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SUSQUEHANNA TIMES

Susquehanna Times & The Mount Joy Bulletin
MARIETTA & MOUNT JOY, PA.

Vol. 77 No. 42 November 2, 1977

FIFTEEN CENTS



The first runner-up in the Miss Trasha contest at the Railroad House was King Tut, shown above.

Midnight Halloween surprise for Marietta

Star Trash

The most extravagant Halloween party in Lancaster County included a surprise parade through the streets of Marietta shortly before midnight last Friday.

The Marietta police escorted about 250 outlandishly-garbed revellers in an eerie procession from the Railroad House to Shank's Tavern and back. [continued on page 2]



The parade passes Gay Street.

School Board hopefuls queried

The five candidates for three positions on the Donegal School Board answered questions from the public at a forum sponsored by the Donegal Education Association (teacher's union) last Thursday evening at the high school.

The two Democratic Party challengers, Jeff Hartzler and Gerald Barnett, were on the offensive. Hartzler attacked what he called "the erosion of commitment to quality education, and the erosion of public confidence (in the school board). Barnett called for "reassigning priorities. Let's decide what's important, and spend only what's left on sports and related activities," he said.

The Republicans (incumbents William Landis and Jere Duke, and newcomer Edgar T. Jones) defended the importance of sports and other extracurricular activities. They also indicated that, if people wanted more input into school board decisions, they should simply attend board meetings, or personally phone school board members, rather than electing new representatives.

Here is what the candidates had to say on a number of issues:

Sports & extra-curricular activities

Barnett: "I don't advocate eliminating sports, which can be important building blocks for children. But let's consult with the people on how they feel before we decide to spend any extra money on sports. After all, the most important thing is basic education. We have to prepare our children for the real world."

Jones: "Extra-curricular activities are very much a part of learning to live in today's world."

Landis: "If we believe in extra-curricular activities we must support them. Would anybody really want to deprive the band kids of the chance to play in the band so the taxpayer could save 75 cents or a dollar a year? If it were put to a vote, would anybody be so

penurious as to deny them?"

Hartzler: "We have to put the basics first. There are high-school graduates who murder the English language, and who can't make change for a \$2 bill."

Duke: (After citing a study which seemed to demonstrate that active children learn faster than sedentary children) "There is a correlation between physical activity and classroom success."

On communicating with the public:

Barnett: "If elected, I would consider a motion assigning school directors to attend parent-teacher group meetings on a rotating basis." Mr. Barnett also would like to see the board meeting agenda published before meetings.

Hartzler: "Besides communicating with the public, the board should get to know the teachers." Dr. Hartzler's suggestions for improving communications with the public include: moving the citizen input time to the beginning of board meetings "so people don't get the impression that decisions have all been made before they've had a chance to be heard from"; semi-annual public forums to get "creative input" from citizens; liaison people to work with parent-teacher groups; better publicity for board activities; better rapport with the teaching staff gained by "listening to the teachers"; and publishing meeting agendas in the newspapers.

Jones: "We have a communications problem," Mr. Jones said. His solutions: getting accurate reports of the meetings in the local and Lancaster papers, encouraging people to attend board meetings, and reassuring people who feel "intimidated" by the formality at board meetings and encouraging parent-teacher groups to send written reports of their meetings to the board.

Landis: "You are supposed to vote for somebody you know and trust personally, so you can call him up and talk to him

when you want some input into school board activities. That's the way representative government is supposed to work. If something is bothering you, call me, even if you didn't vote for me. That's my job, and I'm always willing to listen."

Duke: "Lots of groups pressure the board for different things. How do you reconcile the need to provide good, balanced education and extracurricular activities without bankrupting the taxpayer, the answer is -- listen to the people." Mr. Duke said that he attends PTA meetings whenever he's invited, and does "a lot of talking to everyone who is interested" in school problems.

Would a full-time business manager, with a business background rather than an educational background, save money for the district, and would you be willing to cut the extra-curricular activities fund in half finance hiring such a manager?

This question was asked of Dr. Hartzler, who has proposed hiring a business manager with a business background, (Hartzler has not recommended cutting the activities fund in half.)

Dr. Hartzler cited the

success of St. Louis schools, which asked businessmen to volunteer their skills to solve the schools' financial crisis. The businessmen succeeded.

Dr. Landis answered the same question: "No, I would not eliminate activities for our children to gain worthless advice." He maintained that the board and present administration have done an excellent job of cutting costs and added that "we have not missed a nickle of interest" in short-term investments of school money.

How do you defend, budget-wise and in terms of energy waste, the new lights on Donegal athletic fields?

Mr. Duke noted that increased attendance at football games and money from admission to night soccer games "more than offsets the cost of electricity." The lights are used for practice as well as games, he said, because PP&L bills the school for 23 hours of use, even if the lights are used less often.

Dr. Landis reminded listeners that the lights were paid for by the Parents Booster Club, and said, "Nobody who's not interested in sports is paying for them."

Editorial

Democracy is working in our township

We are happy to see that there are very few uncontested offices in this year's local elections.

Running for public office isn't easy, and once a candidate is elected, he or she often finds that the responsibilities of the job outweigh the pleasures.

The public expects a lot of its elected officials, and people complain loudly when they disagree with the men and women they have elected.

That is the way things should be; it's part of making democracy work.

Competition is also part of the democratic process, so it is very encouraging to see that so many people are willing to take up the burdens of politics.

When only one candidate runs, we are just a step away from a situation of total apathy, in which no one is willing to serve the community.

The *Susquehanna Times* thinks every candidate deserves a round of applause. Whether they win or lose, their efforts have helped make our area a better place to live.