



THE SLOT MAN Carmen Viglucci

I was always the kind of student who found rules of thumb far more intriguing and easier to learn than the exact knowledge for which they stand.

For instance, I had St. Wapniac as a guide — not for moral persuasion but to help me remember the various departments of the president's cabinet.

St. Wapniac — State, Treasury, War, Attorney General, Postmaster General, Navy, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce. Incidentally the very names of those departments reveal just how long ago I sat at the knees of the Sisters of Charity. And good St. Wapniac not only stood for the departments but also their order of importance.

In ninth grade biology, our teacher, Joseph Loudis, introduced us to K.P. Cogs. No noted scientist, but merely acronym for classifying life. K.P. Cogs — Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Genus, Species.

Try this for one spelling — "The foreigner seized the weird heights." That's the only way I can remember the culprit words that violate the old axiom, "i before e except after c."

Apparently such rules exist in every sphere. The Courier's resident expert on things musical,

Frank Crociata, has a slew of them. To wit, Every Good Boy Deserves Favor, the first letters of which signify the lines on the C clef; All Cows Eat Grass, the spaces on the bass clef; Face, the spaces on the treble clef.

Good ole Frank also has Fat Cats Get Dizzy Eating Butter but he forgot to remember what it means.

We all know others. The pint's a pound the world around (to help those who know how many ounces there are in a pound to know how many there are in a pint, or is it vice versa?); Spring ahead, Fall back; feed a cold, starve a fever (get that one reversed and you're in trouble); red skies at night, sailor's delight, red skies at morning, sailor take warning.

Every once in a while events will transpire which make such rules inoperative. And I never recover.

For instance, for a long time it was easy for me to remember which districts Reps. Frank Horton and Barber Conable represented. Horton has six letters, thus the 36th district, and Conable had seven in the 37th. With reapportionment the districts have been changed and I will never get the new ones down.



OUR PARISH COUNCIL Bernard Lyons

What happens to the alcoholic in your parish?

Are Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and AL-Anon, which helps family members of the alcoholic understand alcoholism, welcome to meet in your parish hall?

Has your parish ever held a meeting on alcoholism?

With millions of alcoholics in the United States and Canada and millions more shattered and made lonely by this multiple disease of body, mind, and spirit, every parish council should find their own answers to the above questions.

The answers are not only important to the alcoholic and family, friends, and co-workers affected by his disease, but they are important to you as a member of a Christian community.

A "Christian community" may often feel "justified" in its response to the poor who meet their tests for being "nice" or "deserving," but the parish may fail miserably in the Christ-like response to those who may "fail" again and again or seem to be not duly appreciative of your efforts.

'It's the Spirit' At St. Charles

A musical celebration entitled It's the Spirit will be incorporated into the Pentecost liturgy at the 7 p.m. Mass June 9 in St. Charles Borromeo Church, 3003 Dewey.

Tom Bohrer is designer and director of the production, which is based on the first five chapters of the Book of Acts. Mary Collins is music director.

Dick Concordia of the St. Charles worship committee said this program had been presented before in local churches but never, he thought, in a Catholic liturgy.

Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer has suggested that one reason isolated persons, such as the alcoholic, cannot find warm acceptance in the parish fellowship is that most Christians take their life in community for granted.

"It is true," said Bonhoeffer in Life Together "that what is an unspeakable gift of God for the lonely individual is easily disregarded and trodden under foot by those who have the gift every day."

Perhaps the following excerpts from C. Roy Woodruff's Alcoholism and Christian Experience will intrigue you to pursue this topic further:

"Mr. Booth (an alcoholic) reached a point at which he felt totally alone in the world. He said that the greatest terror he had ever experienced was the feeling that he was the only person living in the world. He felt that even God did not exist. He described the intensity of his feelings as being 'in the depths of hell with no way out or no one to hear me cry.' Mr. Booth hesitated at this point in the interview so that his tears could subside. It was the only place where tears were evident as this man recounted his experience."

"When asked if the Church did anything for them that Alcoholics Anonymous did not do, the majority of recovered alcoholics in AA replied negatively. The minority who answered positively said that the church either taught them about God or gave them a place of useful service. Only two spoke specifically of meaningful relationships in their church."

SPANISH FEST

The Council of InterAmerican Unity and the Modern Language Department at Monroe Community College will present a festival of Spanish art and culture at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 20, in the Little Theater at the college.

Clergymen Briefed On City Charter Goals

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Two members of the City Charter Commission met with area clergy last week to discuss proposals for changes in city government.

The point of such meetings is to explain new proposals and give the public a chance to say what they want from their government, according to Alice Gold, a substitute teacher who has been on the commission since its establishment in January, 1971. The city charter has not been revised since 1925, she said.

The 25-member commission, which was created under state law with absolute authority to propose changes in city government to the voters, is divided into five study committees: Executive, Structure, Representation, Intergovernmental Relations and Public Policy.

Member Buse, a banker and member of the commission's Structure committee, pointed out that there are some areas, obviously in need of attention, that they are not authorized to touch.

"We may not touch the city board of education or reform of property taxes, which are matters of state law," he continued, noting that these were "the hottest political issues in the city last year."

Father Raymond Booth, co-pastor of Mount Carmel, was one of six clergy men attending session, which was organized by the Genesee Ecumenical Ministry at Colgate Rochester Divinity School last Tuesday. He brought up the problem of police department accountability.

"My gut reaction," said another clergyman, "is that the law enforcement agency is law unto itself. Somehow accountability must be built in."

Buse agreed, but replied, "We have been advised to stay out of detailed workings of city administration. We won't get into a detailed review of city government because the commission members are a diverse group of citizens who lack the expertise."

It is his hope, Buse continued, that with changes at the top, city council, reorganization will filter down to the other city agencies.

Mrs. Gold said she was discouraged with her job on the commission because, "We can write a great charter, but the people who are elected are the reality. A great technique may be built in but de facto it breaks down along the line."

The goals of the City Charter Commission, as explained by Mrs. Gold, are threefold: a more accessible, accountable, and representative city government.

The way to accomplish their goals, the Representation Committee feels, is by wholly district representation instead of the present system of five at-large councilmen who represent a whole geographic quarter of the city, and only four district representatives.

Mrs. Gold said the present system has a "glaring lack of true representation which keeps the council an upper middle class homogeneous group."

The Representation Committee has interpreted the growth of neighborhood organizations to mean that there is a need and a desire by the people to get at government.

The Rev. Gene Ferguson, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church and president of GEM, called himself a "firm believer in the metropolitan concept," but

explained that "to make it effective it must have live components" and "we must develop lines of communication" to the individual man on the street.

Father Henry Atwell, executive director of GEM, asked what will

happen to the proposals that are turned down by voters.

Buse answered that all the proposals except those dealing with Council size and election process can be adopted by city council without a referendum.

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