

commentary

from other pens...

Two governors races are warm-up to 2002

By Will Lester

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The two major political parties get a great opportunity to test their campaign muscle later this year in closely watched governors' races in New Jersey and Virginia — races that will be a warm-up for a busy election lineup in 2002.

Democrats have gubernatorial candidates in both states who look strong on paper and face no primary opposition, giving the party hopes of a two-state sweep. Republicans, of course, have other ideas.

"Democrats are in perfect position," boasted Terry McAuliffe, the national chairman. "We think we'll win two; there's no question we'll win at least one. This will be a launchpad for us in 2002 and then 2004."

The national Republican chairman, Jim Gilmore, the outgoing Virginia governor, isn't ready to accept McAuliffe's view.

"It's up to people of New Jersey and Virginia to make that decision," Gilmore said. "We have strong issues and strong people running."

In both states, Republicans will have a contest to decide their nominee while the Democrats already have united behind one candidate.

In New Jersey, Woodbridge Mayor Jim McGreevey is the Democratic candidate. He lost to incumbent Republican Christie Todd Whitman in 1997 by less than one percentage point, in a close race that stunned almost everybody. A dogged campaigner nicknamed "robo-candidate" by observers, McGreevey resumed steady campaigning soon after his loss.

Acting Gov. Donald DiFrancesco and Jersey City Major Bret Schundler are the Republican candidates who meet in a June primary.

DiFrancesco, who probably will make his candidacy formal in about a month, is the more moderate of the two and is running on his tax cutting proposals and his experience. Schundler, the more conservative candidate, is against abortion and for school vouchers, offering a clear contrast with the pro-abortion rights, anti-voucher acting governor.

Republican analysts acknowledge New Jersey is tough for the GOP because demographically the state is growing friendlier toward Democrats. Whitman and other Republican candidates got into office earlier in the 1990s after a tax revolt against former Democratic Gov. Jim Florio. "McGreevey is smart," said Cliff Zukin, a professor of public policy at Rutgers. "He's been running for governor since he lost four years ago. ... I'm talking about every day."

Democrats are happy with their candidate in Virginia, high-energy, high-tech multimillionaire Mark Warner, who ran a competitive Senate race in 1996 against GOP Sen. John Warner.

But Democrats acknowledge that Virginia, now controlled by Republicans, has shown a GOP trend in recent years.

The Republicans are Attorney General Mark Earley and Lt. Gov. John Hager, members of the establishment who have run a low-key, civil campaign. The nominee will be chosen at a state convention in June.

Warner has a fortune worth more than \$200 million and has raised \$5 million from others, suggesting he will have plenty of money.

The results of races in the year between major election years can sometimes offer a glimpse of political trends. For example in 1993, Republicans fared well and then swept to power in Congress the next year.

"The Republicans swept the Virginia and New Jersey governorships and the New York mayoralty," said Larry Sabato, a political scientist at the University of Virginia. "It was the first hint of what was to come."

In 2002, 34 Senate seats, including 20 held by Republicans, will be up for grabs along with three-dozen governors' seats, with many Republicans elected in the GOP wave of 1994 now leaving office. Currently the Senate is split 50-50 and there are 29 Republican governors, 19 Democrats and two independents.

"Typically these states are considered bellwethers toward national elections," Gilmore said. "I'm not sure that is the case this time. I think the situations in the two states may not reflect the national mood."

EDITORS' NOTE — Will Lester covers polling and politics for The Associated Press.



I find new non-punctuation style frustrating

I don't know about you, but I still think the English language should keep some of the old rules. I know I'm getting picky about it, but it used to be much more "reader-friendly."

Am I the only one who is happily reading along when something just doesn't register because of someone's new idea of punctuation.

Well, actually, someone's new idea of "NON-punctuation." It is tiring and time-consuming to read a sentence three or four times just to decipher its meaning.

Somehow we're becoming a nation whose language gets more difficult instead of easier. I suppose a lot of it came about because of the speed of computers.

People feel that the fewer "keystrokes" the better. I'm not sure I agree.

For instance, one of the words I used in the first paragraph - "time-consuming." The current trend would be to either make that two words as in "time



lorna
g. t.

• commentary

consuming" or, worse yet, to run the two words together as in "timeconsuming." When I'm reading, those habits just cause my mind to stop!

Here are some examples that have stopped me in my tracks lately. Sometimes they are just new terms I haven't heard before - like "mosh pit." But usually they are words that need a hyphen.

See if they are clear to you at your first glance: reassess, uniironed, viceregal, contraindicated, reascended, subeditor, subunit (submarine isn't so bad, but we're used to that, plus it is the name of something, but really - subunit?), excon, restoring (used in a sentence that meant "to store again"),

unman (even "un-man" causes thought), prebably (describing a young couples former life), multistory (mul-TIST-ory?), postriot, coopt, nonmagic, minirefrigerator, contraindicated, univocal, defanging, archenemy and antimale.

Now truthfully! Didn't some of those make you stop and scratch your head before you figured them out? Please don't say I'm the only one who's being easily confused by the lack of a hyphen.

Just a couple more. Wouldn't overage and over-age mean two different things? How could you leave out the hyphen and have the meaning clear?

Leaving a hyphen out isn't the only confusing factor. Sometimes it is when it is inserted in the wrong place.

I saw this divided word at end of a line - "rear-ranging." I think they meant "re-arranging," but the misplaced hyphen certainly leaves the imagination wide open. (I'd really like to have said "open-ended.")

Trivia ammunition for your next game show

If you want to go on a game show, here's some ammunition. But I don't warrant it to be true. Anything that comes from the Internet should be taken with more than just a grain of salt.

If you're a trivia lover, read and enjoy.

1. Citrus soda 7-UP was created in 1929; "7" was selected because the original containers were seven ounces. "UP" indicated the direction of the bubbles.
2. Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there.
3. Dentists recommend that a toothbrush be kept at least 6 feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.
4. The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as substitute for blood plasma.
5. American car horns beep in the key of F.
6. No piece of paper can be folded in half more than seven times.
7. Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.
8. One in every four Americans has appeared on television.
9. You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.
10. Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are 50 years of age or older.
11. The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.
12. The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.
13. A Boeing 747s wingspan is longer than the Wright brothers, first flight.
14. American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by



roxie
yonkey

• star tracks

eliminating one olive from each salad served in first-class.

How much did they save by eliminating taste from the food served to those of us who have to fly coach?

15. Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
16. The first CD pressed in the US was Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA."
17. Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.
18. The 57 on the Heinz ketchup bottle represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.
19. The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called aglets.
20. Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.
21. The first owner of the Marlboro company died of lung cancer.
22. Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts. She was named for the daughter of Barbie's creator. Ken was the doll creator's son.
23. Betsy Ross is the only real person to ever have been the head on a Pez dispenser.
24. Michael Jordan makes more money from

Nike annually than all of the Nike factory workers in Malaysia combined.

He probably makes more from Nike than I'll make in a lifetime.

25. Adolf Hitler's mother seriously considered having an abortion but was talked out of it by her doctor.

26. Marilyn Monroe had six toes.

27. All US Presidents have worn glasses. Some just didn't like being seen wearing them in public.

28. Walt Disney was afraid of mice.

29. The sound of E.T. walking was made by someone squishing her hands in jelly.

30. Debra Winger was the voice of E.T.

31. Pearls melt in vinegar.

32. It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs.

33. Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

34. The three most valuable brand names on earth are Marlboro, Coca-Cola and Budweiser, in that order.

35. It is possible to lead a cow upstairs — but not downstairs.

36. The average life span of a major league baseball is seven pitches.

37. A duck's quack doesn't echo and no one knows why.

38. The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days when the engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stabled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases.

39. Richard Milhous Nixon was the first US president whose name contains all the letters found in the word "criminal."

40. The second? William Jefferson Clinton.

The Goodland Daily News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association

The Associated Press

Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association

e-mail: daily@nwkansas.com

Steve Haynes, President

Tom Betz, Editor/Editorial Page

Rachel Miscall, Managing Editor

Janet Craft, Society Editor/Reporter

Reporter/Sports

Doug Jackson, Eric Yonkey, Advertising Sales

Susanne Allaman, Adv. Production Debra Turner, Page Prod.

Sheila Smith, Office Manager Pat Schiefen Bookkeeping

Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Ron VanLoenen

Judy McKnight

Richard Westfahl

Lana Westfahl

Betty Morris

Helen Dilts



nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services (nbetz@nwkansas.com)
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. (support@nwkansas.com)

Published daily except Saturday and Sunday and the day observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Daily News, 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: daily@nwkansas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: gdnadv@nwkansas.com

The Goodland Daily News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$22; six months, \$38; 12 months, \$72. By mail in Kansas, Colorado: three months, \$ 28; six months, \$50; 12 months, \$95. (All tax included.) Out of area, weekly mailing of five issues: three months, \$25; six months, \$40; 12 months, \$75.

Incorporating:

**The Sherman
County Herald**

Founded by Thomas McCants

1935-1989

**THE SHERMAN COUNTY
STAR**

Founded by Eric and
Roxie Yonkey

1994-2001

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



berry's world

