

LIVING

TODAY'S
TIP-OFF

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED: EFCA USA, an organization that arranges cultural exchanges for French and American students, is looking for host homes in the Boston area. Contact: Kathy Johnson, 3 Adam St., S. Easton, MA 02375. Or call (508) 238-0015.

CHARLES RIVERS

BOSTON DIARY

Since we all filed truthful income-tax returns by midnight, it will come as a complete, total surprise that tax fraud is the most popular crime in America. According to IRS' surveys, nearly 25 percent of Americans under-report their taxable income.

Fudging for fun and profit, and more, are examined in "The Book of Lies" (Morrow, \$15.95), a new book by M. Hirsh Goldberg. It's a mystery how Goldberg, a PR guy, became such a fan of distortion and obfuscation.

Naturally, Bay State pols are represented in "The Book of Lies." Take John F. Kennedy. In 1952, the then-congressman made his first run for the Senate. His opponent, Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., imported Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) for a speech in Boston. Javits told the predominantly Jewish audience JFK was "the son of his father," Joseph Kennedy, who was regarded as an anti-Semite.

To defuse the issue, Kennedy called upon John McCormack, a longtime Jewish supporter. Although they hadn't spoken in years, McCormack made a rousing speech about Kennedy's support of a congressional bill to aid Israel.

"The audience went wild," recalled Tip O'Neill, quoting JFK in O'Neill's memoir, "Man of the House." "But the whole story was a figment of John McCormack's imagination. He made it up to save my ass, knowing damn well that I didn't deserve his help."

Kennedy upset Lodge by 70,000 votes.

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A fascinating exhibit, "German Aviation: An Historical Kaleidoscope," is on view through the end of the month at Brookline's Museum of Transportation. Sponsored by Lufthansa, the exhibit features 62 historic photos from the 1920s and '30s, when the Germans were on the cutting edge. For example, the Junkers F13 was the first all-metal plane with an enclosed passenger cabin. In 1932, Germany also began weekly mail service to South America, through an ingenious system of amphibious planes and catapult-equipped supply ships.

No pictures, however, of zeppelins or German aviation in the early 1940s, when Focke-Wulf fighters and Heinkel-Dornier bombers dominated the skies. As the exhibit guide delicately said, "The war completely annihilated all of Lufthansa's constructive efforts in international aviation."

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Now that John "Shocker" Silber has grown more media savvy, Bay State campaigning has become a snoozer.

Not so in the snakepit of Texas politics, where a bevy of qualified candidates vie for every office imaginable. Take last week's run-off election for chairmanship of the Harris County Democratic Party. Houston's Ken ("Thanks, Uncle Lloyd") Bentsen Jr., 30, garnered 81 percent of the vote, defeating Leslie Elaine Perez, 52, a transsexual and convicted murderer.

Perez (who won more than 16,000 votes) was convicted of the 1961 shooting/torching of Houston insurance salesman Fred Tones. Sentenced to 15 years, he was paroled in 1971 and changed his ways. Completely.

Currently president of the local chapter of Gay and Lesbian Democrats of America, Perez placed second in the primary, prompting the headline in the Houston Chronicle: "Killer Transsexual in Runoff for County Chair."

Too bad Perez was no Jack Kennedy. No Jackie Kennedy, either.

Bentsen was conciliatory in victory, however. "I'll encourage her to remain active in the party," he said.

Family: Silber is gold

Running for office isn't what it used to be. In the old days a male candidate would trot out his wife and children for campaign appearances and photographs. The family would be on call to show up at functions, smile, shake hands and then go home.

Nowadays, candidates may be female, or single, or they may have families with ideas of their own. Wives with careers are often too busy to travel the campaign route; children are blasé about having Mom or Dad run for office; some spouses choose not to participate in the campaign at all.

In this series, the Herald takes a look at

the role of family for the key candidates running for statewide office. Today, the family of John Silber — who is seeking the Democratic gubernatorial nomination — talks about life with the controversial president of Boston University.

By MARJORIE HOWARD

In some circles John Silber is known as the confrontational president of Boston University who has ousted deans, yelled at students and now, as a candidate for governor, is stirring

praise and ire for his remarks on everything ranging from alcohol to welfare.

But to his 15-month-old grandson, Joseph, he is the man who lets him grab his nose. The doting grandfather even emits a noise that can only be translated into baby language.

"Awah," Joseph will say as he plays with Grandpa.

"Awah," Joseph will say when he sees his grandfather's picture on the cover of "Straight Shooting," Silber's recent book.

"Awah," Joseph will say when he sees his grandfather on TV.

To the seven Silber children and four grandchildren, the image of a playful, loving grandfather is the man they know — a man who plays bocci with them in the yard, goes hiking in New Hampshire and makes the best corn on the cob and grilled cabrito (baby goat) in the world.

It's also a family where there were, if not strict rules, certain expectations the children were supposed to meet.

Said Martha Hathaway, 29, who is Joseph's mother, "Every family has rules and we were all happy following them: be polite, don't dress like a grub. If you're wearing cutoff jeans you had to hem them or cuff them twice. We were always expected home for dinner."

But if Dad is the family boss, Mom is

Turn to Page 57



LITTLEST ANGEL: Kathryn Silber plays with her grandson, Joseph Hathaway, as the boy's aunt, Caroline Silber, helps. Staff photo by Ted Ancher

THE
KITCHEN
CABINET

The changing role of the family in political life

BU boss a 'warm and loving father'

John Silber's children think of their father as a warm, loving man who loaded them into the station wagon for family trips and spent happy vacations with them at their cabin on Squam Lake in New

Turn to Page 58

Get the most bang for Nintendo buck\$

By LINDA TISCHLER

The long-awaited Nintendo World Championships will open at the Worcester Centrum tomorrow at noon, just in time to relieve school vacation week boredom.

While it's cheaper than a trip to Disney World, the admission price for this video extravaganza is substantial: \$12.50 for adults and \$9.50 for kids under 14, not to mention the \$4 on-site tab for competition tickets.

So how can you be sure you get your money's worth from this event?

Here are some tips we picked



up when the Nintendo World Championships played Pittsburgh three weeks ago that may help you get the most from the tour's visit:

● Avoid peak hours. Lines of kids seeking to play new and soon-to-be-launched games along the "Power Walk" were

long by noon on Saturday and stayed that way until about 5 p.m. Competition to play Super Mario 3 — the year's hottest game — was especially intense, with lots of jostling going on to get the kid at the front of the line to screw up and relinquish controls to the next player. Sunday is also likely to be a busy day. Organizers suggest for the best chance at playing a variety of games, come early, come late, or come during the show's weekday hours.

● Read the program before you begin. It describes the games appearing on the "Power Walk," and gives tips on strategy for many of them.

That will help you choose which ones you're willing to stand in line to play, and help you play better when it's your turn. The program also has information on how to play the competition cartridge to rack up the highest score.

● Bring a friend. The kids having the most fun at the Pittsburgh show were there with a friend. The two of you can make a rap video together at the music video booth, or have side-by-side terminals during the competition. A friend is great for stage fright!

● For best competition scores, do your homework! The kids

Turn to Page 59