

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (13 January 2016)

President Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and called for introduction of guests. John Vincenti introduced his wife Cyndi; Frank Deutsch introduced Jim Ultman, an engineer who also headed the interdisciplinary physiology program at Penn State; and Roy Hammerstedt had previously introduced Phil Park. Jim and Phil were unanimously elected into membership. Gordon encouraged members to present additional candidates for club membership. He called for a moment of silence in memory of Peter Bennett, a former member who died on 4 January and then announced changes in the 2016 program: because Jim Serene will be away in February, he and Gordon have exchanged dates for their talks; Mark Meckstroth having moved to Huntingdon and resigned his membership, Art will talk about Terrorism in the Middle East in March, a program cosponsored by St Andrew's Episcopal Church which has sponsored a series of Middle East talks this year. At Gordon's request, Jim spoke on his work as an orthopedic surgeon and his concern about physicians' over-prescription of OxyContin and especially its long-term version, causing a national problem of opioid drug addiction; Michelle Smith talked about her 28 years' experience as a Spanish teacher in State College Area High School; Steve Smith affirmed that her teaching has been widely praised as effective and told about his job as professor and department head of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, as well as the development of the Centre Soccer Association, involving girls as well as boys; and Lee Stout told about being University Archivist and the importance of evaluating and storing business, government, and organizational records.

The members' alphabetical order having reached John Vincenti, he summarized his *curriculum vitae*: teacher, union leader, commissioner, and township supervisor. He is interested in the various forms of energy and how we use them. This led into an account of his 2014 trip to Alaska, the US purchase of which is due to William H. Seward, Lincoln's secretary of state, at a price of \$7.2 million. Seward was quite a remarkable statesman in his own right, but the Republicans passed him over for Lincoln in their 1860 convention is that Seward was deemed "too radical." Many Americans questioned the purchase of "Seward's icebox," even at a price of 2 cents per acre. Russians bribed some Congressmen to approve the purchase of Alaska (the "Great Country"). Its size (470 times that of Rhode Island) and location have made it valuable. It was a conduit for sending lend lease goods valued at \$11.3 billion to Russia during World War II, including 7,383 warplanes. Alaska has a museum devoted solely to airplanes used within Alaska itself, where they are absolutely needed, even though flying conditions can be bad (13.9 accidents per thousand flights). Alaska is known for its fisheries; each year 120 million juvenile salmon are released into its rivers. John challenged concerns raised about GMO salmon. He spoke about dogsled-racing, a favorite but expensive sport. Gold mining has been a major industry, resulting in about 40 million troy ounces of the metal being extracted since 1880, but out of 34 thousand claims, fewer than ten mines are currently operative. The oil industry matters; he showed a tool called a fig used in petroleum exploration and extraction. The 800-mile oil pipeline running from north to south in a zigzag pattern crosses three geological faults and 500 rivers, with 550 crossings for caribou and other wild animals. Daily production reached its maximum of 2,017 barrels per day in 1976; recent output is around 497 bpd. One third of Alaska's jobs depend on oil. Alaskan residents share the revenues it generates. About 13% live on lands affected by permafrost, which has cut down travel in the past 30 years. He spoke of the Nenana lottery, in which Alaskans try to predict the date and time of the ice flow break. He described Mt. Denali (formerly McKinley) and the huge Denali National Park, harboring 160 bird, 37 mammal, and hundreds of plant species. Mt. Denali is the third highest peak in the world, and John has flown to its summit. Alaska had 949 earthquakes during 2015. He and several other members discussed their earthquake experiences. John questioned the common view that the glaciers are shrinking; some are actually growing. Totems are not all religious; often they serve as signposts. He lauded Glacier Bay National Park. Robust tourism saves Alaska from overdependence on one industry. A brief discussion ensued; the meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (10 February 2016)

President Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. He introduced his wife, Caroline. Art Goldschmidt nominated Chuck Yackeren for membership in the Club. He was approved unanimously. Ed Buss introduced his guest, Scott Flipse. Gordon urged everyone to bring potential members to future meetings. He expressed condolences to Ed on the death of his wife, Dorothy, after a long illness. Jim Serene will give his presentation, which was originally scheduled for tonight, in May. Mark Meckstroth's talk in March, will be replaced by one on Middle East terrorism, by Art.

Gordon's Torch Paper was entitled "Understanding U.S. Immigration: Immigration Policy and Politics." His approach is that of a demographer, drawing on two main concepts: "stock" (the composition of a people) and "flow" (people coming in and going out). The US currently has 42 million immigrants; 13 percent of its total population was born abroad, almost the same as a century ago. A contentious issue then, it led to extreme restrictions in the 1920s, but the outgroup then comprised Italians, Jews, Poles, and Russians. Almost 49 percent of the current immigrants have been naturalized as US citizens. Among their hurdles were five years' residence, passing an English and a US history and civics test, getting fingerprinted and pledging allegiance. A third are legal permanent US residents. About 11 million are undocumented; they are what the press mainly talks about. Gordon presented 2012 statistics on legal permanent residents and legal temporary non-immigrants. Grounds of preferences for legal immigration: family ties account for the largest number, but others are employment-based, refugees, and asylees. The US keeps no official records on illegal immigrants; 400,000 noncitizens were deported in 2012. The number of undocumented immigrants coming probably equaled the number leaving. The main causes were falling US demand for labor, increased likelihood of deportation, and the declining Mexican birthrate. Immigrants from China and India now exceed those from Mexico and Central America. Lately more college-educated immigrants have entered than those who haven't finished high school, contrary to press reports. Congress has set quotas for some types of visa, but not for reuniting families. Only 90,000 are allotted for refugees and asylees; Obama wants to raise that quota for Syrian refugees. There are quotas for some types of non-immigrant visas, but not for students, short-term job trainees, and intra-company transfers. There are about 240 types of non-immigrant visas. The press and public think, erroneously, that newcomers to the US get special privileges. In fact, illegal immigrants are ineligible for most federal income support, health, and welfare programs. Even legal immigrants must wait five years.

Refugees are an exception; they are assumed to be needy and not immediately employable. Illegals can't get Social Security, SSI, Earned Income Tax Credit, Medicaid, and Medicare. The US does not keep statistics on emigrants, many of whom are US citizens, e.g., people retiring to live in a cheaper country. His figures are based on what other countries report. Removals from the US (deportations) are gradually rising; number of would-be immigrants turned back at the border has declined since 2000. Many states have enacted bills regarding immigrants, usually but not always negative. Some other countries forbid all immigrants, e.g., North Korea. UK, Canada, and Australia have a point system, rating education, special skills, resources, absence of a criminal record, and family already in the country. European Union countries and some Middle East states admit guest workers but are now deporting some. A few count ancestral blood ties, especially after WW II. No country now has open borders. Gordon cited two Supreme Court decisions regarding immigration policy: Plyler vs Doe (1982) ruled that Texas may not deny free public education to illegal immigrants' children, which would violate the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause. Arizona v United States (2012) ruled that state and local police officers cannot stop or arrest persons just on "suspicion" (racial profiling) Gordon cited key ideas in American politics: illegal immigration requires more control, leading to the Real ID Act (which will soon turn drivers licenses into national identity cards); immigrants from some countries are terrorists; reform means amnesty for illegal immigrants, their cheap labor enhances American business competitiveness; illegal immigrants threaten our culture by creating a bilingual society; government restrictions harm personal freedom, America was founded to welcome im-migrants; immigrants burden the criminal justice system. draw government benefits without paying their fair share of taxes, drive down native workers' wages, and increase inter-group tensions and racial conflicts. Audience questions: why has Mexico's birthrate fallen recently? Speaker lists mainly negative political talking points, but what about more positive ones? Gordon added some benefits from highly skilled immigrants that he failed to mention, notably innovations, sciences, and the arts. Do not news media in the West report differently

from Eastern ones? How do restrictive immigration laws discourage illegals from leaving the US? Why does US law place more restrictions on workers than on family members? Many restrictive policies result from voter ignorance.

Meeting adjourned 7:57. Next meeting: 9 March 2016.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (9 March 2016)

Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. He announced that Scott Flipse, who attended last month as a guest, had applied for membership and asked him to step outside while the members voted on his application, which was approved unanimously. Jim Serene introduced his wife, Mary Bruce Serene. At Gordon's request, our Regional Director, Meredith Rousseau, spoke briefly to the members, encouraging them to consider attending the International Association of Torch Clubs Convention, to be held in Columbus, Ohio, 23-26 June 2016, to submit their papers to the *Torch* magazine, and to collaborate with her club on a possible regional meeting in Lancaster. Gordon welcomed the attenders from St Andrew's Episcopal Church, State College, who had been invited by Gary Miller, as a first step toward collaboration between our club and other local organizations. Gordon then introduced the speaker, Art Goldschmidt, Professor Emeritus of [Middle East] History, whose topic was "Terrorism in the Middle East—and What Do the Locals Think of It."

Art began by defining "history," "terrorism," and "Middle East." Do Middle Easterners have a penchant for terrorism? Terrorist acts most frequently occur in Syria, Yemen, Libya, Iraq, Iran, and Turkey; sometimes in Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, and Israel, generally taking the form of bombs set off among crowds of people, sometimes assassinations, or Palestinian attacks on Israeli soldiers. Almost all Middle Easterners fear terrorism and brand it as a method practiced by their enemies. Historically, al-Qa'ida began as an organization that served Islamic fighters in Afghanistan against the Soviet occupation in the 1980's but which evolved into a terrorist group fighting American cultural and political influence in the Middle East, especially in Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11. The Islamic State (also ISIS, ISIL, or Da'ish) grew out of al-Qa'ida in Iraq in 2012-2013 and it aimed to take control of territories in the Muslim world and to revive the Islamic caliphate. ISIS sees the US as terrorist in its "shock and awe" tactics during its 2003 invasion of Iraq, but we accuse them of terrorism when foreign journalists are beheaded by ISIS fighters on video. Our targeted bombing of the Islamic State's capital, Raqqa, seems like terrorism to them, too, but of course many people in Raqqa and Mosul, now under ISIS rule, would welcome us as liberators. Terrorist individuals or groups may be motivated by (1) access to food, clothing, shelter, and other necessities of life, (2) building the realm of Islam at the expense of non-Muslim lands, (3) independence from foreign military, political, or cultural control, or (4) a desire to feel power and respected. Art cited many well-known terrorist incidents committed by Middle Easterners but warned that some individuals and groups that practice terrorism are from other parts of the world. We must learn all we can about terrorist groups, find out who their enemies are, and learn how to enlist them in the ongoing struggle. He then took questions.

Why is the US so involved in fighting terrorism? Why do we support (and not attack) the Saudis economically? Gary Herbert, as editor of the *Human Rights Review*, received articles claiming that Middle Easterners felt we had exploited them and undermined their culture. Were the political borders of the Middle Eastern countries drawn following the World Wars? Is ISIS nationalist or religious, and does Iran support it? What is the history of the Sunni-Shi'a split, and is one side more inclined to terrorism? Who supports ISIS politically and financially? What are its immediate and long-term goals? Does it try to divide and weaken the West? As a result of Iran's recent parliamentary elections, will the liberals gain control of its government? Given Donald Trump's campaign pledge, could the US government bar Muslims from entering the country, or discriminate against them, or expel them? Noting the position of the Taliban in Afghanistan, did memories of British rule over India enflame Muslim feeling in Pakistan? Does the Quran say that Muslims can or should kill non-Muslims? Why do some Muslims, in an act of desperation, use children as suicide bombers? Why are so many boundaries on the map (which Art had passed out) straight lines unrelated to geographic or ethnic borders? How can we teach Middle East history to young people as "the truth" or expose them to people who are different from themselves? Will the Taliban make peace with Afghanistan's government? Is conflict resolution possible in the Middle East? Art can no longer recall if or how he answered these excellent questions. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Next meeting on 13 April 2016: Frank Deutsch, "Betsy Aardsma's Murder in Pattee Library in 1969."

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (13 April 2016)

President Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. Gary Miller introduced Al Turgeon, John Vincenti introduced Bruce Valoris, Frank Deutsch, Jim Ultman, and Gary Petersen introduced their wives. Gordon thanked Gary Miller for bringing guests from St Andrew's Church to the March meeting and reminded all members to bring potential members as guests. He and President-elect Jim Serene urged members to volunteer to give Torch Talks in the 2016-2017 program year. Art asked if anyone wanted to attend the annual IATC convention in Columbus, Ohio. Jim Ultman volunteered. Gordon called on some of the new club members to talk about what they did and any noteworthy trends in their professions. Scott Flipse spoke on construction, Bob Igo on the growth of online learning as delivered by the Penn State World Campus, Phil Park told of a visit to the American Legion bar in Orbisonia, PA, and Jim Ultman spoke about significant changes in the field of chemical engineering. After drawing the Club's attention to the latest issue of *Torch*, Gordon introduced Frank Deutsch, a retired mathematics professor, who read the Torch Paper on the unsolved murder of Betsy Aardsma in Pattee Library's stacks in November 1969.

Drawing on David DeKok's *Murder in the Stacks*, published in 2014, Frank began by describing the crime scene and the people present in the library around 5 that afternoon, when a mysterious thump was heard, followed by a gasp, a crash, and the sound of books hitting the floor, especially a 25-year-old male in a sport coat and khaki pants, who said "somebody had better help that girl" and ran off, evading his pursuers. Classmate Marilee Erdely rushed into the stacks' Core section, found Betsy, smoothed her hair and her dress, and re-shelved some of the books. A librarian came and called for an ambulance to take Betsy to Ritenour Health Center, where she was pronounced dead. Only after the Director of University Health Services, the Dean of Student Affairs, and the Vice President of Student Affairs were informed did anyone call the Pennsylvania State Police. The trooper who came had never investigated a murder before, and the immediate crime scene and any evidence that might incriminate the killer had been contaminated. Professor Mary Willard, a well-known crime investigator, searched the scene on the following day and found traces of human semen. Police found two illustrated Dutch pornography books lying open in a nearby carrel. Forty state troopers were assigned to investigate the crime. They interviewed numerous students and faculty, trying to identify that running man.

Initially, they suspected a classmate who had been in the stacks at the time of the murder, but he maintained his innocence and passed polygraph tests locally and in Harrisburg. The most likely suspect was another graduate student, Rick, who carried a narrow-bladed knife similar to the apparent murder weapon, had dated Betsy, and appeared, out of breath and disheveled, at the door of his professor an hour after the murder. Rick was interviewed by the State Police, but they didn't know that he had engaged in pedophilia or that he had called on his professor, who reported the visit to his dean. Rick had molested his younger cousin, Chris, who didn't report Rick, whom he had idolized and for whom he worked for pay, gathering rocks and preparing samples, and much later Rick actually hinted to Chris that he knew who killed Betsy. Seven years later Rick's professor spoke to his dean, who in turn informed the University's outside counsel, Delbert McQuaide, but not President Oswald. McQuaide thought the police had completed their investigation. Rick must have been guilty, because his description matches that of the running man, his visit to his professor's house an hour later in which he asked about the murder, his claim to the police that he first knew of the murder a day later, the knife he carried which resembled the one with which Betsy was stabbed, and his mother's accusation heard by his young cousin. One can only speculate about Rick's motive for murdering Betsy. Penn State records are unavailable, exempt from Pennsylvania's Open Records Act. Chris was interviewed forty years later by two writers. The cold case officer actually told the Aardsma family that Rick most likely was the murderer, but did not report his findings, and suspicions lingered about that classmate, who had never confirmed or denied a role in the murder. Club members asked Frank about Mary Willard's investigation, why Chris wasn't questioned at the time, why the State Police refused to comment, some of the rumors that were current just after the murder, the dean's intention to write revelatory memoirs about Penn State, memories of the library staff, the building's construction, and how the stacks are configured, the reason why Betsy was there, and the Dutch pornographic magazines.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next meeting on May 11: Jim Serene, "Everyone Loves Children: The Emotional Dilemma of Dealing with an Overpopulated World."

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (11 May 2016)

President Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm. Ming Tien introduced his guest, Steve Beckerman. Bruce Valoris and Al Turgeon) were proposed for membership and approved unanimously. The Club has added eight new members this year, but still must recruit more. Members may also invite their spouses, using the family membership rate. Gordon proposed a slate of officers for 2016-17: Jim Serene, President; Roy Hammerstedt, Vice President; Art Goldschmidt, secretary; and Lee Stout, treasurer. The slate was approved unanimously. He nominated Art as the Club's official delegate to the 2016 IATC Convention, eligible for a \$250 reimbursement from the IATC. Louise will also represent the club. This was approved unanimously. Gordon will inform the IATC officially. Lee gave his treasurer's report. As of 1 September 2015, the balance was \$2,244; receipts and expenses are almost even. As of today, our balance was \$2,345, for a net surplus of \$101. Gordon asked members to rate our current venue. The general opinion: Ramada Inn has better food, service, and location than Celebration Hall. Requests are usually honored. Only problem is that we get moved around unexpectedly. Jim circulated a sheet of paper, seeking volunteers to present papers in 2016-17. Gordon introduced Jim Serene, speaking on "Everyone Loves Children: The Emotional Dilemmas of Dealing with an Overpopulated World.

Jim began by ordering applause to Gordon for his leadership this year, and then told how he grew up among steel workers near Pittsburgh, who typically had large families. However, the future seems cloudy because of air and water pollution, overcrowding, new (and old) diseases, international unrest, mass migrations, hunger, and unemployment. Crowded conditions, caused by too many humans, exacerbate these problems. Efforts to limit offspring have been lacking. He cited Kevin Cole's article in the recent issue of *Torch* magazine, which named the four bodily organs of communication: head, heart, guts, and gonads. Sex attracts the largest audience.

Robert Malthus wrote a celebrated treatise on population in 1798, arguing that the human population increases faster than the means of supporting it. This tendency has continued at an accelerating rate. Today three billion people on this earth live in extreme poverty, earning less than \$2 a day. Each day 45 thousand die from hunger resulting from poverty and food shortages, caused by wars, dictators, or droughts. Mass migration to Europe is coming from, not only Syria, but many war-torn or impoverished African countries. The Earth began about 4.5 billion years ago. Cells that reproduce sexually appeared 2.5 billion years, *Homo Sapiens* arose about a million years, and farming began ten thousand years ago. Sexual desire in humans—especially males—is strong and was probably needed to keep males around after the baby was born. Human reproduction has not abated amid all the modern innovations. The women's rights movement and family planning go back only a hundred years. Female genital mutilation, used to "keep women "under control," has harmed over 100 million Asian, African and Middle Eastern women, about 2 million every year, to make intercourse painful for them, thereby discouraging premarital sex and maintaining chastity after marriage. Most religions, founded by men, oppose abortion and birth control devices, even as the media promote means of stimulating male sexuality. Roman Catholicism teaches "Tampering with the male seed is tantamount to murder." Buddhism favors male dominance. Even in the West male dominance persists. Our attitudes toward sex, reproduction, and survival have not evolved. Religious texts were written by men when people were few, and scientists were punished for defying divine law. People's behavior should adjust to 21st century conditions, but their rapid population growth results from short-term thinking. Jim notes that, since Immigration Laws were changed in 1965, Hispanics have added 60 million and Asians 15 million to the US population. Foreign and domestic aid has caused a population explosion, because, since Reagan's presidency, restrictions have been placed on birth control when domestic and foreign aid packages were developed. This undermines our existing methods to rid the world of hunger. Unemployed young men are apt to be recruited by terrorist groups. Over half the world's 8 billion people are under the age of 25. Must humanity experience a catastrophe before it addresses the overpopulation problem? Malthus wrote to prevent this. Responsible religious leaders should speak for family planning, as Martin Luther King did. Humans are going to go on having intercourse. Contraception, if consistently used, might help to diminish overpopulation worldwide.

Many discussants brought up the slowing of population growth in developed countries, including China, and a resulting shortage of young adult workers. Who should control decisions about having children? Religion is one of the few forces that can compete with the sex drive. As for Roman Catholic teachings, Catholic families in the

US maintain their faith, but most use some form of birth control. A significant factor in successful population control is educating girls. Agricultural output won't rise forever; look at the effects of nitrogen runoff on the US, as well as water shortages in the Middle East. Many of these changes occur over the long run and are hard to measure. All agreed that more discussion is valuable.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. The next program is on 8 June, featuring Steve Smith: "Capitalism and Inequality."

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, Secretary



## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (8 June 2016)

President Gordon DeJong opened the meeting at 6:45 pm. Jim Serene introduced Walt Ebaugh, geologist, as a potential member (Jim: he wants to join). Gordon urged all members to carry Torch Club brochures to give to possible recruits. John Vincenti will soon prepare next year's brochure, as speakers have volunteered for all monthly meetings. Gordon reviewed the past year: new location, more members, and the joint meeting with St Andrews; thanked the volunteers of next year's talks, this past year's presenters and club officers, including Mick McKay (as acting treasurer); and asked members to tell how they frame inequality: whether economic, social, transnational, or access to resources, family, and education? Seven members volunteered answers about inequality before Gordon introduced the speaker, Steve Smith.

Inequality has dominated this year's political discourse. This may be inescapable, as the income gap widens, and the education and achievement gaps widen more. Steve read Jerry Miller's "Capitalism and Inequality" in *Foreign Affairs* (Mar-Apr 2013) and several books. Wages have stagnated since the 1970s; the median wage adjusted for inflation has indeed declined since 1989, while CEOs' salaries have skyrocketed relative to workers' average wages. Share of national income going to the top one percent declined between 1920s and 1970s, but since then has risen from 10 to 22 percent. The share of wealth has also widened: the wealthiest 10 percent own 80 percent of all stocks. Should we care if labor gets a declining share? Classical economic theory favors inequality because it rewards worker initiative. But too many Americans lack the means to enjoy a middle class living standard, which someone said requires \$130,000 per year, whereas the median annual income is \$50,000. Concerns over inequality include uneven access to power, which could threaten liberty; insufficient aggregate demand to keep the economy running well; and potential social backlash, leading to the populism of Sanders and Trump, and also Hugo Chavez of Venezuela;. Robert Reich is concerned the rules of the market are being written by Wall Street, big corporations, and the wealthy elite. We assume people have equal access to the marketplace and information, but they don't. Capitalism's 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century rise allowed entrepreneurs to innovate, but many couldn't do so. Capitalism may reward dynamic innovation, but risks failure and unemployment. Workers generally have a narrow range of abilities and hence limited access to jobs especially when products change or demand shifts.

Advent of capitalism gave some people more control over and responsibility for their lives but led to greater insecurity. Inequality was its inevitable product. Recently post-industrial capitalism has created a rising service sector, based on knowledge, science, and technology, causing further inequality and insecurity. Steve summarized inequality's causes: technological change (automation and outsourcing); globalization reinforces this factor; stratification of marriage patterns (based on wealth and educational attainment, and also poorer couples tend to divorce or separate, leading to one-parent families, hindering the development of their children), rising importance of human capital (experience, ability to solve complex problems, self-discipline; nurturing families reinforce schooling in promoting cognitive skills); education, which is not a panacea (access to college education accounts for 60 percent of inequality since 1970, a gap that has widened by family, low minimum wage, and decline of unions), and financialization of the economy (the financial sector is 7-8% of economy now as compared with 4% in 1980, thanks to the deregulation of banks and other financial institutions, less lending to small businesses, high rents in communities with high unemployment, and the NASDAQ index correlates to inequality.) What can we do? Raise minimum wage? Increase earned income tax credit? Offer more technical training? Impose steeper income tax rates on the rich? Adopt macroeconomic policies that will reduce unemployment?

Discussion points: foreign competition has harmed manufacturing industries. Government regulations have inhibited investment. Poor people have limited mobility. Parents should cooperate with their children's teachers. Income tax inhibits innovation. Fewer people engage in food production, while our service economy grows. The US balance of payments has long been negative. We need checks and balances between government policies and private investors to solve these problems. Housing expenditure should not exceed 30% of income, but some poor people pay over 50%. Unable to buy houses, young people must pay rising rents. Abuse of drugs and other irresponsible behaviors. Jobs were lost to mechanization, but we must invest for future need. Professions and jobs have changed within our lifetimes, so people must be prepared to change careers and move to where the

jobs are. Classical economic theory ignores the reality of people's lives. The US imports too many consumer goods. Compassion is needed in a market-driven economy.

Gordon declared the meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary (who plans to request a better PA system for future meetings)

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (14 September 2016)

Vice President Roy Hammerstedt, taking the place of Jim Serene, who is traveling, opened the meeting at 6 pm with words of welcome. The meeting resumed after dinner at 6:40. Lee Stout reported on the club treasury. Art and Louise Goldschmidt described the IATC convention, which they attended. Louise told us how to set up a new club and how to build up an existing one. A discussion ensued about membership. Art announced that Region 2 will hold a regional meeting on 1 April 2017 in Lancaster and urged members to attend and to present papers. Al Turgeon introduced Dave Lykens, a retired helicopter pilot. Dean Snow introduced Walt Ebaugh and recommended him for membership. He was approved unanimously.

Dean Snow spoke on “Veracity Redeemed: The 1568 Long Walk of David Ingram.” Although most of his contemporaries (and later historians) doubted Ingram made this trip, Dean showed that his claims could be true. He did indeed walk from Tampico to New Brunswick in nine months. His presence in those places can be proved, but did he really walk all the way? Nowadays, many people hike the entire Appalachian Trail; others have walked the California trail. A Polish army lieutenant, Slavomir Rawicz, claimed to have walked 4,000 miles from a Soviet camp to India in 1941-42 in eleven months. His claim was false.

David Ingram was a sailor on John Hawkins’ third slaving voyage, consisting of seven ships and 408 men. Leaving Plymouth in October 1567, they sailed to West Africa and filled their holds with slaves, then sailed the Middle Passage, and sold slaves on the Spanish Main and the Caribbean islands, though Spanish colonists were forbidden by their king to buy from English slavers. Storms forced the fleet to seek refuge near Vera Cruz, just before a Spanish fleet landed there. In the ensuing battle, most of the English ships were lost, but Hawkins’ survived, with 200 men aboard, above capacity. Half had to be left behind. Most were killed by Indians or Spanish colonists, but a few were offered Spanish citizenship. Ingram, however, fled northward, heading for the French colony at what soon would become St Augustine, when Spain captured it. Where did Ingram go from there? Dean showed a map of the North American trails existent in 1568. Later, after epidemics killed many of the European colonists, what had been farmlands in the 16<sup>th</sup> century became the eastern woodlands in the 17th. Stockades and tightly settled villages were common inland, unlike the coastal plains, where Ingram walked to avoid the hills and their warriors. He averaged nine miles per day, rarely stopping for longer than 3-4 days, reaching Maine by September, then on to New Brunswick. Hawkins received him in London in January 1570. Ingram and his companions (who predeceased him) made later voyages. Humphrey Gilbert hoped to start a coastal colony north of where the Spanish were likely to go and questioned Ingram in 1582, as did the queen’s secretary, Sir Francis Walsingham. Their interrogation led to a written report, consisting of 76 answers to unknown questions, some focused on a mythic but oft discussed Norumbega on Maine’s Penobscot River. Richard Hakluyt published the answers in his first edition of *The Principall Navigations, Voyages, and Discoveries of the English Nation* in 1589 but in later editions left out Ingram’s walk, so he may have doubted his claims. Was Ingram credible? What did he say he saw? How did he find food? Why wasn’t he killed by Indians? Are his stories accurate? The Walsingham manuscript’s answers to unknown questions are difficult to sort out, but Walsingham did have guidelines of what to look for. Quinn (1967) found some questions on the local inhabitants and conditions. Ingram may have taken tales from other sailors. Often, he erred, mistaking mica for silver; iron pyrite for gold. He described silent barter, practiced by many peoples. Dean showed how seemingly crazy tales can turn out to be plausible. Some wild beasts and birds reported by Ingram really exist, such as the harpy eagle, walruses, and manatees. He saw shamans who resembled the devil. Like de Soto he may have carried bags of pearls, then numerous, to trade for quartz crystals or food. He could also gather food; shellfish, especially mussels, abounded. Richard Hakluyt came to doubt Ingram, as did such later historians as James Williamson (1927), Rayner Unwin, Samuel Eliot Morison (1971), and David Quinn (1979), who dismisses Ingram as illiterate, but good at telling tales. Quinn cautiously allows for “further study by scholars with time on their hands.”

Members asked how old was Ingram? Why didn’t he sketch the things he saw? Perhaps he couldn’t. Why didn’t he get strung up by the Indians? Indians did strip him and laughed at his body. Warfare was rare in coastal area. They may have viewed him as someone with goods to trade. Farther north more dangerous conditions prevailed; the English believed tales about cannibals in the interior. Europeans traded heavily there for beaver furs. *Iroquois*

was originally Basque for “killer,” but the coastal Indians posed no danger for Ingram. Illustrations of headless men reminiscent appear in other travel books of that time. People might doubt someone who wasn’t a nobleman. Did Ingram carry wampum made from shells, not pearls? Later on, the Dutch manufactured wampum. What was Ingram’s motive for telling this story? Maybe he was competing with the yarns told by other sailors in the pubs.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Next talk on 12 October. Bob Hendrickson on “Sexual Assault and Due Process on the College Campus”

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (12 October 2016)

President Jim Serene called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm, introduced himself, and described his travels. Ming Tien introduced his guests: Sarah Schwartz and Lulu Yarber, and Frank Deutsch his wife Mary. Art urged the members to respond promptly to his invitations and noted that the next meeting will be on 9 November. Jim introduced the speaker, Bob Hendrickson, a retired professor of education who also served Penn State in various administrative capacities.

Bob spoke on Sexual Assault and Due Process at Colleges and Universities, starting with some statistics: one woman out of five will be raped in her lifetime; 17 reports of sexual assaults at University Park so far this academic year; 84-98 per-cent of on campus assaults are by perpetrators known to their victims. College student hookups without romantic involvement, most involving alcohol, occur very often. He cited a study of first- and third-year students at a Midwestern university, which found forced sex more common for first year, psychological coercion for third year women, but both involved alcohol. About half engage in binge drinking, often leading to unplanned sex. Student party scene starts on Wednesday or Thursday, occurring as often in apartments as in fraternities. He recalled his role as an assistant dean of students and an RD at UW-Whitewater in the 1960s, when he dealt with race relations issues. A fight broke out after a basketball game between a black and a white fraternity, leading to a revenge raid against the latter. Six black students dismissed, more African Americans poured in from Milwaukee, someone poured gasoline on the floor of Whitewater's oldest building, which burned down. The National Guard was called in. In his residence hall Bob invited students getting low grades, many of them Afro-American, to take a study skills course that he taught. He got to know some of the Black students, who complained of feeling watched whenever they went out. On a warm May night, he got a 1 a.m. phone call from the director of the women's residence hall, complaining that one of her residents had been raped. Both male and female police officers came to her residence hall to interview the man and the woman. They found that the woman had reported having sex with the man to her roommate, who told others that it was a rape. No one was sure if the girl gave consent. The man, an African American, was explicit about what had occurred. They concluded that there was consent.

Title IX (1972) forbids the exclusion on the basis of sex of any person from a program or activity in a university receiving federal aid. It originally was applied just to athletics, having been added without debate to the bill as an amendment. The interpretation of a "program" and its application to the whole institution (or "system" in the UW and PSU cases) is broad. The financial assistance issue comes into play if any student is receiving federal student aid. Another issue is the Family Rights and Privacy Act, requiring that all information about students must be private. The institution and its staff must have student's consent to reveal any information, even a recommendation. Under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment students in public universities are guaranteed a constitutional right to due process, both a property and a liberty interest. Most private institutions have guaranteed student rights in their student handbook's code of conduct because the public expects it. Academic dismissal is different, but due process issues may arise. In any disciplinary process, the accused must get written notice of the charges and grounds for dismissal and must have a hearing, not only with an administrator, the names of witnesses testifying against him/her, and oral or written statements of the facts testified. The accused has the right to defense, to get a statement of the findings, and to appeal the decision. The student may have legal counsel if the university has a lawyer; both may cross examine. The university usually has advice from a lawyer behind the scenes. So far legal counsel has not been always required. The Office of Civil Rights sets detailed guidelines for sexual assault or harassment cases. A university that disregards them can lose its federal financial assistance (e.g. research grants). Most institutions use preponderance of evidence to determine whether a sexual assault has occurred. Perpetrator and victim must have similar and timely access to information, but FRPA rules also come into play. Both the accused and victim have due process rights. Victim must consent to the investigation. If she requests confidentiality, does this harm the perpetrator's legal rights? May the perpetrator cross examine the victim? Often institution assumed perpetrator's guilt, but the legal system concluded that the sex was consensual. The OCR challenged such decisions. Bob cited two cases: Doe v. Columbia University (2014), or the "Mattress Case" and Marshall v. Indiana University (2016), both exonerating the accused. A lively discussion ensued on how today's students act.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Next meeting will feature Phil Park speaking on “Local Government: Consolidation or Cooperation?”

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (9 November 2016)

President Jim Serene called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. Art announced a meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> district Torch Clubs, which will occur in Millersville on Saturday, 1 April 2017, and the next annual IATC meeting in Kalamazoo on 15-18 June, urging members to attend one or both. He also explained the terms under which the Ramada Inn will set up a mini-a bar in our room, provided we buy \$250 worth of alcoholic beverages in one evening. Lee reported our Treasury is fine. Phil Park introduced his guest, Tom Berner, a former member who has local government experience. Jim introduced Phil, who has lived here since 1967, earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Penn State, and chaired the Patton Township supervisors and other organizations, speaking on "Local Government: Consolidation or Cooperation?"

Centre Region makes up the bottom quarter of Centre County, comprising part of Benner Township as well as State College Borough, College, Ferguson, Patton, Harris and Halfmoon Townships. A judge named Dillon ruled (1868) that local governments are creatures of the state, organized by the state legislature. Pennsylvania has 67 counties, which are administrative subdivisions, providing justice and welfare service. Pennsylvania's state legislature may not pass laws for specific counties; hence it divides its 67 into classes. Philadelphia is the only first-class county. Second class counties are Allegheny plus Bucks, Delaware, and Montgomery. Centre is a fourth-class county; its recent promotion from fifth class enabled it to hire an additional judge. Our state has 2,561 general purpose units of local government, classified by their population per square mile. 1<sup>st</sup> Phila, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pittsburgh & Scranton, and 53 cities of 3<sup>rd</sup> class. 71 municipalities have "home rule." The state has passed some acts ("uniform legislation") applicable to almost all municipalities, such as a planning code, solid waste management act, sewage facilities act, local tax enabling act (e.g., real estate transfer and, earned income tax), intergovernmental cooperation, creation of authorities (e.g. our water authority and the University Area Joint [Sewer] Authority), and home rule (enacted ca. 1972) that enable a municipality to draft its own charter, as. State College Borough and Ferguson Township have done. Legislation can also empower the municipality to impose certain taxes beyond the usual imposts it has authorized generally. Municipalities plow streets, manage water and sewer, and provide police protection. Phil showed a chart of the municipalities (to be attached). Local assessed value of property in the Borough and townships are taxed separately from the school districts. Municipal units share revenues with school districts. If you divide tax revenues by population-(minus-students) you get per capita costs, which are much higher for State College than the townships.

Cities used to annex portions of townships that wished to obtain their services, but now this is rare. Every township buys its own equipment. Formerly each could have its own transportation committee, but the state ruled that transport had to be under a regional board. Patton and Ferguson have their own police, but State College provides police service by contract to College and Harris Townships. Regional planning is coordinated by the Council of Governments, but several authorities provide water and sewer. COG was set up to plan and coordinate services; now it handles building codes, parks & recreation, and general and emergency planning, but cannot impose taxes. All regional or joint programs must be approved by municipal ordinance. A general forum of COG members meets monthly to discuss their concerns. Fire and rescue were under Alpha Fire Company, which took 1200 service calls in 2015, has 100 active volunteers, and apparatus worth \$7 million. No other municipality has this kind of protection, which costs only 11% of the national average. Ferguson Township and State College have their own planners in addition to COG's. Refuse collection outside the Borough had multiple providers until COG chose a single contractor, at a large cost saving to homeowners. Other regional services include parks and recreation and Schlow Library. The Borough and townships have long debated forming a single municipality, which they may do if each has a plebiscite and the voters approve. A single community in everything except our municipal government and its services, we might want to merge as our school districts were consolidated in the 1950s, but even this wasn't easy. Township may have unique conditions that might be harmed by consolidation. A member argued that regional planning isn't cost effective, as each township has peculiarities, inhabitants have local loyalties, and fear control by State College. But is Ferguson Township a coherent city? A lively discussion ensued, in which many members participated.

Jim adjourned meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Our next meeting, on 14 December, will feature Roy Hammerstedt on “Nutroceuticals: Snake Oil of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?”

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary



## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (14 December 2016)

President Jim Serene called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. Lee Stout said that the treasury is fine. Art Goldschmidt has put the yearly threefold pamphlets at each table. Gordon DeJong introduced his guest, Ted Alter, former Dean of the Penn State College of Agriculture. Bob Hendrickson introduced Roger Williams, former Executive Director of the Penn State Alumni Association, now completing his biography of Evan Pugh. Jim introduced Ned Balzer, computer programmer at Penn State. Art Goldschmidt, acting for Ed Buss, introduced Ed Klevans, Professor Emeritus of Nuclear Engineering. He also introduced the District II Regional Director, Meredith Rousseau (Lancaster), who spoke about the regional meeting scheduled for Saturday, 1 April 2017, urging our club members to attend. There will be a continental breakfast and lunch, and the whole meeting will take just six hours. Speakers will advise us recruitment, using the new IATC online club management system, and writing for the *Torch* magazine. [I will distribute the brochure advertising the conference].

Jim introduced Roy Hammerstedt, a retired professor of biochemistry who remains professionally active. And he spoke on “Nutraceuticals: Snake Oil for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Sales of these products are rising faster than any other pharmaceuticals, but their effectiveness is questionable. Despite government warnings and some lawsuits, nutraceuticals sell because many buyers believe in them, as described in Maria Konnikova’s *The Confidence Game: Why We Fall for It...Every Time*. The public’s susceptibility is based in human psychology and the desire for a quick cure to any ailment. One example: belief in the healing power of compressed yeast, popularized by the Fleischmann family, which owned a Cincinnati brewery that produced compressed yeast as well as gin and vodka. It promoted yeast as a good source of vitamins at a time when they were becoming known, but people can meet all their needs from food and excess vitamins get eliminated in urine. Hying of patent medicines dates back to post Civil War era, when the food supply network expanded, causing the uncontrolled spread of pathogens and the use of harmful chemicals like formaldehyde, notably in Chicago’s meat processing industry. A national food safety law was passed, applicable only to interstate commerce, but did impose laws on the importation of meat products. The Pure Food and Drug act (1906) tried to regulate pharmaceuticals in interstate commerce. Some states passed even earlier laws, often setting a model for national legislation, regarding safety standards. Truth in labeling laws: made pharmaceuticals list on their labels any habit-forming or poisonous ingredients and outlawed any claim to contain chemicals that they lacked, e.g., Coca Cola had to eliminate some of its ingredients. The laws required publication of any violations; so fear of shame caused drug makers to obey the law, which has been revised and strengthened over the years.

Penn State Professor William Frear chaired the committee that wrote the Pure Food and Drug Act. However, can the government regulate a product that is neither a food nor a drug, like nutraceuticals? Why do some people fall asleep after a large Thanksgiving dinner? Turkey contains tryptophan, a serotonin that causes sleep, but it must be isolated. Scientists developed a method to mass-produce tryptophan. A 1989 article in the *Wall Street Journal*, estimating its annual sales to exceed \$60 million, reported that it can cause illnesses and even death. Public health specialists reported other harmful effects, leading to the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (1994). It regulated advertising but did not make manufacturers report their efficacy or risks. For more than 20 years nutraceuticals have been advertised by print and TV. The general population knows little about them; easy ways to cure ED, build muscles, or lose weight attract a credulous public. Manufacturers rely on a well-known physician, like Dr. Mehmet Oz, to promote their products, but he has been refuted by Dr. Pieter Cohen, of the Harvard School of Public Health, who publishes in scholarly and popular magazines. The industry has been suing him, unsuccessfully. Roy, too, has been consulted, but the industry is entrenched, and it may take years to expose their rackets. We need national legislation to protect the public. Can a law be passed regulating how these products are advertised? New York has enacted regulations and if other large states follow suit, this could rein in the nutraceutical industry. Regulations often impede useful developments. They aid lawyers. Human nature says there will always be a willing seller and a willing buyer. But we need rock solid information about nutrition to protect the public.

Questions raised included the possibility of a regulation to “do no harm,” the possibility of legislation that could be reworked as our level of knowledge changes, the reality of the “placebo effect,” the declining price of GNC stock, the use of multi-vitamins, the beneficial addition of some chemicals to food, truth in advertising

laws, Chinese herbal medicine, alternate medicine, doubts about vaccination of children, extreme specialization (the goal of modern medicine is to ensure that you will die of someone else's specialty), what did compressed yeast taste like and good did it do?

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Jim Serene announced Ming Tien's talk, "OMG—GMO" on 11 January 2017.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary