

Mainstream



John William Johnson

"It ain't religion," Bagadonuts says quietly. "It's economics."

As a second generation Irishman, the auto dealership service manager has mixed, but strong feelings about the political situation in his ancestral homeland.

He looks out the window at cars passing by, lamenting that "today's paper really did me in."

"Seeing my puzzled look: 'Oh, I don't mean about Ireland,' he smiles, 'I mean that story about recalls...I've had every person in the world on the phone today telling me about their car. One woman, who said she'd had her car for 10 years, called to say that since she'd read the article in the paper, she was certain she was going to have trouble with it now..." He shakes and lowers his head into his hands.

"But getting back to what I was telling you...I heard Gerry Adams speak recently, and I was impressed."

Adams is, of course, spokesman for Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army, the group trying to force England out of Ireland.

"And you'd have to be an idiot to believe he wasn't here raising money," Bagadonuts adds.

"And you can also bet that if a Republican was in the White House, Adams wouldn't be able to get into this country...but anyway, what did he say that was so impressive?"

"I guess it was just the economic situation...like, for example, in Lackawanna County, Pennsyl-

Ice cream social at Dallas Methodist

The Sister Circle of the Dallas United Methodist Church will be holding their second annual Ice Cream social on Sunday, Aug. 18 at the Church, in Dallas from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost will be \$3.00/adult; \$1.00/child. Tickets can be bought at the church or from any member of the Sister Circle. There will be live entertainment and face painting. Come one, come all.

Aluminum cans still needed

The Shavertown Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank everyone in the community who has been donating their aluminum beverage cans during our Aluminum Drive. The fire company is still far from the goal and in need of the community's help. Please, remember to drop off aluminum cans in the drop off box. It's a great way to help without affecting the family budget.

Crafts, flea market in Beaumont Aug. 10

The Monroe Township Community Association will hold a Craft and Flea Market August 10, starting at 9 a.m. at the Old Beaumont School. To rent a space call Shirley Patton at 639-5695 or Pearl Biggs at 639-5621.

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Even in Ireland, it all comes down to economics

vania, there are about 30,000 persons of Irish Catholic descent. If those same persons were living in Belfast, 82 of every 100 of them would be unemployed."

"That's what you mean about the problems there being economic?"

He runs a hand through thinning hair. "Of course...that's what the problem has always been. The Protestants control the economy, and the only rallying point for the Catholics—who are a majority of the population—and who, rightfully so, want a piece of the pie, is the church...that's why it seems like a conflict between Catholics and Protestants."

"Scuse me," he interrupts, answering yet another call about "recalls...most of which we've already repaired as each car comes in. And that often happens. By the time it actually appears in the paper, on TV, most of the problems have already been fixed by dealers...now where was I?"

"That the problems in Ireland have economic origins?"

He nods. "So Gerry Adams is mad for a reason?" parts manager Scuba queries. "I knew he was an activist, and activists always stir up trouble."

"Everybody gets mad for a reason," Bagadonuts replies, "and from Adams's point of view, without activism, the English would simply do nothing."

"Did Adams say anything about the IRA being willing to lay down its arms?"

"He didn't discuss that part of it," Bagadonuts replied, "but he said Sinn Fein is willing to talk with anyone at any time."

"You know," I interject, "I saw a similar situation in Canada when I was living on the Canadian border in the 1970's. There, the problem is between the English and the French, and it's commonly misunderstood to be a language or cultural problem...and I'm sure that's part of it. But the real problem is that the English control most of the economy in the province of Quebec, while it's the French who are a majority of the population."

Bagadonuts waves a man toward the service desk. "French are in the majority there?" he asks, as the elderly customer approaches.

"Yes, and a vocal French minority want to throw the English out and form a separate country."

"I just hope that Ireland can resolve this situation during my lifetime," Bagadonuts sighs. "Too much blood has been shed over, essentially, keys to the purse strings."

"And isn't it ironic that, essentially, the same bible used by both groups in Ireland, cautions about the 'love of money being the root of all evil.'"

Bagadonuts sighs again. It is a sad sound.

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

If I were a condemned man, and if I were told to select my last meal on earth, there would be no other choice but a steak, medium rare. That's the way it has been ever since my first bite, centuries ago.

Now that you know where I am coming from, let's discuss vegetarianism. The Greeks called it "antiprophagy", meaning anti-flesh eating. Way back in Plato's time, he and Diogenes advocated vegetarianism, and many organized religions followed suit: Hindus, Buddhists, Trappist and Benedictine orders, and the Rosicrucians.

The word comes from a Latin word, vegetus, meaning "whole, sound, fresh" and was coined in 1842; a vegetarian society got rolling in England, spreading to the U.S. where two men influenced early followers: Rev. Sylvester Graham, of graham crackers, and J.H. Kellogg, who developed corn flakes.

Most vegetarians give reasons like these: TASTE - They don't like meat; HEALTH - They don't believe the human body was built to digest meat, which spoils quickly and puts great demands on human digestive systems. There's also dreaded cholesterol; MORTALITY - Vegetarians believe that eating dead flesh means something alive has suffered pain. They

Make mine steak, but here are some vegetarian tales

- Here are the animals eaten by an average person in a 70-year life:
- 14 cattle
 - 12 sheep
 - 23 hogs
 - 2 calves
 - 880 chickens
 - 35 turkeys
 - 770 lbs. fish
- Source: People's Almanac

think eating a dead animal brings with it all the violent energy involved in its slaughter; ECOLOGY - They claim that instead of feeding grain to animals, if it were fed directly to humans much less land would be wasted and more food would be produced.

Vegetarians are generally regarded as crackpots, at least by inveterate meat eaters, but it's surprising how famous some of them were. Here are a few:

PYTHAGORAS, 578 B.C., Greece. Called "the founder of science and philosophy in Europe." Abstained meat, beans or eggs. Ate bread and honey with vegetables. Was repelled by butchers. Drank some wine but preferred water.

COUNT LEO NIKOLAEVICH TOLSTOY, 1828, Russia. Author of War and Peace. Born wealthy but helped poor. Ate no flesh, fish or fowl. Lived on vegetables, fruits, porridge and bread. Did not smoke or drink. Said, "Vegetarianism tells us the pursuit of moral perfection by man is genuine and sincere..."

MAHATMA GANDHI, 1869, In-

dia. Led National Congress and headed move to independence. Ate dates, nuts, fruits and whole wheat bread, but never more than five items in one meal. Said "one should not eat to please the palate but just to keep the body going."

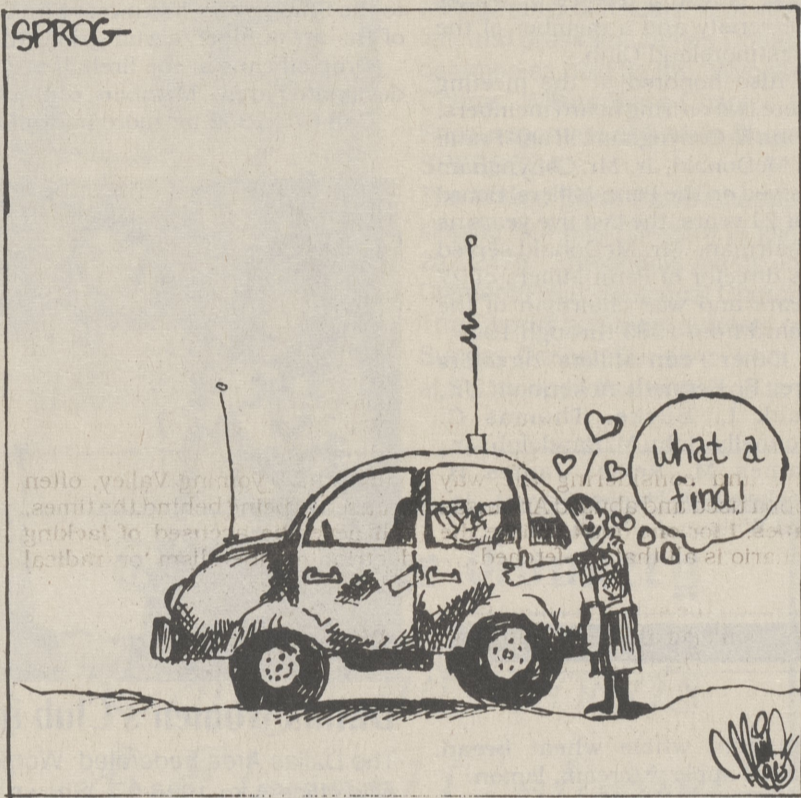
BENITO MUSSOLINI, 1883, Italy. Founder of fascism, dictator for 20 years, assassinated in 1945. Became a vegetarian after an ulcer attack. Ate pasta, grapes and oranges. Returned to meat diet in 1943 on advice of a German doctor sent to him by Hitler.

ADOLPH HITLER, 1889, Germany. Chancellor of Germany in 1933, proclaimed himself dictator and used a title of "Führer." Ate fresh vegetables and spaghetti. Cheated by eating pigs knuckles. Sometimes ate two pounds of chocolate a day and large amounts of eggs. Used large quantities of drugs to ward off depression.

HORACE GREELEY, 1811, American journalist. Said, "I judge that a strict vegetarian will live 10 years longer than a habitual flesh eater while suffering less than half so much sickness."

JOHN HARVEY KELLOGG, 1852, American surgeon, who will have the last word: "...When one subsists entirely upon fruits, grains and nuts, comparatively little attention need be given to the matter of combinations, as these food substances are man's most natural dietary, and mingle harmoniously together during the process of digestion."

Waiter! On second thought, make that steak medium-well, and Pittsburgh style please.



19 permits in Jackson Township in June

Jackson Township zoning officer John Krupa issued 19 permits in June. The largest projects are a new home valued at \$152,000 built for Michael Shuleski of Chase Road and a log office building valued at \$150,000 built for the Luzerne County Conservation District.

Other large projects are home modifications valued at \$20,000 at the Donald Thrash residence on Rte. 29, and a deck and pool valued at \$7,200 at the Mike Shevock residence on Oak Drive.

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