

A fairy tale?

Once upon a time there was a land called Happy Valley where the joy of 30,000 students was guarded by 32 trustees.

None of the students in Happy Valley could speak or hear or see. The trustees thought that if the students could hear and see and discuss the problems in the world, they would be unhappy.

So the trustees did all the seeing of problems in Happy Valley and listened only to each other talking about them.

But because there were 30,000 students and only 32 trustees the trustees did not see all the problems and solutions.

The students were not really happy because they could experience problems but were unable to see or hear if the trustees were doing anything to solve them.

The students begged again and again in their student newspaper, which was written in

braille, that they be given sight and hearing and speech so that they could help solve all the problems they experienced.

But the trustees were deaf to the pleas.

The legislature of the land saw that the students were unhappy in Happy Valley and passed a law they hoped would bring joy back to the valley. The law stated that the trustees must grant the students the powers of sight and hearing. The legislators thought that if the students could see and hear that the trustees were trying to solve the problems, the students would be happy, knowing that soon there would be no more problems.

There was much rejoicing in Happy Valley when the law was passed. Everyone thought the law would keep Happy Valley happy.

But it did not. The students went to the trustees' meetings and could hear and see that the trustees were not working on some of the

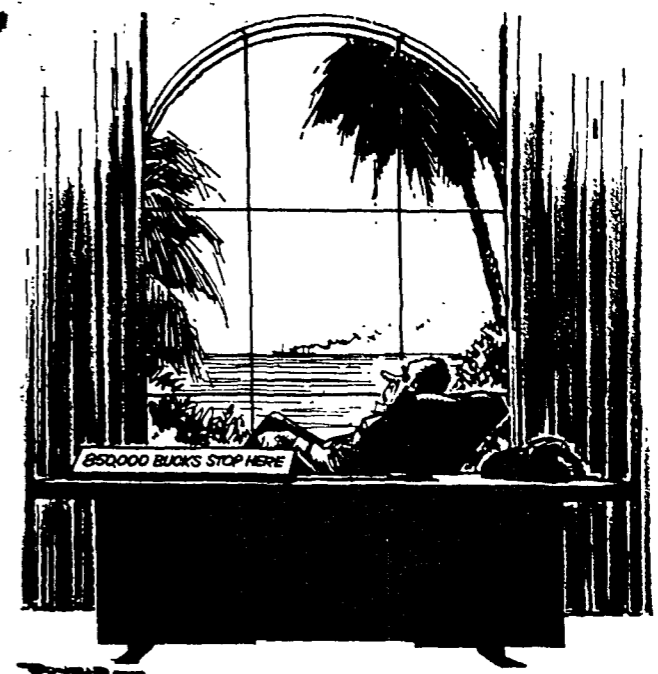
problems the students experienced, they also saw and heard that trustees were trying to solve some problems in ways the students did not like.

But the students could not tell the trustees their problems and or suggest proper solutions to problems because the trustees would not let them speak.

Happy Valley was filled with much unhappiness. The student newspaper begged the trustees to give the students the power of speech.

But the trustees thought giving the students the power of speech would only add to the unhappiness they believed the legislature had caused by giving the students the powers of hearing and sight.

And so the newspaper pleaded, the trustees acted deaf and dumb, and the students remained unhappy in Happy Valley.



the daily Collegian The national amendment game

DIANE M. NOTTLE
Editor

CYNTHIA A. ASHEAR
Business Manager

By PATRICK CLOONAN
of the Collegian Staff

Recently, in response to the pardon of Richard M. Nixon by President Ford, Sen. Walter F. Mondale, (D-Minn), proposed a constitutional amendment, which if approved would require two-thirds' approval of the Senate for all future presidential pardons.

The move is a novel one, though it probably strikes the casual observer as an act of closing the barn door after the horse has escaped. At any rate, it is just another episode in a rather popular national game "Amend The Constitution," which is as old as the Republic itself.

Ever since libertarian-minded delegates to that first Constitutional Convention managed to push the Bill of Rights through, Americans have always responded to irregular moments in national history by proposing amendments to their Constitution, a novel document which has endured the ages and has served as a model for other nations' legal codes.

Some of those proposed amendments have been disregarded, while only a select fifteen managed to get through the complicated amending process since

1791, when the original 10 amendments were ratified by 11 of the young states.

Indeed, those ten were part of what was a 12 amendment package. Thus, even in the beginning the process was a closed sort that allowed only those amendments thought in the best public interest.

That process was written into the original seven-article document — Article V — and it has helped to keep the whole document strong, while making it flexible enough to take account of changes in the national attitude.

For an amendment to become law, approval first is needed from either two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress or two-thirds of the states (voting in special convention), then approval of either the legislature or a special convention in each of three-fourths of the states.

Amendments are not necessarily permanent — several have themselves been amended, and one, the Eighteenth (Prohibition) Amendment, was superseded by the Twenty-First Amendment in 1933.

Today, only one amendment is actually in the process of being approved. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA),

which has only five states to go before reaching the three-fourths' mark and becoming law, would provide for the elimination of many restrictions now affecting women.

However, at least one national group has risen in opposition to it, and the ERA in some states still faces possible reversal of earlier-won approval.

Beside the Mondale proposal, several other proposed amendments are now facing the Congress. Among these are two bills dealing with abortion and the famous (or infamous, depending on your moral view) Supreme Court decision permitting a national liberalized policy on abortion.

One was proposed by a Catholic senator and six Protestant colleagues, which would more or less reverse the Court's action. The other, to be released in the near future by President Ford, would hand the problem back to the states.

Other amendments now being proposed in one manner or another include prayer-in-public-buildings and due-process-for-all, as well as an anti-busing proposal (which would be accepted happily in such cities as Detroit, Boston, and Richmond these days).

The Constitution is not changed by light measure, though it is not so inflexible that it doesn't allow for change. This mixture of durability and flexibility, insured by the wisdom of those who wrote Article V, keeps the wacky articles out, while assuring that only the most worthwhile legislation — legislation with true national backing — gets through.

However, this is not to say that it is perfect. Certainly the Eighteenth Amendment was a mistake — Prohibition was a joke to the booze-happy fans of "speakeasies," that covered the entire nation. And some people have more than enough reason to question the merits of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment, an amendment which in effect denied the people the right to elect potential presidents (though the people also have no say in election of the Speaker of the House, who is also a potential president).

But with its lengthy tradition, a tradition shared with the long democratic heritage of our Republic, the Constitution still stands as one of the most worthy legal documents, as well as one of the most forceful and influential, in the modern history of mankind.

Successor to the Free Lance, est. 1887
Member of the Associated Press
Charter member of the Pennsylvania Collegiate Media Association

New subscription rates
Off-Campus - \$22.00 per year
\$6.00 per term - Fall, Winter, Spring — \$4.50 per Summer Term
On-Campus - \$13.00 per year
\$3.50 per term - Fall, Winter, Spring — \$3.00 per Summer Term

Mailing Address: Box 467, State College, Pa. 16801
Office: 126 Carnegie

Editorial Staff: 865-1828
Sports Staff: 865-1820
Business Staff: 865-2531

Business Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BOARD OF MANAGERS: ADVERTISING MANAGER, David Lang; ASSISTANT ADVERTISING MANAGERS, Susan Voytovich, Kim Batey; NATIONAL ADVERTISING MANAGER, Bob Rosner; ASSISTANT BOOKKEEPER, Heather Walden; BILLING, Sandy Pollock, Michele Reilly; DELIVERY, Steve Straley, Jorena Proper; ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES, Rob Moffet, Jeff Barney, Tom Tull, Ellen Clair, Steve Wallace.

Letters to the Editor

The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and campus and off-campus affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double spaced, signed by no more than two persons and no longer than 30 lines. Students' letters should include the name, term and major of the writer. Letters should be brought to the Collegian office, 126 Carnegie, in person so proper identification of the writer can be made, although names will be withheld on request. If letters are received by mail, the Collegian will contact the signer for verification before publication. Letters cannot be returned.

Summit meeting

TO THE EDITOR: In reference to Patrick Sokas' article "Botching the Presidency" in Wednesday's Collegian, the writer appears to be missing the point entirely. Sokas claims that the economic summit meeting was called "to say silly things they had all said before and smile pretty for the cameras." In fact, this is the first major conference on the economy at the executive level in years, and according to all those concerned, it is bringing out more opinions than President Ford might work with.

Attacking Ford for "allowing infighting among his staff" is simply ignorant of an historic process. Anytime there is a presidential succession, other than after an election, the transition is much more difficult. In order for a smooth transition, the new President must retain a number of the former President's aides to instruct the new aides to White House procedure. Infighting between the new aides and the holdovers is inevitable as witnessed by the difficult Kennedy to Johnson transition.

The writer also criticizes Ford for his handling of the amnesty issue by saying he has "waffled on it for weeks," in addition to commenting on his love for "surprises." Did he expect Ford to wait until he had the entire amnesty plan formulated before making it public? If so, that really would have been a surprise. In waiting, he realized the public reaction and was able to then formulate a plan acceptable to the largest number. It is sad he did not follow this plan in the Nixon case.

Richard J. Cinquino
10th-political science

Greyhound warning

TO THE EDITOR: I am writing this letter as a warning to any citizen or student of State College or any person, who utilizes the Greyhound Bus Lines. A Greyhound customer may be able to "leave the driving..." to a Greyhound but not the scheduling of the trip.

My experience with Greyhound on a trip from Richmond, Virginia to State College included an overnight wait (10 hours) at the Harrisburg terminal and consequently, a missed class at Penn State. These circumstances occurred because two different Greyhound employees at Richmond gave me incorrect scheduling information.

I was told to take a 5:45 p.m. bus out of Richmond to arrive at State College at 5:25 a.m. When I arrived at Harrisburg at approximately 12:45 a.m. I was informed that the next bus to State College would not leave until that morning. Thus, I would arrive in State College at 12:35 p.m. — seven hours later than the arrival time the Richmond employees gave me.

Scheduling is not Greyhound's only problem. Baggage does not always arrive at the destination with the traveler. On my trip into Richmond I had to wait an extra hour at the terminal for my baggage to arrive because it was put on a later bus.

When I phoned the terminal for information, I was told the cost of my trip would be \$15.25. When I purchased my ticket the actual price was \$17.60.

One customer had to wait an extra two hours at the Harrisburg terminal because the company failed to announce a bus departure.

Apparently Greyhound, which operates a near-monopoly of America's Bus lines, is not offering the service it claims to give. Hopefully, this letter will serve not only to warn travelers that Greyhound's services may not match their expectations, but also will inform Greyhound that improvement in the company is needed.

Patrice Giancola
7th-journalism

Forced to conceive?

TO THE EDITOR: It's distressing to think that two young women so far along in their education could compose such a mishmash of misconceptions as "Control over women." It is so rooted in non-sequiturs one doesn't know where to begin but the following assertions cannot go unchallenged.

Whitley and Kinsinger claim that because of the new Pennsylvania abortion law men now "have a hand over women by forcing us to have children that are unwanted." Is there a group of male chauvinists roaming the countryside impregnating women without their knowledge or consent? If not, who is forcing them, or any woman, to conceive?

In the same context, they write: "We, as women, have plans for our lives...Becoming pregnant, whether married or unmarried, will interfere with these plans." With the easy availability of contraceptive devices, any woman, married or unmarried, who becomes pregnant when she doesn't want to (excluding rape) is a poor planner and stupid to boot.

They score on one point. A woman does have the responsibility over the fetus, but the responsibility entails nurturing

and caring for it, not killing it. As far as the rest of their arguments go, my wife will tell them it takes 100 per cent of her time to care for our three-month-old person, and they lightly dismiss, without empirical evidence, the father's role in the family.

Not surprisingly, they save their biggest fallacy for last. It's true there are myths about childbearing that need destroying but they would substitute an even bigger and more dangerous myth: that motherhood and womanhood are, for some unexplainable reason, mutually exclusive.

Michael Elliott
13th-Journalism

The Bible on abortion

TO THE EDITOR: I feel constrained to make some reply to the three letters published on September 19 and 20 pertaining to abortion. None of the three makes any reference to God, who can be the only author of an objective morality. If Christianity is false, then there is no reason why one would care about others at all, if one can evade being penalized for such. Fortunately, Christianity is true, and God has ordained that everyone will reap the fruits of his own actions (Gal. 6:7&8), with the way to happiness and fulfillment lying through self-denial, self discipline, and self giving (Lk 9:23-25, Gal 5:23).

Mr. Oluf makes an excellent point in stating that women desiring abortions are attempting to evade the consequences of their own actions, to, in effect, have pleasure without having to bear any responsibility — a point not answerable, and thus unanswered by Ms. Whitley and Ms. Beck-Ramsay.

In view of Genesis 1:28 and Timothy 2:15; birth control methods other than celibacy must be considered dubious at best, and Oluf's mention of them only allowed Whitley the opportunity to criticize their effectiveness. Every woman has the option not to yield to sexual desire; abortion, in addition to being murder, is also an attempt to evade responsibility.

The attitude that child-bearing is burdensome is typical of the selfishness of the laborers and is due to lack of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Children are a blessing from God, intended for our happiness (Ps. 127:3-5). Having them is an opportunity for self-giving which always leads to one's moral improvement, if taken. When a mother thus refuses to engage in feticide, she not only avoids God's wrath, but also receives the positive blessing of childbearing (Tim 2:15), making anti-abortion laws entirely to the benefit of women.

I might be asked why I seem so concerned about immorality among women when there is also so much among men. The answer, of course, is that the Bible condemns indolence,

irresponsibility and murder among men as well as women, but I have not read any letters in the Collegian advocating such a program of action for men. If I do, the proper time will then have arisen for its criticism.

Henry A. Christoph, Jr.
Graduate-history

Misleading article

TO THE EDITOR: We would like to clarify some misleading statements which appeared in the Sept. 18 issue of the Daily Collegian in an article entitled "ARHS blasts USG allocation." Citing a resolution by the Association of Residence Hall Students to "frown upon United (sic) Student Government's decision to allocate \$100 for a specific gubernatorial candidate," the Collegian stated that "the USG Senate voted to pay a representative of the Socialist party's gubernatorial candidate to speak at the University." In fact, the USG Senate voted to join other campus groups in helping to pay for a speaking engagement by Maceo Dixon on Sept. 26 at Penn State on the topic "Why the system won't work: Nixon's gone, problems remain."

Although Maceo Dixon is the National Co-Chairman of the Socialist Workers Party Campaign Committee, the purpose of his talk is to show why capitalism cannot meet the needs of the American people rather than to get Roberta Scherr the Socialist Workers Party gubernatorial candidate elected. Maceo Dixon is neither a candidate himself nor is he a representative of Roberta Scherr.

As for ARHS, which is now knitting its brow disapprovingly upon the decision to allocate \$100 for a specific gubernatorial candidate, it can frown as much as it pleases, for such a decision was never made. While such uninformed opinions can be expected from a "student organization" which passes legislation binding upon dorm residents who in many cases never got to vote for these "representatives," we expect the Collegian to be more accurate. It is interesting that the Collegian refrained from reporting on Maceo Dixon's appearance in the article on the USG Senate meeting in question, and waited until ARHS "blasted" the decision before writing anything about it. The fact that the name of the political party involved was not even recorded accurately also seems lamentably characteristic of both ARHS' and the Collegian's handling of the story.

Corky Boake
9th-psychology
Paul Elliott
Grad-mathematics



The preregistration blues

By JOHN JOHNSON
of the Collegian Staff

Well, I guess you've just about had your fill of registration horror stories (though pre-registration horror stories are still in the making), and far be it from me to bore you with still one more, but my friend's case just seems so outstandingly typical... well, read on.

CHARACTERS

KEITH MALINSON — known to his friends as "Kinky."
SECRETARY — only distinguishing feature was sharp, apparently filed incisors.

SCENE

An office. Keith enters.
Sec: I can help you
Kink: Excuse me?
Sec: Can I help you?
Kink: Yes, certainly. I need a number 2 card for Advanced Mashed Potatoes. Home ec major, you know. And I've seen my adviser. seen him four times in fact, running between him and three different secretaries located in Shields, Rec Hall

and the Altoona campus.
Sec: What's your number?
Kink: Keith Malinson.
Sec: Your STUDENT NUMBER!
Kink: (Jumps to his feet, terrified): 117-48-1037!
Sec: 37 what?
Kink: just 37, ma'am.
Sec: 117-48-1037? Has a good ring to it. Mind if I call you 48?
Kink: Uh, go right ahead.
Sec: Very good. Now, 48, you realize that this class is only given first, second, and third periods on Saturday, no absences permitted?
Kink: You're kidding.
Sec: Well, of course. How do you expect to mash potatoes in one period on a weekday? It seems to me young man, that you have come to this University with some quite unreal expectations. **Kink:** Unreal expectations. Well, I never.
Sec: And you probably never will, smelling like mashed potatoes all weekend.
Kink: Well, excuse me.

Sec: Just the fact that you stand before me is quite enough evidence that I already have.
Kink: Now, wait a minute.
Sec: I do not wait. You wait, 48. You are but an egg and if you think you are going to hatch without my help, you might as well go fertilize yourself.
Kink: Please, could I just have my number 2 card? I'm just a kid, can't you see?
Sec: You've touched my heart. Enjoy your class.
Kink: Saturday?
Sec: Saturday.
Now according to Keith, it went like this. She handed him the card, pushed him out the door muttering something about lunch (it was 2:30). He looked at the card, saw it was a No. 3, and they found him some three hours later, saying "Can't-idiotcy-not-deny-yumberscum (phonetic spelling)," his sweaty hands still locked around the doorknob of a totally dark office. Better luck next term, Kinky.