

Arts & Entertainment

Editorial Cartoons Make 'Politics As Usual' Something To Laugh At

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times



FEELING BLUE?...Harry A. Devlin sketched this editorial cartoon entitled, "Let's All Be Blue," for the October 22, 1949 edition of Collier's Weekly.

Is it the cartoon by Freelance Editorial Cartoonist Eric Harrison of a humble President Clinton trying to convince Americans that a sour-faced Hillary Clinton is "not a crook?" Maybe it's Jim Berry's "Berry's World" cartoon of Clinton and a trial lawyer "joined at the hip" that tickles your funny bone? Editorial cartoons, or political

Working through the twilight hours, Mr. Devlin's labor paid off when he was considered *Collier's* top cartoonist. This notoriety spread throughout the publishing world and he was asked to write the first chapter of "Making a Cartoon Tell the Story," for an instructional manual entitled, *Illustrating and Cartooning*.

One of Mr. Devlin's 1949 *Collier's* cartoons featured a line-up of blue-tinted individuals, representing a rainbow of races. The cartoon, "Let's All Be Blue," confronted a proposal to bring about an end to bigotry by whitening the skin of American citizens.

However, the tides turned when Mr. Devlin refused to draw up a political cartoon depicting controversial former Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy with a positive slant. He was given a pink slip. Being fired as a political cartoonist, when he was once top dog at two publications, made the artist frustrated.

"I became disgusted with the whole business," he said. He reported that when he re-



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Halloween Contest Set At Williams Nursery

WESTFIELD - Williams Nursery will sponsor its eighth annual Halloween costume contest on Saturday, October 30, at 1 p.m.

There will be three age categories: 5 years and under, 6-12 years and adults.

First place winners for both 5 years and under and the 6-12 year olds will earn a beanie baby trio consisting of Groovy, Wallace and Holiday 99.

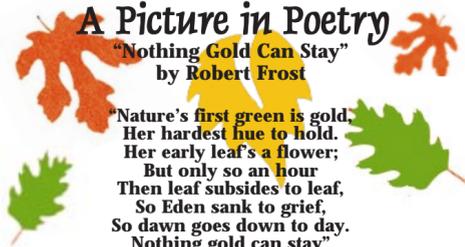
Second place winners will receive Flutter and Lips.

First place prize for adults will be a \$50 nursery gift certificate and second prize for the adults will be a \$25 gift certificate.

Minnowskin Park in Westfield:

A Picture in Poetry

"Nothing Gold Can Stay"
by Robert Frost



"Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour
Then leaf subsides to leaf,
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay"



"The Kiss" by Gustav Klimt, 1907-1908

ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Gustav Klimt (1862-1918)

The signature style of Viennese-born Gustav Klimt encompassed mosaic forms and hues with curvy lines and composition. The style was so unique that he is considered to be the founding father of the art nouveau movement.

The offspring of an Austrian jeweler, Klimt studied at the School of Plastic Art in Vienna. He was the first president of the Vienna Sezession, was named the President of the Austrian National Union of Artists, and later granted a professorship at the Vienna Academy.

Klimt's works were not met without controversy. In fact, his earliest pieces were censored when the Nazi's burned them and they were removed from museum walls. The artist hardly seemed scathed by the uproars over his artwork.

His compositions often included overtly sexual themes and heavy, yet classic ornamentation.



CARTOON COVER...Dale Neseman and his friend, Jack Thebo, drew this cover in 1991 for a book on government programs.

cartoons, as they are commonly known, are visual commentaries on current events. From President Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky to the former marriage of Princess Diana and Prince Charles of England, no topic is off-limits for editorial artists.

Some editorial cartoons often emphasize a particular point of view by repetition of a certain symbol or use of caricature. For example, Prince Charles' suddenly has large ears like Disney's "Dumbo" or Monica Lewinsky is perpetually painted with a tilted beret.

These scrawlings, which began as early as 1840, are not drawn and published in vain - they have actually had the potential to sway public opinion. If enough political cartoonists portray President Clinton as "Pinocchio" with a growing nose, readers can develop the impression that the president is flawed with fallacies.

Mountainside's own Harry A. Devlin and Hamburg, N.Y.-based Dale Neseman, who creates cartoons for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*, have gained notoriety for expressing public opinion of current events through their cartoons.

Mr. Devlin, who once graced the pages of *Collier's Weekly* and the *Daily News*, believes that editorial cartoons possess a "powerful punch," enabling a reader to catch up on current events which might often be overlooked.

However, he remarked that most political cartoonists find their liberties and subject matter at the mercy of magazine and newspaper editors. "Too few are given free reign. They usually do what the editor tells them to do," he said.

Mr. Devlin was elated and challenged when he learned that his employer during the late 1940s and 1950s, *Collier's Weekly*, wanted to publish illustrations to accompany their editorial columns.

fused to do the McCarthy cartoon, his editors spread the word to executives at other publications that Mr. Devlin was "thin-skinned."

Although he was not given the opportunity to work again as a political cartoonist, he is grateful that he had the experience. Since that career change, Mr. Devlin has been a prolific illustrator and painter with a bevy of published books and lifelike landscapes.

"I like poking fun at the politicians," mused Mr. Neseman, who also freelances for *The Sun* newspaper of Hamburg, with occasional submissions to magazines.

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Union County College To Host Theater Cabaret

CRANFORD - The Theater Project of Union County College will host a Cabaret on Saturday, November 13, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, November 14, at 4 p.m. in the Commons of the Cranford campus.

The Cabaret is a fundraising event for the Theater Project which supports its summer 2000 production.

Scheduled to perform at the Cabaret are three female singers, Gail Lou, Daaimah Talley and Sandra Toll. These singers have performed in past productions with The Theater Project.

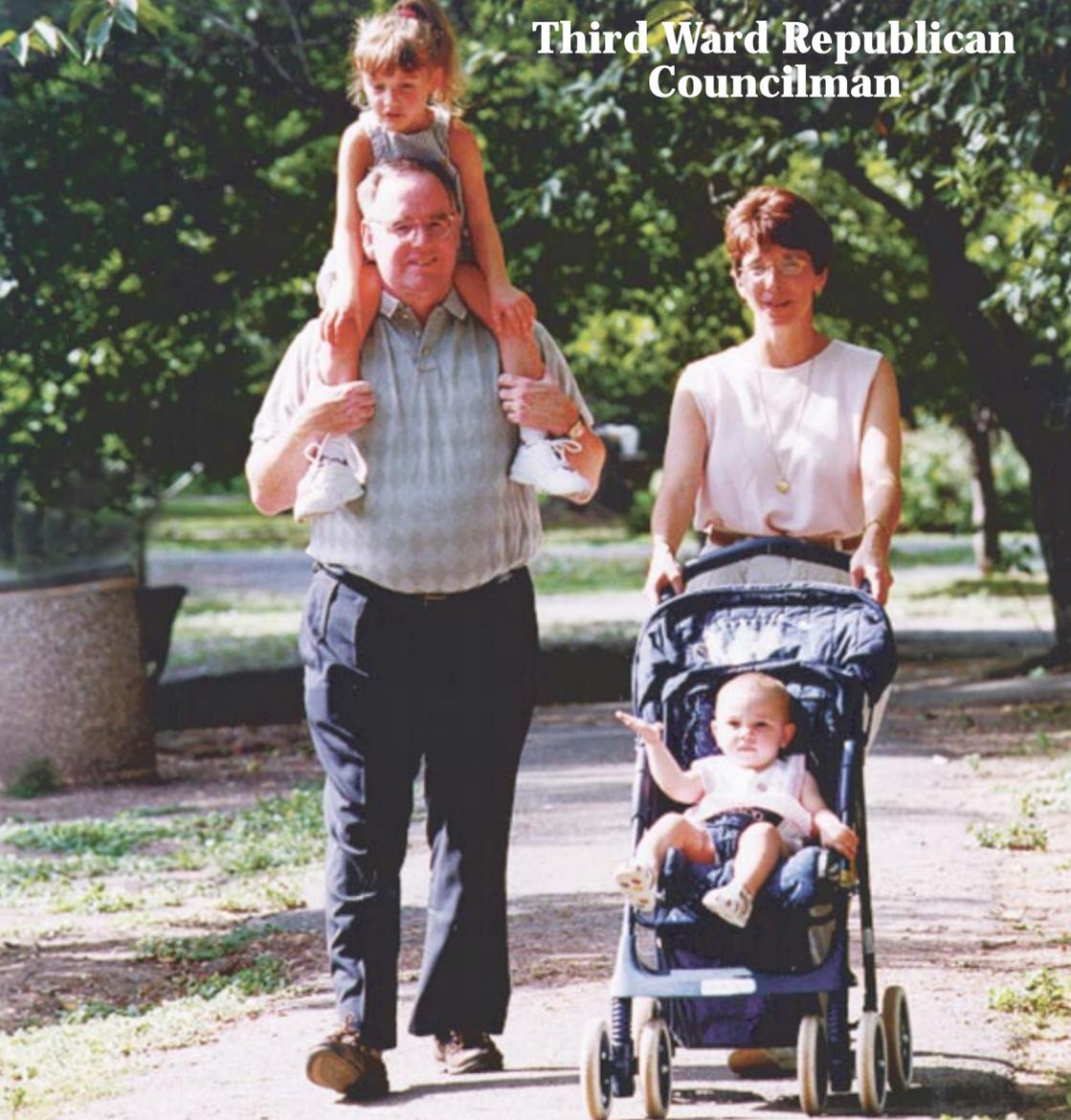
Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and senior citizens. For ticket reservations, please call (908) 659-5189.



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