

Bicentennial Has Humor

Nearly everyone has seen the Bicentennial Minutes on television. For those who can't seem to remember, here's a hint. Your favorite television show goes off a minute early and a serious looking actor, actress, sports personality, writer, etc. appears on the screen saying, "200 years ago today, the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought. It was the most decisive battle of the Revolutionary War. And that's the way it was." The presentation is so solemn and dreary. In this article, a new approach will be given to the Bicentennial Minutes.



Two-hundred-and-one years ago on the day March 23, 1775, Virginia spokesman Patrick Henry forcefully said, "Give me liberty or give me death!" A man with a musket pushed his way into the crowd and asked, "Are you sure about that?" Henry turned very pale and said, "Just Kidding, sir." And that's the way it was.

Two-hundred years ago on the day April 18, 1775, Paul Revere accidentally sat on a pitchfork in the hay just as he saw the signal in the Old North Church. He jumped up and ran through the town almost as fast as the speed of light. His horse felt it was incumbent on him to spread the message, so he galloped through the town after Revere saying, "The British are coming! The British are coming!" And that's the way it was.

Two-hundred years ago on September 22, 1776, Nathan Hale was executed by the British for being a spy. Hale was scratching his head at

the time George Washington asked for a volunteer to spy on the British. And that's the way it was.

Two-hundred years ago on Christmas Day, December 25, 1776, Martha Washington spent Christmas alone with the kids while her faithful and brave husband, George "flicked his Bic" to light his way across the icy Delaware River to Trenton, N.J. to defeat the Hessian garrison. Washington stood up straight-forward in the boat pointing like a pointer dog because he accidentally sat on his Bic when it was in full flame and couldn't sit down anymore. And that's the way it was.

One-hundred and ninety-nine years ago on December 23, 1777, Washington and his troops spent a freezing winter at Valley Forge. Washington took the wooden teeth out of his mouth to make a fire for his suffering soldiers. (It was better than the shirt off his back). And that's the way it was.



THE GRYPHON GOOFS — The class now owns "2,000 collectors items." (Photo by C. Bulluck)

Gryphon Explains Error

Horrors howled through the halls when the GRYPHON staff packed the March issue. Six pictures were switched. The Sports Section was the worst of all. The Girl's Basketball picture was transposed with the picture of the Boys Varsity Baseball team. The picture of Terry McKnight "going up for two" was switched with a baseball picture.

Luckily a responsible printer was able to correct the mistakes over the phone, and the next day a new edition (the one issued) arrived at Senior High. The staff regained their composure and now possesses what Mr. Elton Newbern

calls "2000 collectors items."

This kind of error does not happen often. The main problem is usually in layout by the staff. This occurs when not enough space is left for an article, so the printer has to shift copy and add to another page. Along with worrying about the mistakes in the paper, the staff has to work extremely hard to sell ads, meet deadlines, and write a minimum of two articles per issue.

Many students are quick to criticize the paper but will not take the time to write out their complaints so that they can be corrected. The GRYPHON appreciates any constructive criticism.

Laserium Plays At UNC

LASERIUM is a fascinating and entertaining laser light show that is being presented at the Morehead Planetarium on the UNC at Chapel Hill campus through the 18th of April.

The best way to describe LASERIUM, "the cosmic laser concert," is probably to say it is indescribable. However, an attempt will be made. The show consists of flashing, moving patterns of light on the planetarium dome to the accompaniment of music, the source of the light being a single, one-watt krypton gas laser. The patterns of light consist of extremely pure and sharp colors of red, blue, green, and yellow. The laserist, the person who operates the laser, then produces images resembling anything from rolling clouds or fog (with the semi-transparent illusion) to strings of

light moving at incredible speed in equally incredible patterns. All the patterns produced strikingly appear to be in three dimensions, when they are in fact projections on a two dimensional surface. The music is the fourth dimension in the production. The artists range from Gustav Holst to Pink Floyd, and the light show is adapted very well to the mood and nature of the music. This writer discovered some music he had never heard before of which he is now very fond.

The atmosphere in the planetarium is similar to that of space: unknown. It produces a rather eerie feeling. The promoters obviously have a sense of humor, however. In a taped message to the audience about the show, the soon-to-be-spectators are

informed that a flash attachment on a camera will "produce a beautiful picture of the smooth, white surface of the planetarium dome." Another crowd pleaser was the request that the audience "refrain from smoking... of anything."

Laserium had its genesis at the hands of Ivan Dryer in 1973 in California. It is easily worth the drive to Chapel Hill and the admission fee of \$2.75. If you have the chance, jump at it. On top of being entertained, you may gain some "cosmic awareness."

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