

J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

• How incredibly ironic, (and typically intellectually dishonest), that the woman in the famous *Roe v Wade* abortion case was baptized last year. The irony is that she was baptized by an ardent pro-life minister who also ardently opposes homosexuality. The woman is gay.

• Even if they were only going to run a bake sale, the joining of Louis Farrakhan and Mohmmar Kadafy, is something for the world to watch very carefully. Both men have long histories of advocating violence to achieve political ends. As such, they are not reasonable, nor acceptable participants in the political process of freedom loving humans anywhere.

• As many now struggle to make ends meet following the lemming like rush to feed the Christmas monster, it would do all of us good to pause and keep uppermost in our minds that a person is remembered by what he or she gives, not what he or she owns.

• Keeping warm this winter should not include getting behind the wheel of a car after drinking alcohol. And forget all that nonsense about some people can 'hold their liquor'.....any alcohol in your bloodstream slows reaction time and impairs judgment. Period. And isn't it ironic that Bobby

Ironic notes from all over

Unser, Jr., a man who makes his living behind the wheel of fast automobiles, agreed to affix his name to an organization lobbying Congress not to increase taxes on beer?

• Contrary to his protestations—and he once made them to me—Dr. Edward Teller, along with J. Robert Oppenheimer, were the parents of the atomic bomb. What makes this all the more ironic is that in 1995, Teller made a complete about face. While listening to a group of soldiers at a 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the 87-year old Teller heard for the first time, first-hand accounts of how the bomb had saved many, many American lives. Following his hearing of those accounts, Teller said he reached the "unshakable fact" that the bomb had saved lives.

In the age of institutionalized mea culpas, perhaps Teller and Robert McNamara ought to go on tour together.

• It was a little more than a year ago (January 17) that a powerful earthquake, measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale struck Kobe, central Japan, killing more than 5,000 persons. Not a well known fact—and not to spread unnecessary alarm—is that the Wayne County and much of the area along the Delaware River lies along one of the United States' 13 major earthquake fault lines.

It is ironic, however, that what most developers complain about in this area—poor drainage and bedrock—is nature's way of keeping our fault line from shifting dramatically. There is the occasional tremor—such as the one

just west of Reading recently which measured 2.3 on the Richter scale—but nothing of great consequence.

• Even as financial institutions worldwide continue to feel the effects of British merchant bank Barings PLC's collapse, bankers here fail to see the irony that the continuing trend toward automation, mergers and increased fees by virtually breathing bank air, is slowly driving away the small businessman, this economy's stabilizing force. A significant amount of business which banks used to enjoy is now conducted in the underground economy through barter and other forms of exchange. And that will only grow as banks become more and more distant from the customers they allegedly serve.

• While this nation is rightfully concerned about who will control, and what will happen to the former Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal, the irony is that this illustrates yet again how federal the mind becomes when the reach exceeds the grasp. Our major concern comes in much smaller packages, much smaller doses, and is wielded by much less reasonable minds. Eleven people died, and more than 5,000 were injured last March 20 in a nerve attack on the Tokyo subway by the Aum Shinri Kyo religious sect. It is the fringe, in particular those whose strength is found in religious fervor, that the world should worry about. We have to look no further than the April, 1995 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City to see what the fervor of zealots can produce.

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

Ordinarily I wouldn't bother you with dry statistics. They are seldom exciting enough to make good reading, and there is also that old adage which claims figures don't lie but liars can figure.

But there are some numbers and the things they foretell which have been thrown around recently that scare me, and make me feel very fortunate to be living in my own age, that is, before The One to Come.

A word that crops up in all this stuff is "down-size." As I understand it, down-size simply means a company lays off sizeable chunks of people to the point where it can still compete and at the same time save sizeable sums in salaries and benefits.

The human side of such action

A disturbing future vision

seems secondary. The company may or may not help in relocation, and there is always the assumption that those laid off will find other jobs.

After all, the concept of being born, growing up, getting married, retiring and dying, all in the same community - even neighborhood - long ago disappeared. So why shouldn't the concept of being hired, working throughout a career and retiring, all with the same company, also vanish?

Granted, our society is more mobile now, and all those concepts have become old-fashioned. But what scares me is the workplace vision and the new concepts which replace them. "By the end of the decade" is the watchword, but I'd rather not be around to witness the paperless office or the robotic assembly lines.

Case in point: Our offices each year use almost a trillion pieces of paper, enough to cover the earth. But by decades end these pieces of paper will be no more. No longer will file clerks be needed to file. No longer will typists be needed to type. Voice recognition equipment will produce the let-

ters, but not on paper. Aetna's info manager says, "Paper in a service business is like cholesterol in the bloodstream. It clogs up the arteries." Instead, all data will be stored electronically.

Secretarial pool? Private secretaries? Already in a steep decline because of things like personal computers, fax machines and E-mail. Receptionists? Bell used to pay them more so they would dress better because they met the public. Now Bell research is developing an "electronic receptionist" to answer calls, record messages and hunt down the party being called. (It is not contemplated, at least so far, that the device would make coffee.)

Worst case: Olivetti research has computers for five people to converse and work together electronically. Each computer screen has five windows so participants can see each other on the screen as they share information; the reason being given is "so we can recapture some of the flexibility and human warmth that electronic communication has lacked."

2001? You can have it.

Library slates "Special Lunch"

The Friends of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, Dallas, has set the date for the Eighth Annual "Luncheon with a Special Author." The luncheon will be held Thursday, April 25, at the Appletree Terrace, Newberry Estate, Dallas, with a social period starting at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon at 12 noon. The guest speaker will be poetess June Nelson of Kingston. Pictured are, from left, JoAnn Hall and Cynthia Eckman, co-chairperson of the event.



Lehman board

(continued from page 1)

sabbatical leaves for the following teachers:

- a medical sabbatical leave for Margaret Holmgren for the 1996-97 school year;
- a sabbatical leave for study to Virginia Ide for the 1996-97 school year;
- a sabbatical leave for study to Sandra Goodwin for the 1996-97 school year;
- the second half of a sabbatical leave for travel to Cheryl Phillips for the second semester of the 1996-97 school year.

Board member Rose Howard said for now she realizes that sabbaticals are state mandated, but soon the laws will be changing and she "will not vote for any sabbatical leaves unless for medical purposes," claiming that it would save the district a lot of money.

Allen Moss went a step further, saying he "would not vote even for medical reasons," asking the audience, "how many of you get paid for medical leaves from your jobs?"

Tax windfall from golf club

The district may see an increase of about \$43,000 in property tax revenues from a recent reassessment of the Huntsville golf course in Lehman Twp., owned by Maplemoor, Inc.

Due to a provision in the school code, the district may be able to recover some additional tax revenues from the period after the initial assessment, according to Savage. He added that the owners of the golf course have 45 days after receipt of the notice to appeal.

Savage also announced that the district's bond issue which was to be refinanced last week was put on hold due to the recent instability of the bond market. Savage said if the refinancing had gone through the way they had hoped, "it would have resulted in a savings of \$106,000."

However, as of late last week, the net savings amount "dropped in excess of \$20,000," he said. Therefore, he continued, the underwriters and bond counsel scheduled to make their presentation that evening were not present because "they felt they

should put the issue on hold until the market stabilizes."

Superintendent William Price announced in his report that Dr. Graham B. Spanier, president of the Pennsylvania State University will visit Lake-Lehman High School on March 21. The visit is part of a statewide initiative to rededicate the university to the students it serves and to allow the students to increase their understanding of Penn State and higher education in general.

Price also mentioned that the district will receive \$13,800 under the Goals 2000 grant issued through the state Department of Education. In addition, he said tentative approval was granted for the funding of two satellite dishes as well costs for installation.

In other academic news, board member, Karen Whipple read a memo from high school principal John Oliver noting that Lake-Lehman high school students recently participating in a TEAMS Competition at Penn State, Wilkes-Barre, captured a first place trophy. The one day competition challenged students to work as a team using their skills, references and calculators to solve real-life engineering problems. They competed against seven other area schools including Dallas, MMI, Valley West, Bishop Hoban, Crestwood, Pittston and Nanticoke.

The Board also:

- approved the first reading of a district wide weapons policy.
- appointed Kathleen Williams as assistant secretary to the board effective as soon as appropriate bonding is secured.
- accepted the following teacher substitutes pending Act 34 clearance:

Diane Stulp - elementary
Thomas Traver - elementary
Daniel Walker - elementary
Amy Lynn Comitz-Thomas - elementary
During the visitor's comments, Cathy Cebrick, a Lake Twp. resident, claimed she had not receive an answer from last month's board meeting where she asked permission to observe classes at the Lake-Noxen elementary school which her daughter attends. She said

neither superintendent Price nor board president Ed Kern have given her an answer and she feels she's "being discriminated against, because she knows other parents have been invited to observe classes."

She further stated that she is "not a troublemaker" and quite the contrary, has even volunteered in the past with the district's pre-school program.

Price responded that his answer is in letter form and would be mailed to her, stating that "visitation, if you follow the normal channels, is no problem." He also said, "we're trying to establish a policy on classroom observation."

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By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library will hold a special program for young adults at the library in the community room on Wednesday, March 27 from 7-8:30 p.m.

It will be a "Make-Over Program"; teaching make-up tips and hair styling success. The program will be conducted by a Mary Kay representative and Country Scissors personnel.

Registration is required. Sign up will be taken at the front desk in the library or you may register over the phone at 675-1182.

Other programs will be held at a later date; a program of multi-culture for the entire family; a computer day for senior citizens or older adults; a program on community involvement; and a

Young adults' Make-over Day slated for March 27

stress buster workshop. The dates and times for the future programs will be announced in the future.

New books at the library: "Commonwealth Avenue" by Linda Nevins begins with the finding of an extraordinary diary, hidden for decades in a one-hundred-year-old mansion on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston. Augusta Hillyard began that diary on her wedding day in 1881. Over the years, she recorded her most intimate details of her life of comfort and privilege as well as the declining fortunes that ultimately threatens to destroy.

"Riding Shotgun" by Rita Mae Brown draws us into the world of racy wit, acerbic insight, and unforgettable characters that have earned her the title 'queen of the Southern sexual farce'. For Cig, nothing can cloud the excitement of tomorrow's hunt. Dizzied by the demands of single motherhood and her flaky real-estate clients, Cig feels truly alive only

when she's flying over a jump on her favorite horse.

"In The Presence of the Enemy" by Elizabeth George is a powerful story; a chilling tale of betrayal, vengeance, and murder. Hailed as the 'king of sleaze', tabloid editor Dennis Luxford is used to ferreting out the sins and scandals of people in exposed positions. When he opens an innocuous-looking letter addressed to him at 'The Source', he discovers that someone else excels at ferreting out secrets as well.

"Going To The Sun" by James McManus begins when Penelope Culligan agrees to accompany her boyfriend on a camping trip into the wilds of Alaska. She is so immersed in the first throes of love that she barely registers the dramatic majesty of the surrounding landscape. This landscape is brought rather harshly into relief, however, when her beloved David is savagely attacked by a grizzly bear.

Advertising in the Post.. It works for me.



Fran Ochman has operated a jewelry and coin business in Dallas since 1979, and has advertised in The Dallas Post since the store opened.

Ochman Coins & Jewelry is the store of choice for plenty of Back Mountain jewelry and coin buyers, because Fran Ochman has stocked her shop with a wide array of desirable and fairly-priced items. She used the Post recently to advertise diamond hearts for Valentine's Day, and was pleased with the response.

Of course, the Post is known for careful and committed readers in the Back Mountain, but Fran was startled

last year to pick up a customer from Arizona through Post ads. It seems a former resident gets the paper, and clips ads and articles of interest. She brought them with her on a visit, and stopped in to pick up a few pieces. Now she's a steady customer, if a long-distance one.

Near or far, Fran Ochman knows she can count on advertising in The Dallas Post to bring in old and new customers. So can you.



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