

Stewart tromps GOP



John Stewart

"I think the voter turnout will be one of the deciding factors not only in district 41 but in all the counties," stated John Stewart, Democratic runner for state representative. Stewart spoke Tuesday evening in the EMU to a rather small crowd of supporters.

Stewart feels that the Republicans are capitalizing on the ignorance of the public "which after Watergate is the last thing to do. The people deserve a voice in their government."

According to Stewart, the Republican hope for the upcoming campaign is that the Democratic turnout will be low. This will help the Republicans to "sneak by while no one looks. I do not think their idea will work." Stewart feels that the Republicans are very upset and frustrated with their party.

John closed with the idea that you have to "let the people know there is an election 'cause the Republicans are not going to tell."

Fundamentalists react to deviant fairy tales

By DIANE AUERBACH

(CPS) — "The Three Billy Goats," "The Gingerbread Man" and "The Three Little Pigs" are not usually considered controversial. Religious fundamentalists in West Virginia, however, have branded these children's stories as "pro-violence."

Their objections: there is a bully in the "goats," the gingerbread man dies in the end, and a color illustration in "pigs" depicts the wolf with bloody paws.

"We won't stand for violence in our children's books!" says one irate mother.

Apparently, the fundamentalists will stand for violence in their children's schools. In their battle to force the removal of 325 book titles from Kanawha County Schools, the book protesters have recently dynamited one school, set fire to another and shut down 80 per cent of the county's coal mines — idling some 3,100 miners.

Since Kanawha County Schools opened on Sept. 3, two persons have been shot and another beaten in demonstrations; schools have closed and the streets of Charleston have been patrolled by 200 state troopers.

The textbook dispute has brought jail sentences for some of the more violent protesters, has forced one school board member to resign and has thrown the books out of the classroom into the hands of a citizen's review committee.

The review committee has been screening the books and passing along nonbinding recommendations to the school board. Deadlocked, it faces an Oct. 25 deadline for completing its work and has received clearance for fewer than 25 texts.

Following are some of the disputed works as reported in Scripps-Howard newspapers. In grades one through six, the textbooks are all in D.C. Heath's "communicating" series.

— For second graders the series contains "The Travels of a Fox." The tale is about a fox who outwits people but in the end is out-smarted himself. The objection is that it is demeaning to parents because the fox outwits adults.

— Two more second grade selections are "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "Pinocchio." Violence and theft are the objections to "Jack," because he steals from the giant and the giant is killed. "Pinocchio" is claimed to illustrate parental disobedience because Pinocchio disobeys his creator, Geppetto the woodcarver.

The controversy threatens to continue indefinitely. A fundamentalist preacher, one of the leaders of the protesters, refuses to accept any of the books back in the classroom. "There is no compromise," he vows.

The student body president of Charleston High, one of hundreds of students deprived of English textbooks, counters the fundamentalists' objections: "I'm mature enough to read something like that and understand it without it having any effect on my mind."

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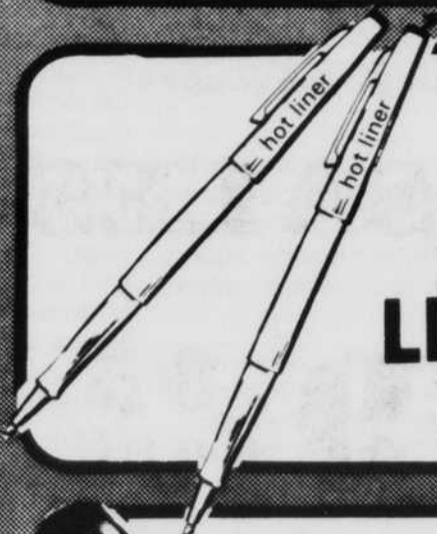


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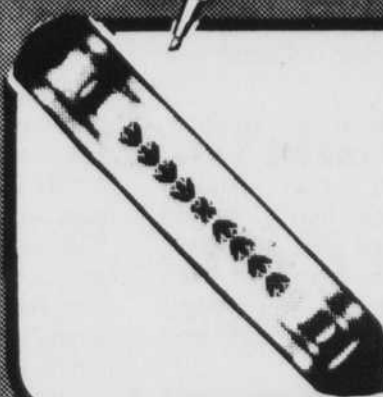
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