

The Kingston Trio provides flashbacks for State Theatre crowd

By **Brittany Horn**

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Although The Kingston Trio has been around for 54 years, the group still offered its thoughts on everything from Facebook to Cialis.

“I can’t even think about making love without dragging two bathtubs out to the seashore,” Bill Zorn said, with a laugh.

The Kingston Trio played at 8 p.m. Monday at The State Theatre to a relatively full house. The group, which has been playing for more than 54 years, made its return to Happy Valley after a six-year break, but not without some new surprises.

The group changed members many times since it started, now home to Zorn, as well as George Grove and Rick Dougherty, all who hold a lengthy background in the Trio’s music.

Zorn said while the group has always been called a trio, there has never actually been just three members, always featuring a bass player in the midst.

The group was all about comedy though, talking and sharing stories with the audience as the night wore on.

At one point, Grove even acknowledged the lack of younger audience members and their current state of slumber.

But when it came down to it, the real story was about the Trio’s No. 1 juke box hit.

“For all the younger audience members still out there and still awake,

a juke box is a large iPod,” he said with a wink.

But most audience members were awake and clapping, often offering cheers of support to the opening chords of fan favorites.

For Thom Kupchinsky, 63, of State College, the music was a trip back in time, as he started listening to the Trio at age 10.

“I’m here to see if they can still sing as well as they used to,” Kupchinsky said.

Ready for his favorite song — “Tom Dooley” — Kupchinsky said he was eager to see the music of his younger days compared with the music of today, though he said there wasn’t much comparison.

Wife Rose Marie Kupchinsky, 64, agreed, after also preparing for the music of her childhood. A regular to musical venues around the area, she said she couldn’t wait to see the performance.

But the night was more than just a trip back in time. For some, it was *déjà vu*.

After hiring the Trio back in 1963, Frank Guadagnolo, 70, of State College, said the songs, while not performed with the original members, are still very recognizable to the listener.

“I decided to come out and hear some good music,” Guadagnolo said. “It brings back a lot of memories.”