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Well, maybe real men do eat quiche

JOHN ANDERS



Here's one for those of us with short memories:

Congressional candidate John Bryant typified himself as "just an ol' Pleasant Grove bull rider" when he ran against Bill Blackburn earlier this year in the 5th District Democratic primary.

At the same time, Bryant typified his opponent as appealing to "the white wine and quiche crowd." Bryant, of course, won the primary overwhelmingly.

Gearing for his run in the November general election, Bryant will attend a fundraiser at 3 p.m. Saturday at the 8.0 Bar.

The admission price is \$25 and it's a tax-free contribution that also entitles you to — uh huh — white wine and quiche.

DUNCE CAP: An ambitious Fort Worth film company named Bumbershoot Productions has purchased the option to the screen rights of *A Confederacy of Dunces*, the outrageous 1981 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel crafted by the late John Kennedy Toole.

The price for exercising the option was almost \$130,000, and Bumbershoot director John Langdon says his 2-year-old firm has every intention of producing a movie budgeted at between \$5 million and \$7 million.

"We'll be able to do it for that," he says, "because it will be shot almost entirely in New Orleans where the novel is based. New Orleans is like a set anyway."

The film is now in its preproduction stages. "We're exercising our option with the book's publisher, LSU Press. Then we'll raise pre-production money to get the screenplay written. We won't even venture a guess as to who will be cast in the lead. "We're hoping to get Roderick Taylor for the screenplay which is, of course, our first priority."

Taylor is writing a screenplay for *Empire Man*, to be produced by Frank Yablans. *A Confederacy of Dunces* was published posthumously after a long struggle by the author's mother to find a publisher. Some film row veterans feel the movie version may face a similar struggle to see the light of day (or the dark of a theater).

Langdon says, "We keep hearing that nothing has been done in the past because it's too difficult to create a screenplay from this work. Our feeling is that, with the people we have in mind, the story already exists. And it's incredible. The writers have to understand the South, however, and that's what we'll insist on. It will be a great screenplay."

LONG HAUL, SHORT HOP: Ken Follett, who penned the best-selling spy novel, *Eye of the Needle* is writing the nonfiction account of Ross Perot's rescue mission of EDS employees captured in Iran.

The author has met several times with Perot in his home in Dallas. And while Ross Perot Jr. buzzed over England recently in pursuit of his around-the-world-in-a-helicopter goal, he dropped in (quite literally) on Follett.

Incidentally, if he wanted to, the hirsute and bearded author wouldn't be allowed to work for Perot. His appearance doesn't meet the clean-cut standards of EDS.

FLAT AND BUSTED: Free-lance writer Dave Clark says the management at one of the downtown parking systems apparently has found an effective way to deal with no-pays — the folks who don't slip a bit of money into those numbered slots.

"They screwed their own valve stem into my valve stem and let the air out of one of my tires," says Clark, who complains it's getting difficult to find free parking anymore in the downtown area. "I was in the lot where they usually just put a ticket on your car. You don't have to pay the ticket or send them any money, of course, because you're on private property. I guess they're onto my scam . . . I've been finding chalk marks on my tires. After changing my flat tire, I decided I'd just have to pay from now on. I don't know what I'd do if they let the air out of two tires."