

Letters to the editor

Why are local women supporting slavery?

This comes as a response to “Local women await Obama’s support of UN convention,” *Voices*, March 2009.

Why are local women supporting slavery?

Local women apparently have become such blind pawns, for power players who threaten not “women’s rights” but human rights, that they cannot sense the tinge of irony in asking for an intermediate resolution from a supranational authority, one which ultimately exists to ensure that slavery finds hold in every nation. No longer are slaveholders the Roman slavers, Saharan warlords, white plantation owners or male heads of households; they are instead our political overlords, who wish to police us into criminality so that society will reduce us into laborers of the state.

Clamoring for so-called “women’s rights,” most which exist as human rights non-specific to women, aggrandizes this agency that would rather bring us conventions on drugs or arms (i.e. intermediates) than conventions on murder, assault, theft or fraud (i.e. evils/harms).

Slavery is the usurping of our liberty and the withholding of our property, subjecting our lives not to our own controls but the whims of any other.

When we ask governments to immorally and unlawfully convert mores into laws, on some perverted quest for utopia, we ask that others be harmed for what is promised to be a benefit that we shall doubtedly ever see. The people, including women, have moral and lawful capabilities to cause change toward their ends, so it is confusing that they would seek other means to reach those ends.

Because it is not the role of our government(s) to pervade our lives and to make promises for one by stealing from another, we must use and rely on social forces to achieve those means. Human rights provide for freedom from the initiation of force and fraud. They do not provide some right for (ex:) “equal pay” for any race in the workplace, which may instead be garnered through social force by voting with one’s dollar/ballot/labor.

People, in any group, however, seem rarely willing to make the clear and appropriate sacrifices to institute such social changes, and this refusal seems to resonate at the hearts of women who ask for magical, top-down change.

Janet Talisman
State College

Liberals and conservatives fail students

A liberal would say values are freshly discovered each generation, and a conservative would say they are passed on with rigor and discipline.

Both failed the students on State Patrick’s Day. As I walked among them at eleven Saturday night, they seemed ruined, wasted, out of control — a civilization flowing into the sewer.

Obviously the Gospel is not heard, Torah does not reach them, nor the stoic law or philosophical principles of self-control. And I know that the core of liberal arts, where these things are opened and studied, is not being visited enough as the students under financial pressure pursue “vocations” where money is the bottom line in a “mate-

rial world” out of Godless accident where their deeds are unseen.

Is it any wonder that they should think pleasure in the moment is the only good, and get drunk to forget the thanklessness of the teaching that has fallen to them?

But rather than complain, we must open the tradition to where it says, “Be you holy for I your God am holy.” We should be among the young in that spirit: strong witness that real virtue is both possible and a joy.

To be sure, youth will explode. Thus we must inform its flame.

John Harris
State College

Voices covers something for everyone

Thanks for the nice article on health care in *Voices* and for sending me a copy of it. There is really a lot of interesting reading in *Voices*.

I think you covered just about everything that is of interest at this time. I was especially impressed with the health care articles and the coverage of the landfill and railroads, the manure getting into the

streams and killing the fish, the Boalsburg history and the Secretary of State role — and then the lighter stories of bird watching and dancing! You covered something for everyone!

Thanks for doing a great job!

Joyce Luzier
Philipsburg

Why is Navy Officer Program downtown?

Recently, there have been some notable changes at the corner of South Allen Street and Beaver Avenue. Tadpole Crossing has dropped below street level, and the Navy has moved in upstairs. While standing at the corner of Allen and Beaver one afternoon, I pondered what the Navy Officer Programs (hereafter, NOP) contributes to the economic, social and cultural vitality of Allen Street and the downtown? My answer: nothing.

First, unlike other businesses on Allen Street, the Navy Officer Programs does not “sell” anything: It is a government office.

Second, it provides a highly specialized service to a highly selective portion of the town’s population. For example, a person who enjoys eating out can go to Panera, Zeno’s, Chili’s or Webster’s, all on Allen Street. These businesses all cater to a basic need — eating and drinking — that makes them attractive to the general public. The NOP does not.

Third, the NOP does not integrate its services with those of the surrounding businesses, unless one has the desire to enlist while drinking a cup of coffee bought down the street. Therefore, the NOP undermines the “The Downtown State College Improvement District,” which values diversity and celebrates, on its website, a downtown in which the general public can enjoy everything “from dry cleaning to coffee-houses to late-night entertainment.”

The NOP is unlikely to contribute to this thriving vision of downtown State College because it caters to a highly specialized sector of the town’s population and remains

conspicuously distended from the other business and social activity on the street.

This leaves me with a final question: Who decided, and through what reasoning, that it would be a good idea for the NOP to take up shop on the corner of Allen and Beaver?

Zachary Bullock
Port Matilda, PA

“Do YOU have something to say?”

Send your letters to oped@voicesweb.org

Sudoku Solution

1	6	8	3	7	5	4	9	2
4	9	2	6	8	1	3	7	5
3	7	5	4	2	9	1	6	8
2	4	1	8	5	6	7	3	9
9	8	7	1	3	4	2	5	6
6	5	3	7	9	2	8	1	4
7	3	4	5	6	8	9	2	1
5	1	9	2	4	7	6	8	3
8	2	6	9	1	3	5	4	7

Downtown State College's health affects the region

by Jody Alessandrine

Depending on to whom you are listening, or who you wish to believe, Downtown State College's economy is either "recession proof," or in trouble like everywhere else. The fact is that while there may not be such a thing as recession proof, other towns would welcome what we call our "challenges."

Nonetheless, they are challenges that need to be addressed to ensure the sustainability of the downtown economy. There are not many places our size that are about to have a \$40-million-plus retail/condominium/multiplex cinema project constructed, as we are with the Fraser Centre.

And, while there are vacancies within the boundaries of our Neighborhood Improvement District, many businesses are relocating, not leaving. In addition, the Downtown Improvement District is in the process of formulating a business recruitment and retention program, which will enable us to identify and attract businesses that would enhance the vitality of the downtown, as well as best utilize available space.

Discounted co-operative advertising plans have been availed to our nearly 400 downtown businesses with economic means to establish frequency over time ad campaigns on almost (soon to be) all radio and television stations, as well as print media.

Traditions like the Summer's Best Music Fest and the Summer Concert Series have attracted more visitors to the downtown each year, and we believe this year will continue that trend.

First Thursdays will have more businesses and restaurants participating, as it is being re-launched as a monthly event this spring. First Thursdays are a celebration of the arts, with exhibits on the Penn State campus and events downtown. We expect that it will become a regular "night out" not only for locals, but for people from all over Central Pennsylvania.

It is important to acknowledge that the health of Downtown State College affects that of the entire Centre Region. Our relationships with the CBICC, the Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau, Penn State University and local, county and state government representatives are incredibly strong, as they fully appreciate that as Downtown State College goes, so does the region.

Centre County's unemployment levels, though higher than anyone would like, are still among the lowest in the state. Real estate prices are holding relatively steady in Centre County, while they are declining nationwide.



What has and will continue to distinguish Downtown State College in the future is that while we experience ebbs and flows, our high tides will leave us with an even better and healthier downtown than before.

If one were to look at newspaper accounts from five, 10 or even 15 years ago, one would see stories and op-ed letters about business closures. What has and will continue to distinguish Downtown State College in the future is that while we experience ebbs and flows, our high tides will leave us with an even better and healthier downtown than before.

Jody Alessandrine is the Executive Director of the Downtown State College Improvement District. The office can be reached at 238-7004.

Back By Popular Demand! Sudoku

1								
				8		3		
		5			9		6	
					6	7		
	8				4	2	5	6
		3	7	9	2		1	
	3		5	6			2	
		9		4	7	6		
				1				

Fill in the grid so every row, every column and every three-by-three box contains the digits 1 through 9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reason and logic. Thanks to Peter Morris for contributing this puzzle. The solution to this month's puzzle can be found on page 25 of this issue.

Whitey Blue: Privatize high school

by David M. Silverman

The other day I was talking to Whitey Blue, long-time Centre Region resident and hard nose.

Whitey, the new school board is still discussing various options as to how to renovate the State College Area High School. Any thoughts?

"You betcha! I think high school should be privatized. Then they could put up high schools wherever the affluent would want them."

Privatize? No more public schooling

beyond the eighth grade? What would happen to all the kids from modest income homes?

"There will always be a need for laborers, store clerks, waiters and waitresses, etc. For those jobs you don't need a high school education."

But you'd be putting kids as young as 13 or 14 out into the labor market. What happens to the adults now filling those jobs?

"Hey, it's a competitive world out there! Good to have an early start.

The unions would have to back off their demands and settle for subsistence wages."

ASK Cosmo



Dear Cosmo,
I can't believe you defended Michael Phelps' marijuana smoking last month. I thought you were Mr. Anti-Drug. What happened? Change of heart? How the mighty hath fallen! I thought better of you. Signed, Disappointed In You And Your Master

Dear Appointing You Diss-Master,
If you thought I was "mighty," then all I can say is that you're mighty mistaken. And if I've fallen, at least I'm not fallin' for any guilt trip you're trying to spew. I don't believe I defended his drug use. I think I said that he'd probably earned the right to get high, having spent all that time chugging up and down the pool. All throughout high school and college, unlike his totally

mellow peers, he passed up on all kinds of social interaction in pursuit of his rather single-minded goals. And, his goals, which he actually realized, seem a little more profound than a typical stoner's Pringle-minded quest for munchies, the location of the remote, or conducting a dialog that applauds the mind-blowing technological marvels required to not only conceptualize but actually harness the awesome power of aerosol cheese.

I believe I also put my foot down (and

Campus and Culture from the Canine Perspective

lifted my leg) on whatever loser cell phone paparazzo narked him out in the first place. I think right next to "Don't ask, don't tell," we should extol the "Don't unmask, don't cell" ethic. One of the more important contours of the public right to know is realizing that the public is largely made up of right-wing idiots who don't know very much, but who love to inflate their sense of self-worth by focusing indignation on really unimportant stuff. So a young jock smoked some herb at a college party. Call CNN. So every other doper at every other party on every other campus in every other state within every other service area of every other cell phone user everywhere else on the planet did NOT win eight Olympic golds. What are the odds?

So the Octomom had a litter. Big deal. That it wasn't a particularly well thought-out plan? No kiddin'. That the doctor who facilitated it made a poor choice? Likely so. That life is going to be difficult with fourteen – count 'em, FOURTEEN little curtain-swingers under the age of ten? Ya think? That she can't get a peep of privacy between her blogs, talk-show interviews, and media drive-bys? Well, that's just her poor time management in balancing her life against the public's right to know, right?

Well, YOU should know that even a ten-teated bitch like my dear, sainted mum couldn't have kept up with the milking of a story like that once sick pups like Dr. Phil, Nancy Grace and Larry King latched on. That kind of drain on the spickets would give anyone nipple anxiety. You think Michael Phelps was huffing fumes of stupidity? Try cable.

Dear Cosmo,

Is there anything that can be done to reduce the effects of Spring Fever? My boyfriend can't seem to keep his eyes in his head when we walk across campus. I know him backwards and forwards, and I know he won't cheat on me, but it really bothers me that all he can do is look at other women all the time, even when he's with me. I know I can't control the way others dress, so is there anything I can do to keep his eyes from wandering? Signed, Tired of the

Sideshow

Dear Show Your Tired Side,

Diagnosis: Idiot. I hope he's at least discrete, and doesn't whistle and fan his fingers like he just touched a hot pan, or say something profound like, "Whoa, check THOSE out!" In fairness, there is a mating prerogative for males to pay more attention to eligible females in order to perpetuate the species. That activity, however, even when notched up to the level of mutual butt-sniffing, can be conducted in silence.

Also in fairness, for NON-HUMAN species, it is typically the male, and not the female, who projects a more showy appearance in order to attract potential mates. And it pertains to mate selection and not merely scratching the "Parlez-vous humma humma?" itch. Strippers dress that way to attract dollar bills, not mates.

In human circles, the "ostentatious-equals-attractive" posturing is less common in males. When it does apply, it basically translates to wearing really nice shoes, guys...that is, if you're angling for a woman who selects guys on the basis of having really nice shoes. It's not like a pheromone or anything. A turd in nice shoes is still a turd. Nice shoes with a dog turd wedged in the treads? Pretty much same thing.

You say you know him backwards and forwards? Do you like him better when he's being incredibly backward, or when he's being hideously forward? He may have an overly healthy regard for the female form, but not much respect for women. You seem to observe his behavior and still accept it, so maybe that part's on you. He doesn't seem to be a master of subtlety, so maybe just spell it out. Try something like, "Yo, Lothario! If you don't quit scoping out other women, Camp Nookie will be closed for renovations until you curtail your roving eye." Then again, using sex as a weapon may be a bit manipulative. Try this instead, "You know, with your habit of looking at other women, I think I made a mistake hooking up with you, and I don't think I want to be with you anymore."

And also tell him his shoes suck.

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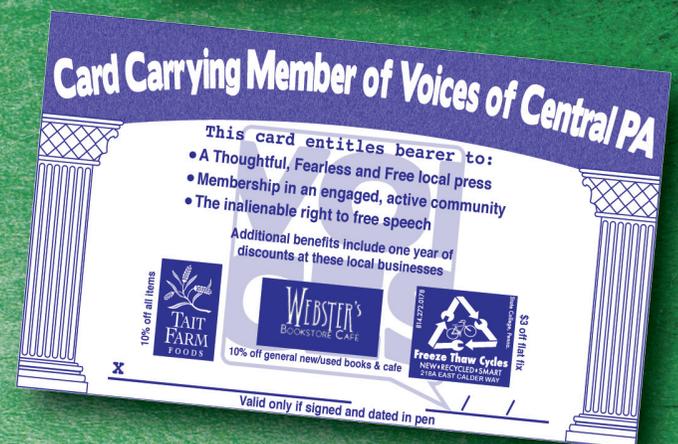
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