

Creek croaked

The year 1983 probably found us somewhere in grade school, playing with Barbie dolls and listening to Beatles' music. The world was turning, but we were oblivious to current events and controversies.

Happy Valley was too far in our futures for us to worry about; what was going on here in 1983 was of little concern.

Until now.

The Associated Press recently reported that high levels of a poisonous pesticide called Kepone have been found in fish in Spring Creek, a small stream running from State College to Bellefonte.

The pesticide was produced and dumped into the creek by the Nease Chemical Co. in 1958, 1959 and 1963.

A lot has changed in the 13 years since Nease's last dumping of Kepone into Spring Creek. Concerned citizens have involved themselves in ecology movements. Legislators have drafted new bills governing disposal of industrial wastes. And factories themselves have made conscious efforts to preserve the environment.

But for Spring Creek, it's all too late: in 13 years, other things have not changed at all.

Traces of Kepone, for example. Because of its apparent persistence, the poisonous substance has remained in the local stream for over a decade.

While the Food and Drug Administration's accepted maximum level is .1 part per million, tests of fish from the Spring Creek area show ratios of .1 p.p.m. to 1.7

p.p.m. in adult trout and 1.8 p.p.m. in suckers.

A similar incident in Virginia in 1975 resulted in the closing of a river there to fishing. In addition, employees of a near-by factory were treated for Kepone poisoning.

But while we shake our heads and sadly bemoan the death of a natural resource, the guilty parties remain untouched.

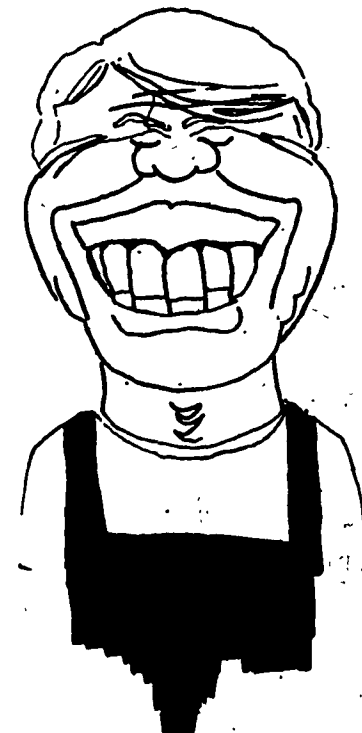
If and when the polluters are brought to trial, they will be judged by the laws which existed when they did the dumping. In 1963, the ecology craze had not yet swept the nation. Consequently, laws protecting the environment were much more lenient — and those are the standards on which the killers of Spring Creek will be tried.

If they fail to feel threatened, it's not hard to see why.

SOME ARE BORN GREAT...

SOME ACHIEVE GREATNESS...

OTHERS HAVE GREATNESS THRUST UPON THEM.



TWELFTH NIGHT II V

Ed. Wells '76

For Republicans, the Party's over

By JOHN L. HARVEY
Graduate-Journalism

Political quipsters from Mort Sahl to Russell Baker are making great ha-ha these days with one-liners like, "It took a Lincoln to drive the Republicans into Washington and a Ford to drive them back out again."

Unfortunately for the Grand Old Party, such quipsters are likened to soothsayers. Yes, political analysts from Portland to Portland are prophesying doom for the Republican Party come Nov. 2, 1978; the TKO to come from Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter.

Statistics indicate the GOP IS fading away fast. A specially commissioned poll for Republican State Chairmen last June showed only 18 per cent of the electorate are Republican. Shamefully, the GOP membership is now lower than both the Democrat's and Independent's.

But the June '78 poll told another far more devastating and ominous tale; most fellow Americans consider the GOP "incompetent, corrupt and uncaring about the problems of the average person."

It is not surprising that most voters view the stereotypical Republican as a money-sucking, double-talking, old-time Pol whose only concerns are the privy interests of corporate oil tycoons from West Palm Beach and Wall Street. Many feel the average Republican spends more time dashing between the courtroom and the stock-exchange than between the Congress and their offices.

So for punishment, the registered republic chooses to reject the Republican Party, much to the advantage of Democrats.

But the political paradox is that voters are rejecting the one Party which most nearly follows its mandate.

There can be no doubt that this is the year of the conservative; the primary election serving as ample evidence. Voters rejected all forms of New Dealism, New Frontierism and Great Societyism. Voters obliterated the liberal movement early, with the exception of Mo Udall, and even Udall had to tell a national audience on Meet the Press in May he was changing his political label from liberal to "progressive." It is clear the nation is conservative.



Collegian forum

The conservatism of the three major presidential candidates is a tribute to the growth of Republicanism, although Republicans are not reaping the rewards.

Jimmy Carter, plainly speaking from Plains, is a "populist" conservative. "It is time," Carter draws, "to bring the government back into participation with the public — replacing the overblown bureaucracy with people."

Gerald Ford, although viewed as middle-of-the-road, is highly conservative, often assuming a "corporatist" posture — business associations (NAB) rate him 82. According to 1975 ACA

and NAB ratings, Ford and Reagan were dead even, the only differences between them being Reagan's failure to mumble, bumble and stumble.

Ronald Reagan, meanwhile, is acclaimed the crusader of the arch-conservative cause. It matters little — voters view him as too fanatic, too desperate, too Nixonian, too Goldwaterish to be taken seriously. This is regrettably true, with apologies to the honorable Arizona Senator.

But the point is clear. 1976 is a conservative year, which should have been a sign to Republicans, long the defenders of conservative idealism, that their party would survive. Unfortunately, the stain of Watergate has cemented the voters' pre-conceived notions about Republicans. And to complicate the problem, along comes some po' Georgian populist Democrat who steals the GOP's conservative ammo and aims it "right" between their eyes.

So the party which began with Abraham Lincoln may just end with Gerald Ford, the reason being Republicans will not change its image. That image will starve the GOP of registered voters and dehydrate the party of winning politicians.

Keep in mind the GOP grew from a Northern power-base which sapped the pulverized South during Reconstruction. Headquartered in the industrial states, it fed off the obliterated states of the South.

How ironic and satisfying it would be for the dead Dixiecrats if they could know one of their own may diamember the Republican Party in final vengeance. For years Dixiecrats have been saying the South would rise again, and, by Jimmy, it might.



UH... SENATOR SCHWEIKER... A FEW OF THE DELEGATES WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT YOUR...UH...CREDIBILITY...

'Sick' comedian loved, damned

By MIKE GRICE
Collegian Staff Writer

Ten years ago last Wednesday a man died. While his death may not seem important, he was not an ordinary man. In recent years a cult has developed in this country centered on this man and his words. Books, records and a movie of his life have flooded the commercial markets.

Most of these markets were closed to him while he was alive. But he did work some of the big name nightclubs in cities all over the continent: the hungry i, Ann's 440, Gate of Horn, Blackhawk and the Blue Angel, to name a few. His concert in Carnegie Hall was a sell-out, even though it occurred the day New York City suffered one of its worst snow storms.

On stage nothing was sacred to him. He satirized religions, governments, presidents, society and its hangups, and people that were popular at that time. "I'm not a comedian," he once said. "And I'm not sick. The world is sick and I'm the doctor. I'm a surgeon with a scalpel for false values."

His "operating" caused him to be arrested over a dozen times on different counts of drug and obscenity violations. The British Government deported him after one of his performances and refused to ever readmit him, even as a tourist. Police departments in the biggest cities closed his shows and arrested him for obscene words. TIME magazine called him the sickest of the sick comics, "the most

successful of the newer sickniks." Walter Winchell labeled him "America's Number One Vomic."

Offstage his life was at times similar to that of F. Scott Fitzgerald's. He took to drugs like Fitzgerald took to alcohol. His need grew until at one point he was spending over \$600 a week just to satisfy his habit. He considered himself to be sexually promiscuous and enjoyed hanging out with pimps, hookers, junkies and the "street people." He and his stripper wife added great excitement to parties.

Once, on a vacation in Las Vegas, he and his wife were staying at the Flamingo Hotel as guests of the owner. He'd gone to the Tropicans to playfully heckle his friend Sheeky Greene, but the owner got upset and had him removed. He and his wife went back to the Flamingo to watch Pearl Bailey's show. At the request of a band member Bailey dragged him onstage to do a number with her. He hesitantly went onstage and when Bailey turned her back he ran off into the wings and got a fire extinguisher. He brought it back onstage and squirted foam in her face, ruining her hair and her gown. The audience loved it. Three stage hands came running up to help the choking Bailey, only to slip on the foam themselves, which sent the audience into hysteria.

He wrote her a note and left it in her room. It said: "Dear Pearl, I couldn't take your act. All the Uncle Tom bits you did like a lazy Negro." She demanded that he be thrown out of the

hotel or she would not perform. He was quickly evicted from the hotel and the Negro press attacked him editorially, which prompted the American Guild of Variety Artists to send him a reprimand. He never played Las Vegas.

He tried writing movies for 20th-Century-Fox for a while but was soon relieved of his duties. He continued his tour of nightclubs and did a few television guest appearances. Jack Paar had him on "The Tonight Show" and Steve Allen had him on his show twice, but the network officials refused to invite him back.

Hugh Hefner took an interest in him and booked him into some nightclubs. His career began to peak. Arrests soon became more frequent and trials sapped him of his time and money. He had been divorced from his wife and was slowly declining as a comedian because of his trials.

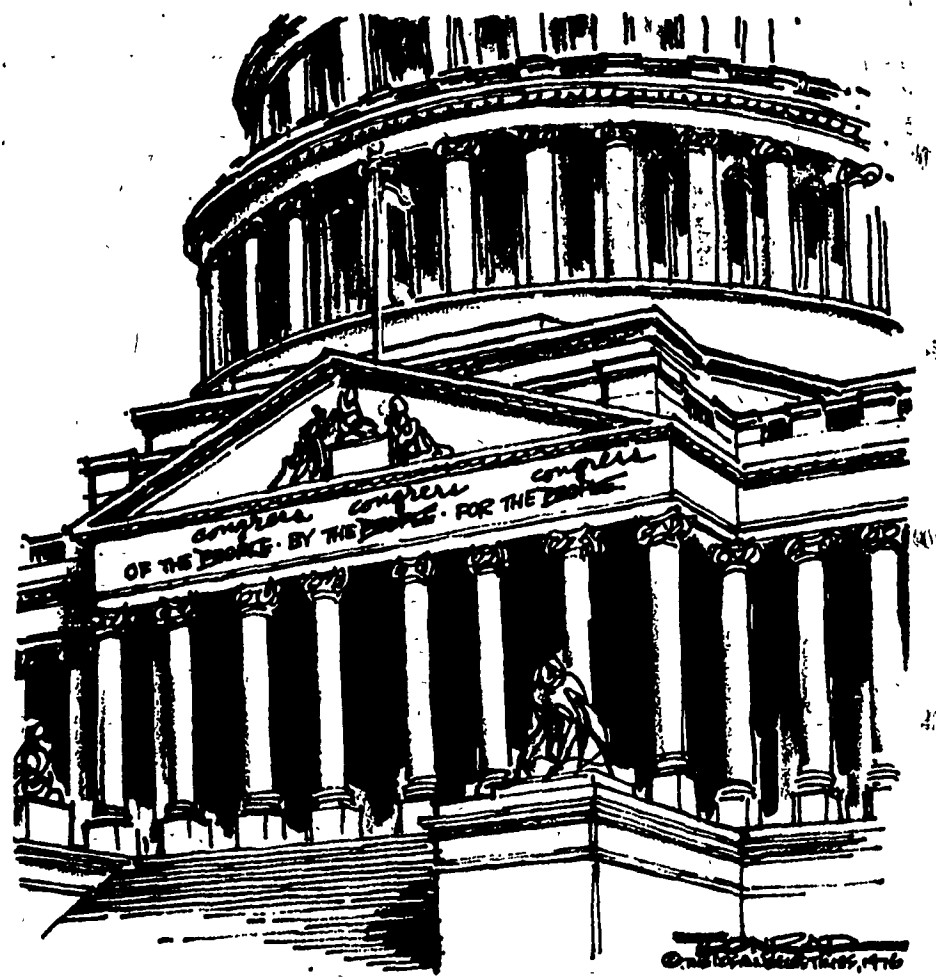
He maintained a large following of admirers both in the audience and in the entertainment industry. George Carlin watched him every chance he got and during one of his obscenity arrests Carlin himself was arrested too in order to ride with him to the police station. Faye Dunaway did his laundry for him once in a while. During one of his New York obscenity trials his friends supported him by signing a petition on his behalf. The petition hailed him as "a popular and controversial performer in the field of social satire in the tradition of Swift, Rabelais and Twain." It was signed by such

people as Woody Allen, James Baldwin, Bob Dylan, Jules Feiffer, Dick Gregory, Joseph Heller, Lillian Hellman, Normal Mailer, Paul Newman, George Plimpton, Lionel Trilling, John Updike and Gore Vidal, to name a few.

But it was all to no avail. The courts found him guilty. He was a man ahead of his time. The words he wanted to say were prohibited. He tried working within Society to change things. But rather than changing society, society changed him. It crushed him. He went from making over \$50,000 a year to only \$600 a year. His court costs were fantastic and stripped him of his money. He believed wholeheartedly in the concept of free speech and dedicated his life to the freedom of the First Amendment.

It's tragic when one realizes the words he fought so hard for are common words in the vernacular of the comedian today. The acceptance of the words came too late for him, though, because he's dead. He died of a narcotics overdose. Some have suggested it was suicide, others accidental death, and still others believe he was murdered.

The point is, though, he is dead, and it is also tragic to note that many people have never heard of him and are unfamiliar with his pursuit of free speech. Looking back, it's hard to believe that the change has come about in the ten years after August 3, 1966. His name was Lenny Bruce. And that's the way it was.



Letters to the Editor

Sport or spoil?

TO THE EDITOR: The Olympic Games are over a quite a preposterous business they were. I don't mean just the Taiwan-China farce — for farce it was — but the whole boiling kit. High officials are gloomy concerning the continuation of the Olympic games. And perhaps it would be well if they did end, because no one would be a penny the worse and many of us would be a good many pennies the better.

Because the Olympics have become the peak and pinnacle of the "elite" sports system, where a few adulterated and cosseted stars reap the glory and the profits. There are considerable amounts of profit for the top performers, while the rest of the world is relegated to sitting and gawking.

Consider the costs of the Montreal fantasia. About 2 billion dollars is not only a reasonable estimate but probably falls far short of the total. If that amount had been spent to further the health and recreation of the Canadian people, what a Utopia that country would be.

The Olympics supposedly emphasizes good sportsmanship. But when Canada had to turn out, support and pay for enough soldiers and police to make a full army division in order to protect the performers and their retinues from possible slaughter and the paying public from falling all over its feet, somehow sportsmanship disappears. Too "nations withdrew" to make political protests that had nothing to do with sport. So Taiwan withdrew over a purely political disagreement. Perhaps the Canadian government was at fault. But the point is, what did it matter? With Taiwan it had happened before but the Taiwanese then gave in and competed.

The "11 Olympiads" mean 44 years. The term "Olympiad" had nothing to do with the games, except it is not the games but the four year period between them and was used by the Greeks to date time, much as use "AD" and "BC", and to call the Olympics a sport is an obvious symptom of mental decay.

J.D. McAuley
Professor of Education

Bras forever!

TO THE EDITOR: As a sixth-generation Irish-American having relatives who fought in the Easter Rising of 1916 I feel compelled to respond to Mr. McAuley's affront to the spirit of Irish nationalism.

While Mr. McAuley's etymology of the phrase "Erin go bra" was somewhat amusing, it like most other folk etymologies was erroneous and had little connection with the facts. If he had taken the trouble to be sure of his facts as a good researcher should he might have consulted the Foclóir Gaeilge agus bairia (Irish-English Dictionary, Dublin: Irish Texts Society, 1927). There he would have learned that the phrase "go bragh" means "forever." In addition he would have learned that there is no word spelled "bra" in Irish. The only possible rendering in English, therefore, is Ireland forever.

Even thinking of possible English influence it would have been impossible for the word "bra" to have entered Irish before 1912 which is the year that the French word "brassiere" entered English (Oxford English Dictionary). The usage "bra" did not come into vogue until 1936 (again, Oxford English Dictionary). I hardly believe that an Irishman

would ever have considered the phrase as referring to the development of the brassiere by a Frenchman.

Indeed he does a grave injustice to the historic usage of the phrase "Erin go bragh." The phrase had its origins in the uprising of the United Irish of County Wexford against the British in the 1790s. Its usage as a rallying cry for Irish freedom has continued to the present. This can be the only proper and fitting context for the phrase.

I believe this will adequately correct the error perpetrated by Mr. McAuley.

Erin go bragh
Steve McCarver, Librarian
Gerontology Center

Exploited

TO THE EDITOR: A cartoon, according to Webster, is a satirical comment on public, and usually political matters. A cartoon appeared in the August 9th Daily Collegian, satirizing the reactionary politics of former California Governor, Ronald Reagan. Included in the cartoon was a mockery of the United States Marine Corps Hymn.

It is our feeling that the Marine Hymn should not be exploited in a political context. Regardless of the mishaps and tragedies of war, American military traditions, which are exemplified by the hymns of the various services, should be afforded minimal respect.

As concerned citizens, we submit this comment in support of the generations of service men and women who have given their

dedication, and too often their lives, to preserve the integrity and the freedom of the country and the people that they love.

Richard E. Farrell
10th-Vocational Ed.

the Collegian

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