

EDITORIALS

Old Glory Has Red Too

by Chuck Beckman

Last week, Mark Chaffee and crew from the Committee Against Registration and the Draft, managed to pick open a wound many thought had long healed. For two days, anyone walking near the library in Reed Building would hear philosophical (and not so philosophical) discussions for and against the draft.

The rumblings from early spring 1980, when then President Carter called for a resumption of draft registration, have long settled. Yet there remains about 800,000-19 and 20 year olds who have not registered at their local post offices. Today it seems as if the opposition is silent, or shouted down.

What irks me most when people argue in favor of abolishing draft registration is that someone inevitably butts in and brands the anti-drafter as a Russian Spy or some insidious Communist subversive.

First of all, we may as well resign ourselves to the fact that in 1917 there was a revolution in Russia, and the "Russians" are now recognized as "Soviets." If you are going to say "Russians," preface your statement with "as Solzhenitsyn calls them" or some other phrase which will help legitimize the argument.

But preferably, leave the Soviets out of it as long as possible. One may be anti-draft and anti-Soviet: this isn't a paradox.

People oppose induction for various reasons, but the best defense of this position resides in that part of our political heritage that the founding fathers

neglected to include in the Constitution. The Constitution by and large attempted to control man's potential for excess.

However, in the Declaration of Independence we see the more fundamental visions of what the colonies were to become. In Jefferson and John Locke's rhetoric we see what was important for them: the notions of life and liberty. The problem arises: whose life and liberty, anyway?

Jefferson added more depth to the democratic triad when he changed Locke's "property" to "the pursuit of happiness." While property is still a legitimate pursuit, one may also choose to be happy without money. Rampant materialism has shown its consequences enough times for us to know better by now.

Oh yes, the draft. I suppose that given this background, I need not make any assertions as to which stand is "right." Actually, I wouldn't mind serving a reasonable period of time for my country. However, I happen to be totally opposed to the current militaristic pandemic afflicting the current administration.

How many volunteer organizations—the Red Cross, the Heart Association, the American Cancer Society—are adequately staffed? How many elderly people in nursing homes are receiving adequate care? How many tons of debris presently clog the big cities? It seems as if we should try to solve our own domestic problems first before the deities at the Pentagon start making them for others.

Ah well, gods will be gods.

Speak Up!!

by John Skrzypczak

Some more bad news for college students. More fund slashing is going on in Washington. 250,000 students will lose PELL (BEOG) grants and 500,000 students will be dropped from the Guaranteed Student Loan Program. Only 2.18 billion dollars will be given out in Federal grant forms. 110,000 students will lose their college work-study. 75,000 will lose SEOG grants.

All Student Social Security benefits have been completely eliminated; with present recipients phased out over a four-year period. Ultimately, the Reagan Administration seeks to cut the education budget in half.

Will you be the next casualty of the Reagan philosophy of trickle-down education? The financial situation of the students' looks bad, it's tough to win when David Stockman was quoted saying "I do not accept the notion that the Federal Government has an obligation to fund generous grants to anybody that wants to go to college. It seems to me that if people want to go to college badly enough, there is opportunity and responsibility on their part to finance their way through the best they can..."

The attitude of the Reagan Administration not seeing education as an important area to fund can

be changed.

Bill Cluck (USG president at University Park) said that, "Penn State has a big responsibility in Pennsylvania for stirring up interest among students." He said, Penn State is the largest University in the Commonwealth so if students were to express their dislike in the reductions he is sure that their opinions would have much influence in Washington."

The Penn State student can express his opinion by letter-writing, mass lobbying, petitioning, calling your congressman, and becoming involved in voter education and registration drives.

A National day of action against the financial aid cuts is being held on March 1, 1982... Go to Washington to lobby and participate in a mass action or sponsor one in your local college community or state capital.

Bill Cluck said that, "I am striving to get a petition from each campus that consists of signatures of two thirds of all the students on that particular campus. With a percentage that great we can cause some real commotion in Washington."

Petitions will be available in the near future in both the Collegian and SGA offices.

Club News

The Volleyball Club's 1982 season is now underway, and President Tom Griesbaum is facing a competitive schedule, with Allegheny, Clarion, and Edinboro slated for play. The season begins February 6th, with a tournament at Slippery Rock State College against several area colleges.

While only a few members are selected to travel to each game, membership is open to everyone. Griesbaum, and Club Advisor Dr. Sweeting, say that all students may come down during designated times whenever they feel like playing a game. The gym will be open for the Volleyball Club Sunday, 3:30-5:00; Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during lunch time, and Saturday at 10 a.m.

Member Chris Guth says that, "it has been a lot of fun so far. Everyone has been having a good time, and I hope more people start coming." Bart Capristo, a

non-member says he plans on joining soon.

The Lambda Sigma Society

The Lambda Sigma Society continues its services aiding the college and community. The Society's latest venture was the Muscular Dystrophy Dance-a-thon, which raised almost \$800 for M.D.F.

Past fund-raisers for Behrend students sponsored by Lambda Sigma included the mistletoe and pumpkin sales. Presently, the society is ushering the basketball games by selling tickets and programs, as well as providing tutoring services in the Academic Service Center. The Society is planning a social for its members to be held overnight at Peak 'n Peek.

To be considered a member of Lambda Sigma Society, one must have over a 3.0 grade average, and then may be placed in a pool with others seeking membership. An application must be filled out, along with letters of recommendation from faculty. An informal interview follows in the form of a social, where applicants meet old

members. Finally, a selection committee begins to eliminate names until 30 applicants are left, and these people become members of Lambda Sigma. Sign-ups take place in the spring.

Says President Tom Mandl: "It isn't easy to become a member of Lambda Sigma, but then again we are looking for really hard-working and qualified students who have a real interest in getting things done."

Ski Club

In the winter festival, the Ski Club is planning on featuring a race against other colleges at Peak 'n Peek. Also, over the spring break, the Ski Club is planning a trip to New England for a real skiing experience.

The Ski Club presently consists of about 25 members, mostly guys. Kim Klimow, President, says the female membership must be increased. The Ski Club leaves every Tuesday afternoon and skis all day. People wishing to ski with the club may contact Kim and she will find them a ride.

Resolving Resolutions

Claire DeSantis

It has come and gone again, I fear. Another New Year's Eve, and with it another New Year begins. Funny, isn't it, how we feel it necessary to drink on New Year's Eve in an effort to bring in the new year feeling pretty lousy? I understand that it seems as if we should party out the old year and party in the new. You know, sort of celebrate all of the good things that occurred in 1981. Maybe we drink to forget all of the bad things that happened in 1981? Who knows what fallacies cause us to do such things? Either way, I've often wished I'd have the guts to just sleep through midnight. Although somewhere inside of me, I'm almost ashamed of my anti-party attitude. It must be peer pressure. Believe me, this feeling only hits me on New Year's Eve.

I spent time over my vacation trying to figure out what it is about New Year's Eve that I hate so much. What I did figure out is that above all of the things that a new year entails, I hate resolutions. Every body does it to themselves. We resolve that we won't drink or smoke or swear or tear out a sibling's hair. Then when we do it the next day or next week, we immediately feel the heavy hand of guilt pressing down on the tops of our heads. I don't know of anyone who actually keeps those resolutions they vow to keep on New Year's Eve.

Maybe it's because the timing is bad. All of you who smoke should understand so well. That evening, as you're dressing to go to a party, you vow that in 1982 you will not smoke. What a fine opportunity to quit, you think. (I should know, I've done it for two years in a row now.) So you don't buy cigarettes that night before you go. You get to the party, begin to socialize and drink, waving the cigarette as if it's a magic wand. Then midnight arrives. You're probably a little bit pie-eyed by now and every smoker knows that the first thing you do when you drink is begin to chain smoke. So you say to yourself, (and here's the catch) "I'll begin tomorrow, when the sun is up and I'm thinking clearly." Well, the sun comes up and you've already broken the resolution. You feel dirty, as if you've committed a mortal sin. You fell from grace. You chastise yourself for not even being able to (May I coin a phrase) "kick the habit." And it's even something that would have been good for you in the long run. You don't even care enough to do something good for yourself. Makes you feel low, doesn't it? Well, it shouldn't. Resolutions are something that was invented for this express purpose, and I, for one, will not be taken in by it.

I've come to a very important decision in my life. I've decided to begin my New Year on June 1, 1982, half way through everyone else's new year. This way, I avoid the resolution rush, I can party on December 31st without fear of remorse, and I get six more months to decide what I'm going to give up in an effort to improve myself. It sounds feasible to me.

It just doesn't seem worth the bother of kicking myself on what should be a holiday, and after all, if we are so bent on curtailing our bad habits we should be able to do away with them as soon as we realize them. There's just no reason to smash beer cans on our foreheads during a football game on New Year's Day for all the things we should have done. Better to just improve as we go along then to save it all up for one day that's really no different than the rest.

So, if you agree, you'll find me at nearly every bar in Erie on the night of May 31st, and at 11:45, I'm going to climb to the top of the tallest building in the area and drop an apple. Who knows. I might make history.

Commuter Corner

The Commuter Council is a group of students who work in conjunction with the University staff to design and implement programs to make the on-campus life of the commuter student more productive.

The Council would like to remind all commuter students of the meetings held every Monday in the Reed Seminar Room at 12:10. All commuters are welcome and refreshments are served.

Any commuters interested in playing intramural basketball or volleyball during B period and lunch on Tuesday or Thursday, should come to the Reed Seminar Room Monday at noon.

Behrend Collegian

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