelt (they passed up Nancy and Jackie) even though she had been out of the White House since 1945 and died in 1962.

In 1939 Time magazine put Eleanor on the cover and said, "She is a superlative in her own right. She is the wife of a ruler, but her power comes from the influence not on him, but on public opinion. It is a self-made influence, unique for any woman to hold. Yet it rests upon thousands of small activities..."

Noted reporter and author Martha Gellhorn said, "You will have to believe me that she was lovely and lovable, noble and unafraid; and there has been no other woman of her stature in public life and probably there never will be again."

*60 years before Hillary, Eleanor Roosevelt was active and involved*

### Only yesterday

#### 60 Years Ago - Nov. 9, 1934 VOTERS APPROVE NEW DALLAS TWP. SCHOOL

Although it carried a slender margin in the upper districts, the \$25,000 bond issue for a new school at Dallas Township received 2-1 support in South District on Tuesday, winning by a majority of 38 votes. Construction for the much needed addition will begin in the Spring.

The new emergency education program which will be carried on here for the next five months under State supervision was approved by Dallas Borough School Board at its meeting Monday. Permission was given to furnish, room, heat and facilities for the adult education classes.

#### 50 Years Ago - Nov. 3, 1944 JOHN MACULLOUGH WOUNDED BUT OKAY

Killed when an army plane he was checking crashed and burned on Oct. 26 within six flying miles of Kirtland Army Air Force Base, Albuquerque, NM, the body of Sgt. George Race, 22, son of the late George Race and Mrs. Laverne Race of Davenport Street, Dallas was brought here for burial yesterday afternoon.

The dollar drive in the Back Mountain Region is now at its height. With just two days to go GOP women are intensifying their campaign efforts to marshal a quota of fighting dollars to keep this State in the Republican column and send the Dewey-Bricker ticket to victory at the polls on Tuesday.

Pvt. John Macullough, who lost a leg below the knee and was severely wounded in the other while fighting in France July 31, has returned to the U.S. aboard a hospital ship and is now at the U.S. Army Station Hospital at Camp Edwards, Mass.

#### 40 Years Ago - Nov. 5, 1954 BURGLARS GET GUNS, AMMO FROM LABAR'S

A record number of voters went to the polls in Dallas Borough on Tuesday and registered an almost 4-1 decision to retain the charter and borough form of government by a margin of 291 votes.

State and local police are working on several clues that may lead to the arrest of robbers who stole three valuable guns and several shot gun shells from Caddie LaBar's Service Station late Monday or early Tuesday morning.

You could get - Chuck roast, 35¢ lb.; lg. shrimp, 21/25 cent 79¢; Fig bars 2 1-lb. pkgs. 49¢; Dole pineapple juice, 46-oz. can 29¢; Supreme bread lg. loaf 109¢.

#### 30 Years Ago - Nov. 5, 1964 LOCAL VOTERS LIKE GOLDWATER, FLOOD

The old Republican stronghold of the Back Mountain, now divided into two districts, presented a curious type of election this year due to power shifts and influenced by strong appeal of President Lyndon Johnson. Johnson carried townships of Lake, Lehman and Jackson, while Goldwater won by only a small majority in Kingston Township, Franklin, Dallas Borough and Dallas Township. Dan Flood, popular alike with Republicans and Democrats was accorded a marked victory in all districts.

Established in 1889, The Dallas Post is now offering subscriptions at \$4 per year and \$2.50 for six months. Out-of-State sales are \$4.50.

#### 20 Years Ago - Nov. 7, 1974 FIRE GIVES LAKE TWP DUMP A REPRIEVE

Dallas Fire and Ambulance have made arrangements to purchase a 1975 Care-O-Van, an enlarged van type ambulance. Cost is approximately \$18,500. The new vehicle will accommodate three patients and will have piped oxygen and suction.

The fire which destroyed part of the Department of Environmental Resources' Public Square office also seems to have won Lake Township a reprieve from the agency in their hassle over the township landfill.

Back Mountain Cultural Center recently urged the community to participate in the forthcoming bicentennial celebration of the U.S. A major celebration is scheduled for 1976, the 200th anniversary of the nation and the Commonwealth.

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### Have a bright idea?

Share it with your neighbors by writing to The Dallas Post. We welcome letters to the editor and longer pieces that may run as guest columns. Send yours to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612, or drop it off at our office at 45 Main Road, Dallas (across from Offset Paperback). Be sure to include your name, address and daytime phone number.