

J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

As the GOP moves forward with its ideas about changing the hows, ways and whys we govern ourselves, the idea of so-called "block grants" is being touted heavily by the Republican faithful—that is, giving tax dollars back to the states in lump sums and letting the states decide how to spend it. Question??? If the GOP is serious about getting off our backs, and serious about letting us run more of our own affairs, and seriously believes we can do a better job of spending our own tax dollars...then why are we sending the money to Washington in the first place? Block grants, indeed. Leave the money here!

It was just a question of when: An attorney's group in Pittsburgh has revealed that in at least four cases, a lab's test results—which sent someone to prison for using drugs—were wrong. George Bernard Shaw was a principal founder of a group called the Flat Earth Society. It's principal aim is to prevent us from being mesmerized by the idea of scientific inquiry—hence the group's name; not seriously meant, but pointedly stated. For example, just look out of whatever window you happen to see right now, and say to yourself: "I'm spinning around right now at about 21,000 miles per hour." That's what science tells us...or rather, that's the only explanation science has which fits the known facts. Completing the circle—and this will become all too clear as the O.J. Simpson trial proceeds—the legal system, and our society in general, tends to imbalance reality with a heavy reliance on science, and too little reliance on common sense...go

**Luzerne County VNA continues home care**

Residents of Luzerne County who are receiving home health care from the Visiting Nurses located in Edwardsville and Hazleton will not be affected by the recent closure of the VNA Home Health division in Scranton. Although they share the same VNA philosophy of charitable care, the Lackawanna and Luzerne County VNAs are totally separate organizations. The VNA in Luzerne County continues to serve hundreds of patients every day. There is no need for Luzerne County VNA patients to have any concern about receiving the care they need—it will be there for them when it's needed.

**Definite proof that we're our own worst enemies**

ahead. Look out the window...

The Pennsylvania legislature would do well to study a Norwegian law, which convicted a man of drunken driving—on a lawnmower—then let him go free because his top speed was barely enough to cause damage. The man's blood alcohol level showed the equivalent of three beers, well over Norway's legal limit. And the court there fined him \$795 and sentenced him to 24 days in jail. The sentence was suspended, however, because the court ruled that the lawnmower's limited top speed of six miles per hour was too slow to be dangerous. Sounds like a country serious about its highway safety and, at the same time, doesn't take itself too seriously. We could learn a lesson here.

For those who tend to think of railway crossings as just a bump in the road, please note that a train hits someone in the United States every one and one half hours.

Can someone please explain the rationale behind a person who will spend a good part of the morning preparing a list of food to buy at the health food store, then speed there to buy it, while not putting their child in a safety seat, or seat belt? Just asking.

The next time you hear someone bemoan the fact that Sinn Fein leader Jerry Adams was permitted a visa into this country, and an audience at the White House, please note the following facts about the dear Mother Country: During the Vietnam War, we were not permitted to bomb Haiphong Harbor in North Vietnam because of British business and shipping interests. And when our embassy workers in Iran—you remember them, the ones who spent more than 400 days in Ira-

nian captivity—tried to get into the British Embassy, they were turned away.

In the not so distant past, it was a fact that America had more licensed gun dealers than it had service stations. Lenient licensing rules, however, have now been changed and—can you believe it—the number of gun dealers is expected to drop below 100,000. Wow!

One of the more important elements to come from the dialogue about welfare reform is universal agreement that something must be done to get deadbeat Dads to pay child support. Too many women in this country are trying to raise children on insufficient income, while fathers don't pay. Some fathers argue that they withhold funds because of visitation rights or other issues. It's an empty, self-serving argument to hold a child economic hostage because the adults cannot come to an agreement. Garnish the pay. Lien the car and the house. Do whatever is necessary to make sure there are far fewer children growing up malnourished and otherwise underprivileged simply because fathers won't accept the responsibility for children they've helped to bring into the world.

While the GOP ponders its Contract With America, and the Democrats try and figure out how to loophole the language in that so-called contract, it seems clear that the size of government is not this nation's problem, it's the size of our expectations of government. Most want it all, without having to pay for it, and when it comes time to, in fact, pay for it, out comes the citizen credit card in the form of legislators willing to deficit spend, and mortgage our children's future. As Pogo said when he looked into the mirror: "We have met the enemy, and he is us."



At George McCutcheon's induction to the Luzerne County Community College Wall of Honor were, from left: Thomas J. Moran, president, LCCC; Dorothea McCutcheon, Dallas; George McCutcheon and Dr. Mahmoud Fahmy, Dallas, chairman, LCCC Board of Trustees.

**LCCC honors McCutcheon for service**

George McCutcheon of Dallas has been inducted to the Luzerne County Community College Wall of Honor.

McCutcheon served as LCCC's director of student activities, and as advisor to the Circle K Club and Student Government Association.

A statewide Circle K award for outstanding guidance and leadership bears his name.

McCutcheon established LCCC's athletic department, continuing education department, college-wide recruiting program and the Alumni Association.

He has received the Valley Forge Freedom Foundation Medal for his work with the Dallas High School Key Club.

Upon his retirement from the college, the Student Government Association established a scholarship in McCutcheon's honor.

**Cathy Kieczakajlo is named top V.A. employee for May**

Cathy L. Kieczakajlo, RN, public health coordinator, was selected as the Wilkes-Barre Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Employee of the Month for May 1995.

Cathy was selected for this award because she has helped it achieve its goal of customer satisfaction. She has unselfishly given of her own time in order to develop a volunteer group from the Pennsylvania Order of the Eastern Star, which has sent 18 members to volunteer in the primary care service area. She is also recruiting members of the International Rainbow for Girls to assist in

escort service.

Cathy earned her nursing diploma from Methodist Hospital School of Nursing, Brooklyn, NY. She is a member of Harmony Chapter 58, Order of the Eastern Star, advanced board of International Rainbow for Girls and past president of the Deborah Hospital Foundation.

Cathy has been employed with the VA for the past 25 years.

Cathy resides in Dallas with her husband, Eugene, daughter Carrie, a student in the Dallas Middle School, and daughter Karyn, a student at East Stroudsburg University.



CATHY KIECZAKAJLO, RN

**Business association will meet August 10**

The Back Mountain Business & Professional Association will meet Thursday, Aug. 10 at 11:45 a.m. in the Kennedy Lounge, Merrick Hall on the College Misericordia campus. A luncheon buffet will be served. The cost is \$6.

**Irem Women's Auxiliary luncheon Aug. 17**

Irem Women's Auxiliary will hold a luncheon August 17 at Irem Temple Country Club at 12:30 p.m. Reservations must be made by August 15. with Mrs. Alfred Colmer 675-9057 or Mrs. Martha Reese, 675-5929. Luncheon is open to members and friends.

**Shavertown firefighters sell safety items**

Members of the Shavertown Vol. Fire Co. are now taking orders for fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, CO alarms, and escape ladders. To order one of these items, contact any member of the fire company or call 696-3212 and leave a message and someone will get in contact with you.

Proceeds from these sales will go into the general operating fund.

**The Back Mountain's hometown paper ...from people who live here**



"Coming to The Dallas Post is like visiting family when Olga Kostrobala is at her desk to greet you."

Olga Kostrobala is definitely not one of your wet-behind-the-ears juniors. She may in fact even be a senior, but will not admit to voting for Cal Coolidge.

Olga does more than one job at The Post, and does them all exceedingly well. In addition to setting type on a Macintosh computer she handles the classified ads, the legal notices, and puts out the "Only Yesterday" column, a popular editorial page feature which explores happenings in

our area up to 60 years ago. Olga also fills in on the phones, and says, "They haven't given me a broom...yet!" There are no pets in the Kostrobala household (discounting husband Teddy) but she has her two pet hobbies; bingo and bowling. The Kostrobalas have three children, George, Donna and Gary.

Olga is another local person who helps put out the Back Mountain's hometown paper, The Dallas Post.

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