

Library Auction Corner



July 6-7-8-9

For 49 summers, the people of the Back Mountain have come together to donate their goods, services and time to the auction block of the Back Mountain Memorial Library. The life of the library is a year-to-year proposition, and the auction is crucial to its operation. Twenty-five percent of the annual budget comes from the auction. This year's 49th annual auction will be held July 6-9 at the library grounds on Huntsville Road in Dallas. Any and all donations of cash or saleable items can help assure the continued fine service of the library to our communities. For more information, call the library at 675-1182.

- A sampler of items that will be on sale:**
- Kremenz gold necklace, Roth Jewelers
 - Hoosier cabinet
 - 1 month membership, Odyssey Fitness
 - Old dolls
 - Gift certificates, gift certificates, gift certificates!
 - Corner cupboard
 - 100 toward willpreparation
 - Low Boy dresser

Support the Back Mountain Library

One-fourth of the library's annual budget comes from the auction. You can help. Your donation of an item or money will help your library survive and prosper.

Here's my donation to the Back Mountain Memorial Library

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

- I have an item to donate. Call me for details.
 Here's a cash donation of \$ _____ to help the library.

Mail or bring to: Back Mountain Memorial Library
 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas PA 18612

Call 675-1182 if you have any questions. Donations are tax-deductible.

This message donated as a public service by The Dallas Post

J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

Much of our Social Security system disguised as welfare

politicians merit "being drug behind a slow moving vehicle for several miles...with no clothes on." In the end, he would probably support some sort of flat tax.

Boll Weevil Democrat Spike Opchinsky, who often wavers between advocating liberal Republicans and conservative Democrats, and who also doesn't wax poetic about much of anything, has said, "you get the bill, you pay the bill." But he, too, is hard pressed to stay calm about the "bureaucrats whose only job it seems is to make my job more difficult."

And this writer continues to question how it is that the United States, the world's largest debtor nation, can give foreign aid to anyone? And shouldn't we be suing politicians for breach of contract when campaign promises are not met?

Beyond that, the single largest recipient of welfare in this country are those who receive government checks from the Social Security system, but who are not retirees, and those who receive medical payments under the Medicare system. In fact, Social Security payments (in total), and Medicare account for more than 40 percent of this nation's budget deficit.

The welfare program run by the Social Security Administration is called Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Established by Congress in 1974, SSI was originally aimed at providing life's necessities for poor adults too old, ill or handicapped to work. Its recipients now include a variety of persons, including drug addicts, alcoholics, and nearly 1 million children whose parents claim mental retardation or other mental problems.

SSI costs more than \$25 billion annually, and is expected to grow

by another 50 percent in just another five years.

Money received by regular retirees needs to be examined as well...and Social Security retirement benefits need to be "means tested". It's obscene to pay well-off (those over 55 are the wealthiest group in the country) citizens from the public trough.

Many mistakenly argue that retirees are simply getting back payroll taxes which were invested to pay for the benefits received.

This is incorrect. Both Social Security and Medicare are pay-as-you-go programs, and always have been. This means that today's taxes pay for today's benefits. For example, in 1994, old-age and survivor's benefits totaled \$276 billion, or 90 percent of the \$308 billion collected in payroll taxes. The taxes of today's retirees were spent years ago. The same is true of Medicare.

And even if the payroll taxes had been invested by the taxpayer, he or she would have only received back about three years worth of what that person would have received in SS benefits, and about double that if the employer's portion of the payroll tax is factored in....whereas, the average SS recipient lives for 15-19 years beyond the age of 65.

Those who say that Social Security and Medicare are (and should remain) budgetary sacred cows, are either bald-faced lying to the American public, or whistling past the graveyard of fiscal responsibility.

And if we don't do something to curb Social Security and welfare spending in general, we'd better get ready to join the Third World economically, because we are blissfully spending our way into the worst bankruptcy the world has ever seen.

In simple terms, we are now spending \$548 billion a year on the elderly, more than twice than the \$282 billion we're spending on defense, and three times more than the \$179 billion we spend on the poor.

It's not surprising then that when the Oklahoma tragedy and/or OJ aren't occupying the headlines, welfare reform and taxes seem to top the list.

The Breakfast Club has never been thrilled about tax rates, or the system of taxation itself. And the welfare system is always the subject of, at best, derision—in New York City alone, some 1.65 million of its 18 million residents receive some sort of welfare.

Bull Moose Democrat Roscoe Bismark has complained that the "taxman always has his hand out." And he isn't sure about the system. He's toyed with the idea of support for the European style Value Added Tax. And although he admits that our tax system is so filled with complexities that implementing it feeds a good portion of the professional community without producing anything other than paper, he's not yet prepared to give up on our progressive??? tax system and all of its loopholes.

Libertarian Silas McMarnor would rather vote for George McGovern than "give those idiots any money" (although he does pay his taxes). In fact, Silas could probably talk until the proverbial cows came home about how and why Washington and Harrisburg

Library news

Special friend of library shares her books

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has a very special friend in Mrs. Margaret Nordby, a lady who reads large print books and has read most of the ones we have in the library. She is now buying large print herself and donating them to the library when she finishes reading them herself. Her recent donation consisted of many fine selections including Deveraux, Wishes and Eternity; Brown, Scandal and Where's There's Smoke; Cookson, The Life Child; Garwood, Honor's Splendor; Gillespie, Aunt Celia; Krenz, Grand Passion; Spencer, Hummingbird and The Endearment; McMurtry, The Evening Star; Pilcher, Wild Mountain Thyme; and McNaught, Perfect.

She continues to donate large print books to the library.

Mrs. Nordby is the daughter or our own Maryan Daily, a super library supporter. Maryan was chairman of the Friends cookbook, "Chefs and Artists", which has been a super project for the

library. She is also chair of the 'Nearly Old' booth at the library auction each year putting in many hours on the items donated to spruce them up. She paints some special antique items for the auction which are then auctioned over the block. Thanks, Maryan, for all you do for your library!

New books at the library: "Cat in a Crimson Haze" by Carole Nelson is a Midnight Louis mystery. Midnight Louis is an irresistible combination of Nathan Detroit and Sam Spade. Las Vegas is his playground and he's the first in line for anything, be it tasty carp or a fresh crime scene. He spares his life with his friend Temple Barr—a petite redheaded public relations expert with a high-heeled shoe fetish and a nose for trouble and when a case comes their way, the sparks (and fur) always fly. Louie has to save Temple from a real killer.

"Cardinal Offense" by Ralph McInerney is a Father Dowling mystery in which he acquires a rare treasure; two prime-location tickets to the Notre Dame vs. USC

football game, the gift of an old friend in the church. However, the tickets come with a catch, for he is expected to attend a conference on American annulment practices—a meeting with the powerful Cardinal Hildebrand, which will tear him from the welcome obscurity of his parish in Fox River, Ill. A darker, more dangerous surprise awaits him at Notre Dame—a threat to the cardinal.

"Together Alone" by Barbara Delinsky draws us into the story of three women whose empty pasts mean the chances to begin second lives—to make new decisions, take new risks, and face the consequences. Another September approaches and with it change for three friends, each sending her only daughter off to college for freshman year. A thoughtful and touching look at a woman's discovery of both dreams and desire, it becomes the story of us all. It is a heartfelt and engrossing exploration of the expectations we have in our lives.

Joan, why haven't you written?

Let the Back Mountain know what you think by writing a letter to the editor. Always include your name, address and a daytime phone number; we don't publish anonymous letters. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612

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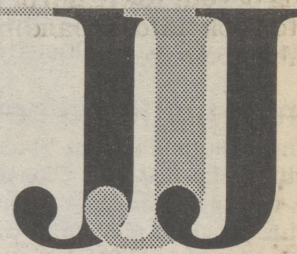
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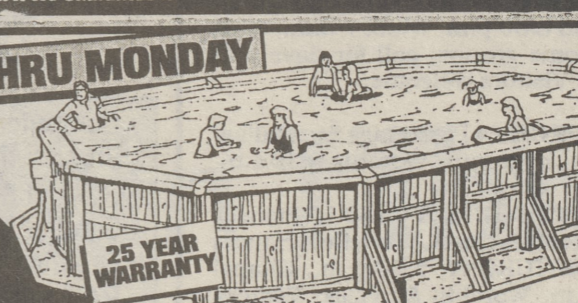


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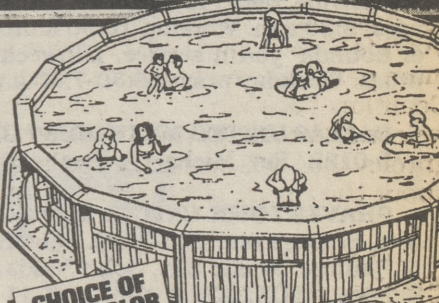
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