

J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

Two contenders with big bucks and not much else

The headline writers were feverish during the last political campaign, the week before H. Ross Perot was to decide his continuation in the race.

Of course, we all know now that he weaseled out of his high sounding rhetoric and simply dropped out of the game.

And the only reason he ever entered the race was to buy the only thing a billionaire with nothing else to buy can purchase: the public's attention. And while he was there, Perot enjoyed the limelight, while making self-serving noises about how the possibility of his entry into the race had precipitated dialogue about the issues, rather than about personalities.

Perot supporters represent the 15 percent of citizens who are not otherwise involved. And, by and large, those which I've met are of better than average intelligence. They are also persons who treasure independence, integrity and who have a sense of the larger picture outside partisan politics.

The really sad thing here is that these well-meaning, and in a larger sense, believers in America who came back to the fold—as opposed to Republicans and Democrats who've never left for reasons of financial or some other sort of security—hitched their political wagon (I couldn't resist that Texas born cliché) to a man who didn't want the job, but rather who wanted the stage from which to complain but didn't want to be there when the going got tough—(sounds like a few—not all—femi-

nists I know—but that's another column...)

And if the last paragraph was a little convoluted, it was no more so than trying to get a handle on the little man with the big bucks.

First he is not running, then he's sort of running, then he withdraws from a race in which he wasn't running in the first place, and now it's the clock which is running on whether or not he will well—uh—sort of rejoin the campaign...“but it will be up to millions of voters.”

What Perot was essentially saying is that if millions of people could guarantee him that he would win, he would rejoin the race. Again, he wanted the campaign glory, without being willing to put up the campaign guts.

What Perot did was tap into several obvious frustrations with our political and economic system by presenting himself as an independent savior. However, the potential for salvation of anything but Perot's ego was slim right from the beginning with Perot's history of benevolent dictatorship and, rather than welding consensus, forcing his will upon the circumstances.

A general frustration with feeling no connection to the political process, and a growing gap between the haves and have nots was at least partially at work in Perot's success. More's the pity, and greater is the potential danger.

The entire two-party political process, the nomination system, and the various state prerogatives in electing a president have been set up to avoid the manipulation of the process by a demagogue whose true stripes would be revealed through submission to that process.

What Perot did, in league with the media, was by-pass much of

that leavening scrutiny, and went directly over the system to the crowds who, in fact, want simple answers to complex questions.

More importantly, isn't anyone worried about the fact that most of Perot's supporters didn't care about what his policies would be; in fact, freely admitting they were sheep and only too willing to be led by this self-styled entrepreneur. But led where? And at what cost, politically and financially?

Some of his supporters apparently forgot that Perot didn't get where he is by taking care of others; he got where he is by taking care of himself, and reaping the rewards of the free enterprise system. Could his supporters really see him trying to deal with Congress, that same Congress trying to respond to its constituents, those same constituents who want simple answers to complex questions, and who then want someone else to pay for it?

We, the citizen/voter are the problem here; it's not who we elect, it's our expectations of that person and or the system within with our politicians work.

And that's why the candidacy of Steve Forbes—even though he is clothed in the robes of a Republican—is equally as dangerous as was that of Perot.

Forbes has a single, one-note message: Elect me, and I'll get you a flat-tax system. The facts are that such a system would most likely help Steve Forbes than the average citizen.

But his is a simple message, filled with the hope of fairness, is being heard by many Americans tired of complicated Whitewater hearings, foreign policy pronouncements, and pink slips at the workplace.

Simplicity sells. Doesn't it?

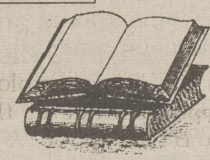


POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTZEK



Snipping a ceremonial ribbon at Wendy's pre-grand opening party, lower photo, was Dallas Mayor Paul LaBar, joined by, from left; Nancy Alexanderian; Dr. Harry Alexanderian; Adele Alexanderian; Dallas council member Pat Peiffer; franchise holder Steve Kecip; Kathy Lawrence; Eugene Roth; LaBar; Bob Lawrence; Bill Leandri and Alex Kormas, Luzerne National Bank. In photo at top left, Danya Zalaitimo, Dallas, displayed one of her crew's creations, as Jeff Seeley looked on proudly. Top right, Nancy Weller, Shavertown, sliced some chicken breasts. She was the Dallas Wendy's second employee.

LIBRARY NEWS



By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is continuing with its used book sale year round. There is the \$1.00 a bag room in the basement book room which is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12 noon until 5 p.m. An added attraction is 'Buy one bag; get one bag free'. There are several areas of books for sale on the main library floor. Paperbacks on a special rack are selling for 50¢ each; there is a smaller shelf with fiction and non-fiction in good condition. These are for sale at three for \$1. Another larger shelf features practically new fiction and non-fiction priced from \$2.50 up to \$5. These sale books were good sellers during the Christmas season and now also for people going on extended trips. The book sales during 1995 netted the library a total of \$1,405.43. We are

Reasonably priced used books for sale year round

selling good used mazines at the take out counter for 10¢ a copy. This endeavor netted \$152.87 during the year of 1995.

New books at the library: "The Secret of the Bulls" by Jose Raul Bernardo is a spellbinding novel, filled with both intense eroticism and delicate tenderness, which brings vividly to life the exotic and fascinating world of Cuba during the earlier part of this century. At once deeply moving and filled with humor, this is the story of love between two people and their quest for a better life for themselves and their children.

"Will You Always Love Me?" by Joyce Carol Oates is written with precision and intensity that once again surveys the American scene. It includes twenty-two stories that take the reader from inner cities to isolated backwaters. Obsession with loss, fear of betrayal, and sudden violence plagues the characters who inhabit the haunting fiction. The lives of working poor and follies of the idle and irresponsible become rich with

searching clarity.

"Trial By Fire" by Nancy Taylor Rosenberg is a thriller filled with explosive chemistry that covers the labyrinth of the law, the dark secrets of the human heart, and the forces of lust, greed, ambition and power. It is a breathless, page-turning drama of a brave and beautiful prosecuting attorney forced to defend herself against deadly odds. Stella is the star of the Dallas DA's office with an amazing 100 percent conviction rate.

"The Pumpkin Rollers" by Elmer Kelton is a masterful story of the lives and loves of Texans and their country with power, grace, and authenticity. This is a wonderful story of the West when the Civil War was still a recent memory. Trey leaves his family's cotton farm and sets off on his own to learn the cattleman's trade; but he is as green as they come. Trey learns fast. He learns about deceit and about love with beautiful Sarah Stark.

LETTERS

Fifth graders need info on area for project

Dear Editor and Public:
As a member of Mr. Olsen's fifth grade class, the class will be studying the different cultures of various communities throughout the United States. We would like some information about your culture and the way your community functions. As a class project we are getting information and by publishing this letter in your newspaper we hope to receive the information we desire.

The information we would like to receive consists of the following questions:

1. How does your community work?
2. What kind of city government do you have and how does it run?
3. What kind of food, clothes, transportation, landscapes, medical services, entertainment, housing education, climate, occupations, animals, power sources, computer technology, fun things to do, sports, fad and fashions do you like or have?

These are just a few of many questions we have. So if you would graciously answer our ques-

tions we would be much obliged.

Please send a postcard or souvenir that describes your culture. Your time and effort for helping us accomplish our classroom goal will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Terrin Hammerschmith
(A member of Mr. Olsen's fifth grade class)

Mr. Olsen's Room #2
West Intermediate School
Box Q
Sutherlin, Oregon 97479

Auditions for 'Shoot for the Moon' Feb. 26 at Music Box

The Music Box Players will hold auditions for the children's show *Shoot For the Moon*, February 26, 7 to 9 p.m.

All roles are open and include four astronauts, four moonpeople and one live, on-screen computer person.

All roles are played by adults ages 17 and up.

Shoot For The Moon, an original musical "space-odyssey" for chil-

dren, was first presented in 1992 in association with McDonald's Restaurants, Nabisco Foods, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. The original script is by Debbie Zehner, and Lee Thomas, with original "rock and roll and rap" music by Ted Anderson.

Production dates are March 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24. Show times are Fridays at 6 p.m. Saturdays at 1 and 5 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m.

Performances will also be held for schools on Friday, March 15 at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday, March 20 at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Auditions will be held at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse, 196 Hughes Street, Swoyersville, PA. For further information or to make an audition appointment, call the Playhouse box office at 283-2195.

Lake-Lehman

(continued from page 1)

sylvania State Assessment Tests given to grades 5, 8 and 11, "we need a stronger emphasis in math and science." As a result, a district-wide K-12 revision of the math and science curriculum has been initiated.

The board approved a new calendar for the remainder of the 1995-96 school year "in order to get school over as close as possible to the original date," according to Price. As a result, the following vacation days will now be full days: April 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, March 21, originally an Act 80 day, will now be a full day and March 22, initially an in-service day is changed to an Act 80 day. The last day for students will now be June 10, with graduation day set for June 7.

During the visitors' comments, Cathy Cebrick, a Lake Township resident, read a letter which she wrote to the board requesting permission for her and her husband, Stephen, to observe classes in the Lake-Noxen Elementary School where her daughter attends sixth grade. She claims that she is experiencing problems due to "negligence, time after time; not always teachers, but people in administrative positions."

According to Mrs. Cebrick, Lake-Noxen principal Robert Kunkle would not give her permission to observe classes, but rather told Cebrick to talk to superintendent Price, who eventually told her "no."

She claims that other parents are allowed to observe classes in

the district, but that the Cebricks are being denied because the administration doesn't want them to see what's going on in the Lake-Noxen School.

In other business, the board approved the resignation of Robert Rogers as assistant boys' volleyball coach effective January 29, 1996 and appointed James Donnelly as assistant boys' volleyball coach for the 1995-96 school year at a salary of \$756.00 pending Act 34 clearance.

The board also approved the following as teacher substitutes pending Act 34 clearance: Robin Smigielski, elementary; Brian Hampel, technology education; William Hatzis, physics/math, and Bonnie Gregory, secondary guidance.

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