

Happy Birthday, B of R

By Angela Deal

Think back two hundred years. Did all of the people in the original thirteen colonies quickly join together and unanimously decide to build a constitution for the national government of the new world? As a matter of fact, no.

It could be this sort of misconception that urged the Act of Congress and the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution to sponsor the National Bicentennial Competition on the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

As the Bill of Rights celebrates its Bicentennial in December, 1991, a little should be understood about its origin and importance.

In creating the Bill of Rights, the colonists were expressing a great deal of apprehension about the new national government, which was by that time fully into effect.

Pennsylvania, one of the first five colonies to ratify the Constitution, was host to most of the controversy concerning the new government. Massachusetts also experienced a lot of controversy and ratified the Constitution only with the conditions that there be a Bill of Rights.

Although hard to believe, nobody knew if this new framework of national government would work. The Constitution's lasting strength owes much to its amending process.

These first ten amendments, the Bill of Rights, are the rights reserved for the people to protect the freedoms of religion, speech and the press, the right to assemble peacefully with others, and the right to petition the federal government to correct wrongs. It requires federal officials to obtain search warrants from a court before searching a person's home. It provides for trial by jury in criminal cases and prohibits excessive bail and "cruel and unusual punishment". Furthermore, it gives individuals the right not to testify against themselves in court, and limits the powers of the federal government to those specifically named in the Constitution.

The Bill of Rights implicitly reveals the distrust the people of the new world felt about a national government. This paranoia provided the basis for a document which would influence greatly the way we the people live.

While there are millions of people learning about the Constitution and Bill of Rights every day, there are a number of high school and elementary school students participating in the National Bicentennial Competition on the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The Competition, which began in 1987, the Bicentennial of the Constitution, teaches the students the philosophical, economical and historical influences that contributed to the making of the Constitution.

According to George Franz, Associate Professor of History and 7th Congressional District Coordinator for the National Bicentennial Competition on the Constitution and Bill of Rights, it is important to emphasize study of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

He feels that the students receive a great deal from the Competition, and says that "the high school level is especially unique. Because it is competitive, the students need to internalize the principles, rather than merely memorize them, and are able to assess them to current events."

The students partake in a six week course, which covers basic principles concerning our Constitutional Democracy and the history of our Constitution.

There are competitive and non-competitive programs offered in the Competition. At the high school level the class works as a group and must pass

a written test with an average of at least seventy percent. They are given the opportunity to retake the test as often as needed.

The National Competition is designed to simulate a congressional hearing in which the class is divided into six teams and must offer a short presentation and response on one of the six topics covered in the instructional program.

In the middle and upper elementary school level, only congressional districts and states may choose to hold competitions.

In the non-competitive program the class completes the course, takes the written test and may choose to hold a simulated congressional hearing.

For information on activities concerning the Bicentennial of the Bill of Rights, call the National Park Service Visitor's Center at 597-8787 in Philadelphia.



Students cram for their mid-terms at the February 22nd Cram n' Jam.

Photo by: Diana Miceri

Earth to Delco: WAKE UP!

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As I write, I cannot help but think perhaps I am not reaching anyone. Perhaps I am writing and no one is reading! Is anybody out there? Answer please! And if you are reading this I doubt I want to talk to you at all. Quick hand this article to the person sitting across from you! You know the one I mean. The one who is sleeping, picking his or her nose, eating Twinkies, or otherwise preoccupying themselves in an unproductive way.

I feel remorse and writer's cramp because the apathetic slugs who should read this probably won't. (That's why I'm writing so much, so I take up more paper and my article is harder to miss.)

Am I constantly talking to a bunch of brick walls? Are all of my friendly pronouncements in the cafeteria to advertise events in vain? (Yes, I am the guy who stands on the tables and yells the day's events to you while you eat.) Who are all of you? Students or mindless zombies along for the college

ride? Open your eyes, look around, read a sign.

All of this may sound very gruesome but the year is far from over. Many activities are still yet to come. Information is written in black and white on posters for you to see. Tattoo these dates on your arms and legs. (Forehead if you're extra forgetful.)

Education is not always found in just the classroom. We as humans learn just as much from social interaction and extracurricular activities. (That is what my mother always tells me.) Perhaps this kick in the butt will wake a sleeping giant, but then again maybe I have just been beating a dead horse.

I would like to challenge you to attend just one campus event. I will guarantee a fun time and you may learn something. I would also like to challenge a reply to this article if you can come up with some good reasons why not to attend Delco functions

outside the classroom. (Maybe there are some I haven't heard.)

I fear no literary reprisal because Delco's masses are probably asleep and there are no valid arguments as to why you cannot make time to have fun. All of our events are planned well in advance and there should be no problem getting off from work or making time to show up.

I would also like to make this promise. The first ten people, regardless of who you are, who come to me to express interest in our SGA, SAC, or other events will be admitted free to any events that may cost any money. Just come find me and I will give you a free pass.

So join a club, get involved, show up! Exercise your American rights to get involved and help spend your money! (Interesting concept, huh?) WAKE UP DELCO! SMELL THE FRESH BREWED DE-CAF!

Rich Schaeffer
Vice-President, SGA

Try Some Opera; See *Don Pasquale*

Have you ever wondered what it's like to experience live opera? To sit in one of the seats of the enormous, elegant Academy of Music in Philadelphia and soak in the sights and sounds of a lavish and entertaining production?

Well, you can get that chance this Friday, March 15, when the Opera Company of Philadelphia presents Gaetano Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, one of the greatest Italian opera buffas.

If money is a problem, plan to arrive about two hours before the 8 PM curtain time to line up for half-price seating in the amphitheatre. The seats are high up, but the price is low: only \$8.

If understanding Italian is a problem, then take advantage of the unique system of projected English subtitles, which the Opera Company is using for the first time with this production.

Don Pasquale is a comic masterpiece which premiered in Paris in 1843. It presents the story of an elderly bachelor who disinherits his nephew because of his intended wedding to a young and beautiful widow, Norina.

When the stubborn old man decides to take a bride for himself, his friend Dr. Malatesta and Norina trick him into marrying Norina, whom Don Pasquale has never met. But he becomes horrified by Norina's shrewish behavior and gratefully accepts his nephew's offer to marry her instead.

An international cast is presenting this Philadelphia debut of *Don Pasquale*.

South Coast Poetry Journal 6TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

Final Judge: Philip Levine

AWARDS:

- 1st Prize: \$200 and publication in SCPJ
- 2nd Prize: \$75 and publication in SCPJ
- 3rd Prize: \$50 and publication in SCPJ

RULES

1. Any style; any subject.
2. Entry fee: \$3 per poem.*
3. Maximum 40 lines per poem.
4. Send 2 copies of each poem, one copy of the poem alone, the other with poet's name and address on it.
5. Poems must be in English, original, unpublished, not currently submitted elsewhere.
6. Poems will not be returned.
7. For contest results, enclose SASE marked "winners."
8. Make checks payable to "CSUF Foundation."
9. All poems entered will be considered for publication in SCPJ.

CHECKLIST

1. Two copies of each poem. One of each pair should carry poet's name and address.
2. Check.
3. SASE marked "winners" (optional).

Entries must be postmarked
March 29, 1991 or earlier.

SEND ENTRIES TO:

Contest
SOUTH COAST POETRY JOURNAL
English Department
CSUF
Fullerton, CA 92634

Names of Winners will be mailed
by May 31, 1991.

*Poets entering 3 or more poems will
receive a free one-year subscription to SCPJ