

1998 St. Pat's Proclamation Signing

Cast: Dr. Viets, St. Pat, St. Pat's court, Far Dirrig (FD), the Wise Old O'rangeman, the original Loyal Order of the Orange (LOOTO), Tim Valley and two admissions councilors.

Dr. Viets: Welcome to MSOE's 1998 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 (Pause). 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 Far Dirrig (fear dearg) faculty and staff members aren't here today to cause trouble. You know, they've tried to prevent the proclamation signing every year since I've been president here at MSOE. One year, they even kidnaped Dean Coffey and hid him on the Internet.

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

(A student arrives breathlessly)

Student 1: Wait. Stop the proceedings.

Dr. Viets: What's going on?

Student 1: (Still breathless) Dean Tim Valley has been kidnaped!

Dr. Viets: You mean our Director of Enrollment Management?

Student 1: That's the one.

Dr. Viets: I bet I know who's behind this dastardly deed.

(A disturbance is heard in the hallway next to the game room as the Far Dirrig arrive making their usual commotion. They march to the stage.)

FD 1: We are here to demand a halt to these misguided proceedings (Other FD's shout their agreement).

FD 2: We have Tim Valley and you wont get him back unless this assembly is dismissed and (pointing to the proclamation) that proclamation is destroyed (Again the other FD's shout and hoot and otherwise make noise in agreement).

Dr. Viets: (To St. Pat, in despair) What can I do? With Tim their wont be any new students. Without new students their wont be any more St. Patrick's Day celebrations!

(Beat) I think they've got us this time.

St. Pat: Their must be something we can do. MSOE's got a School of Nursing now. Can't we just clone the students already on campus and create an endless supply?

Dr. Viets: I'm not sure that would work (pause). I'm not sure we'd want to in all cases.

(Another commotion is heard over by the game room. Tim Valley arrives followed by a couple of FD's looking defeated and being prodded along by some admissions councilors. The group reaches the stage.)

Dr. Viets: This looks promising. What happen?

AC 1: (Pointing to captured FD's) We saw these trouble makers grab Tim from his office. We followed them over to their lair in the S building. They soon fell asleep and that gave us a chance to rush in and rescue our beloved boss (St. Pat and his court cheer).

FD 1: (Glaring at his captured comrades) You incompetents! Can't you even stay alert for a couple of hours (captured FD's hang their heads in shame).

FD 2: Yea, stay alert, 'cause we need more lerts (everyone on stage groans).

Dr. Viets: (To rescuers) Good work people. It looks like you've saved the day for us again (St. Pat and his court voice their agreement).

(Turning to FD's) As for you. It looks like your plans have been foiled again.

FD 1: I hate it when this happens (pause). (Defiantly) But, there's always next year.

FD 2: (To FD 1, à la Pinky and the Brain) What are we going to do next year?

FD 1: 'Same thing we do every year. Try to takeover the school (FD's cheer and hoot).

Dr. Viets: (To FD's, loudly) Silence you red ruffians. You failed again to stop MSOE's St. Patrick's Day festivities. In penitence for trying to disrupt these festivities again this year, I want St. Pat and his/her court to collect 65 ties from the MSOE faculty and staff.

(A disturbance is heard coming from the mezzanine and the original Orangemen arrive.)

Orange 1: Not so fast. We, the founders of the Loyal Order of

Orange, the original faculty and staff response to St. Pat and his (or her) foolishness, are here give this St. Pat a little quiz.

Orange 2: Nah, let's make it a final exam!

(Orangemen shout in agreement).

Dr. Viets: We'll this is very irregular. This is only the second week of the quarter (pause). Hardly the time for a final.

St. Pat: (Interrupting) That's okay Dr. Viets. I'll take their final. After last quarter, I'm ready for anything.

(The court cheers St. Pat's defiance).

Orange 1: Okay. I have three questions for you. First, what type of animal is the original St. Patrick credited with driving out of Ireland?

St. Pat: That's easy. Snakes.

(The court cheers and Red and Orange boo).

Orange 1: Not bad. (Pause for dramatic effect) Second, who is the official patron saint of engineers?

St. Pat: (Pausing in thought) I know this one. Hold on. It right on the tip of my tough (longer pause). St. Joseph?

(The court cheers and Red and Orange boo).

Orange 1: Okay, I'm impressed. Now for the final question...

St. Pat and the Court: (Answer if you can).

(If the students can answer, Students present the Proclamation to Dr. Viets. FD 1 offers Dr. Viets a red pen with which to sign. Dr. Viets refuses the red pen and accepts a green pen from one the students. Dr. Viets signs the proclamation. The students begin cutting ties.)