

J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

Congress can't save us from ourselves

It is proverbially 'that time of year again'. Time to either eagerly anticipate a 'refund' of money which perhaps shouldn't have been sent to Washington or Harrisburg in the first place, or time to dread digging deep to feed the seemingly endless state and federal tax tape worm.

Yet who is really to blame for our tax bills? Who is really responsible for the need to send so much money down the Susquehanna and Potomac?

Got a mirror?
"We in America suffer from a great delusion," former (and made by Watergate famous) U.S. Senator Sam Ervin once said. "We think we can pass a law and everything will be cured."

The attitude noted by Ervin includes just about everyone. Laborer, government employees, electronics technicians, florists, restaurateurs, real estate agents...the list could go on forever. And of immeasurable length seems to be the list of special benefits wanted by virtually everyone from the 'government.'

So a law is passed, a bureaucracy formed, and regulation promulgated until the bureaucracy now numbers more than 3,000,000 in Washington alone, with a corresponding Federal tax bite.

We are floundering in regulations we don't understand, taxes we cannot afford, but more importantly, moving forward with a 'help-me-government' attitude, an attitude which is causing the death of self respect, a character trait which, more than any other, made this country great.

And now we have the newly elected Republican majority Congress telling us that a "Contract with America" will rescue us.

Rescue us from what? From whom? What we need to be rescued from is ourselves. We are the enemy. We are the persons who continue to want everything from government. And every time we ask the government for help instead of doing it ourselves we lose self respect and gain more governmental control over lives.

Recall the Pilgrims. What guarantees did they have? They provided themselves with food, shelter, transportation and other necessities...or they did not survive. And it's because of their survival, and their example, that this country was preserved for future generations.

It would be ludicrous to advocate a return to pure survival; it is also no doubt true that self respect is more difficult to comprehend and/or to see its need when humans are once, twice and three times removed from an immediate survival threat.

But that does not mean the knight should hang up his armor for lack of dragons to slay.

Instead of self respect, the predominant character traits in America today are, to name a few:
—demanding more money for less work
—putting immediate security above self-respect.

—and generations of welfare recipients now with no grasp of the notion of taking care of one's self, that idea having been supplanted by the myth of 'entitlements.'

It is true that in an age (New York City excepted) where survival is not paramount, self respect becomes more an idealistic symbol than a realistic response. But what better symbol to pass along and insure future generations?

Another attitude arising from the 'entitlement' mentality is the lure of easy credit.

Hardly a week goes by when the mail doesn't contain a solicitation from some far away bank seeking to issue its credit card. The solicitation begins by noting an "excellent credit rating" or words to that effect.

And though most banks are still charging exorbitant interest rates, card holders seem willing to pay such rates. The biggies, like VISA, have policies which make one wonder. For example, card holder whose credit limit is \$4,400 can owe \$4,200 and be informed that the account is current and that no payment is due that month!

Also, many banks are promoting the scheme that all members of the family be issued credit cards. This results in more and more debt.

And how do you suppose that this excellent credit rating came about? But not succumbing to the lure of easy credit in the first place. By paying bills on time and, when feasible, paying cash. It certainly wasn't by using plastic.

As it is with perfection, easy credit isn't really easy; it's an illusion.



Celebration

The Back Mountain Memorial Library celebrated 10 years in its building on Huntsville Road March 4. The date became a festive occasion with friends, neighbors, board members and staff enjoying punch, cake and cookies and viewing the newspaper history of the move from Main Street. Above, first row from left, Jane McMichael, staff; Millie Zarambo, staff; Barbara Lemmond, board member; Joanne Runner, board member; Mary Panaway, Book Club; Nancy Kozemchak, business manager. Standing behind were Jim McDaniel, a visitor from Oregon and Wilkes-Barre, and Scott Shemo, staff.

Library news

Library board welcomes new members

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is proud to announce the addition of new members to the Board of Directors. Jean Hillard and Charles Kishbaugh, both of Dallas, officially took office at the March 7 regular meeting of the board. Serving as officers of the board for 1995 are: President, Joseph Stager; vice president, Ruth Tetschner; treasurer, Kenneth Krakosky and secretary, Pauline Kutz. The board meets on the first Tuesday.

A special Sue Hand painting, titled "Gladioli," is on display at the library. This painting will be chanced off at the spring luncheon in April. Tickets are available for purchase from board members or at the library front desk. There will be only 250 tickets available for the painting, which sell for \$5 each. Tickets are also available for sale at Sue Hand's Imagery on Main Street in Dallas,

or from members of the Friends of the Library.

The National Library Week Design a Bookmark Contest will conclude on March 18, the last day to accept entries. All entries must be the original work of the individual and only one design may be entered. Other rules are available at the library.

New books at the library: "From Time to Time" by Jack Finney is a memorable portrait of what might have been. The author returns to the same magical territory and finds Ruben Prien still at work with the Project and dreaming of altering man's fate by going back in time to adjust events...to interfere, some might say, with destiny.

"The Juror" by George Dawes Green is a tour de force of crime and obsession, evil and innocence—a story that taps into fears so primal they linger long after the last page has been read. Annie

Laird is Juror 224. A sculptor with a career going nowhere. A single mother struggling to raise a son. All you have to say is two words: "Not Guilty".

"Our Game" by John LeCarre is the story of Tim Cranmer, a secret servant in premature retirement to deepest rural England. His Cold War is fought and won, and he is free to devote himself to his stately manor house, his vineyard, and his beautiful young mistress, Emma. But no man can escape his past, and Tim's lives twenty miles away.

"The Raiders" by Harold Robbins pits Jonas Cord's illegitimate son, Bat, against his father, as Jonas moves his billion-dollar enterprise to Las Vegas, taking on the Mob, and taking into bed a beautiful, sexy blonde with a secret past. Jonas is still tormented by dreams of his father's death and the need for his approval, before it was too late.

Don't park on Dallas Township streets

Dallas Township residents should refrain from parking on township roads and streets wherever possible during the day so they can be cleaned of winter debris, cinders and unmelted salt. Over 1,200 tons were used this season and its removal will be made easier if unimpeded by parked vehicles. It is expected the cleanup can be completed in about 30 days.

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Letters

Seeks information on ancestors

Editor:
I am looking for information on my family research. I am looking for a relative of a great aunt. The information I am seeking for is the following:

Ellen D. Conden Nafus
Married: M.J. Nafus of Lehman
Date: March 18, 1891.
Children: Five.

Anyone recognizing any of this information can please contact me at (717) 693-6214 or at the address given below.

Thank you for any help you can give me.

Evelyn Barborek
410 Birchwood Est.
Exeter, PA 18643

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