

1996 St. Pat's Proclamation Signing (Draft 2)

Cast: Dr. Viets, St. Pat, 3 other students, 4 LOTO members & the Wise Old O'rangeman.

Dr. Viets: Welcome to the 1996 St. Patrick's day proclamation signing. It is always a pleasure to honor St. Pat and (his or her) court. You students have worked hard on you posters and booths. Well, at least some of you worked hard.

As most of you already know, we honor St. Patrick because he is the patron saint of engineers.

This proclamation that I am about to sign gives our fairly elected St. Pat and (his or her) court authority to rule over MSOE for the rest of the day. I'm glad to see that those annoying Loyal Order of Orange trouble makers aren't here. You know, they've tried to prevent the proclamation signing every year since I've been here as president. One year, they even kidnaped Dean Coffee.

Well as I was saying, it is now my privilage to sign . . .

(Loyal Order of Orange arrive noisily.)

Orange 1: Wait. Stop the proceedings.

Orange 2: We, the members of the Loyal Order of Orange, are here to stop this charade. It has come to our attention that our St. Pat and (his or her) court know nothing about Ireland and the original St. Pat. Why, they know less about Ireland and St. Pat than they know about chemistry!

Orange 3: And that ain't much!

Orange 2: (Continuing) As I was saying, we do not feel that this bunch (pointing to the students) is worthy of this honor Dr. Viets was about to bestow upon them. We demand that the Proclamation not be signed and that all remaining St. Patrick's Week activities be canceled.

Student 1: (To Orange 2) Even the dance?

Orange 3: Even the dance!

Dr. Viets: (To the students) Well, what can I say. Are these charges true?

St. Pat: (Laughing confidently) Of course not. We have taken our HSS classes, we know about history and stuff.

(Dr. Viets ponders this claim. The LOTO groups seems somewhat at a loss. The students look confident.)

Orange 1: We propose a test. We'll ask the students some questions regarding the original St. Patrick and the history of Ireland. If the students can answer the majority of our questions, we will withdraw our objections and allow the proclamation to be signed.

(Dr. Viets and the students consider this challenge.)

St. Pat: Okay, we agree to your little test. I've taken enough tests here at MSOE. How hard can this one be?

(LOTO members laugh sinisterly. Dr. Viets and the students look concerned.)

Orange 2: Our first question is easy. Where was the original St. Patrick born?

Student 1: That is easy. Ireland, of course.

Orange 2: Wrong, boiled potato breath. (Wise old O'range holds up a sign with the answer.) He was born in Roman England.

(Students and Dr. Viets look more concerned.)

Orange 3: (To the students) I have a question for you now. How old was St. Patrick when he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland?

(Students talk among themselves.)

Student 2: (Doubtfully) 22?

Orange 3: Wrong, corn beef breath. (Wise old O'range holds up a sign with the answer.) He was 16.

(Students and Dr. Viets look still more concerned.)

Orange 4: Okay, I have a question for them now. Who did St. Patrick replace as Bishop of the Irish in 432?

(Student talk among themselves. They are in over their heads and they know it.)

Student 3: (Uncertain) Richard Nixon?

Orange 4: Wrong, cooked cabbage breath. (Wise old O'range holds up a sign with the answer.) It was Palladius.

Orange 2: It's my turn now. Who was St. Germanus of Auxerre (jur-mayn'-uhs of oh-sair')?

(Students talk among themselves. They are starting to look desperate).

St. Pat: (Uncertain) He was the inventor of calculus?

Orange 2: No, no, no. That was Newton and Leibniz. (Wise old O'range holds up a sign with the answer.) St. Germanus of Auxerre (jur-mayn'-uhs of oh-sair') was St. Patrick's teacher.

Dr. Viets: (Trying to regain control.) Hold on. Maybe these students don't know quite as much about the original St. Patrick and Ireland as they should (looking at the students with mild disapproval), but they know a bunch of really important stuff.

(Students agree enthusiastically.)

Dr. Viets: In fact, I happen to have some questions here on our new international exchange programs with the *Fachhochschule Lübeck* in Germany and the Manipal Institute of Technology in India.

(Students suddenly become less enthusiastic. They exchange worried glances.)

Dr. Viets: If the students can answer all the following questions, I will sign the proclamations giving St. Patrick and (his or her) court control of MSOE for the remainder of the afternoon. (Pause.)

Dr. Viets: (Continuing. To students.) When was the *Fachhochschule Lübeck* founded?

Student 1: That's easy. 1808.

(LOTO members start to look concerned.)

Dr. Viets: That's correct. Very good. About how many laboratories are there at the *Fachhochschule Lübeck*?

Student 2: Another easy one. 70.

(LOTO members look more concerned.)

Dr. Viets: Another correct answer. Okay, about how far is it from the Manipal Institute of Technology campus to the beach?

Student 3: This is too easy. 2 miles.

Dr. Viets: That's correct. My last question. (To the students.) If you get this one right, I'll sign the proclamation. What degree program that is new to MSOE has been taught at Manipal Institute of Technology for many years?

St Pat: (Victoriously) Nursing!

Dr. Viets: That's right! (LOTO members look crushed.)
The students have proven themselves. (LOTO member start to sneak away.)
I will now sign the proclamation. (Dr. Viets pauses, getting an idea.)
(To LOTO members.) Wait! I am tired of you disrupting this ceremony each year.
(To the students.) I want you to bring me 90 ties, cut from the necks of these (indicating the LOTO members) trouble makers and their fellow conspirators on the faculty and staff.

(Students cheer. The Proclamation is presented to Dr. Viets. Orange 1 offers Dr. Viets an orange pen to sign with. Dr. Viets refuses the orange pen and accepts a green pen from one the students. Dr. Viets signs the proclamation. The students begin cutting ties.)