

## Editorial

### So, Watta Ya Gonna Do?

The Capitolist lately has come into some minor criticism about the content of the weekly paper. Not really so much criticism as, "Why don't you have...." Well, the truth is that we want to have....

Before you stop reading this, think about it. We want to include many items of interest for the students here. And we could do it if we had the staff. But the same old story is that we don't. So, why not you?

We want to print an eight page paper every week. And the only reason that we can't is that we haven't got enough people who are interested in writing their ideas. Printing four pages each week is no small task. But it is not so much work that our staff is going to flunk out of school. But if we try to print eight pages with the staff we now have, we will all flunk out.

The Capitolist always has and always will be willing to accept any items from anyone. This is a help to us and usually of interest to the students as well. After all, if you, as a student or faculty member, have something to say, chances are that there will be people interested in reading it. We are all different-true. But we are all exposed to much the same environment here, and we are all part of the same community. So, most people will be interested in hearing your interpretation of this experience.

As I said, this is fine and we appreciate it. But to really make this paper go, we need regular staff members. The same reasoning applies. Most people on campus are reading this paper

your articles would not be written in vain. And we don't expect that you'll have to work your cookies off to write two or three pages of copy a week.

Some of the things we're doing may not please you. Fine. Come to us with an idea and the desire to carry it out. We are not a closed society. And we will not be. The only thing we ask is that you are interested in communicating with your fellow students in large numbers. Think of it. You can actually talk (so to speak) with 1000 people at once. WOW!

Some of our staff are now doing things in which they are not particularly interested. We hope to rectify that soon. But until then, we can only be grateful to them for their patience. And it may happen to you, too. But our main objective is to provide a forum here where each student can address himself to those aspects of campus life which do interest him. And if we have a bit larger staff, we can do that.

The nice thing about the Capitolist is that we are small enough so that every one of the staff can make a real contribution. And so can you. In addition, the newspaper can give you a different perspective on events on campus. You can learn about this place while you tell others about it.

So why not come see us? It will take some work, sure. But we have found it to be rewarding in many ways. We meet Tuesday nights at 7 in the gallery lounge. Be a little proud of yourself, your campus and your newspaper. See you Tuesday.

## YAWN!

Okay folks, let's hear those two great words that get us off our lame asses: "Get involved!"

What?

Of course there are legitimate excuses for avoiding excessive contact with other students in extracurricular activities. Most of those excuses are about as valid as saying you can't use the bathroom because there isn't any toilet paper. Then go out and get some! If you don't do it, you can't expect anyone else to do it either. We would have an awful lot of constipated people around here. Come to think of it, there are quite a few who are full of it.

It's amazing how often one hears that a person delays joining any student activity because it is very important to get acclimated to the new surroundings. This allows a student to remain a seventh

semester student for two years.

And how about those parties in Mead Heights that go on all night? It sure does take long to get used to Captiol Campus, doesn't it? Sure, it's a great way to get relief from those course hassles for awhile. But did anyone ever think that this might be just as much as a rut? Vary your outlook. There are enough students and organizations to satisfy everyone's interests. Of course, you do have to look around.

This pep talk is long enough. We have heard before, and will hear it again. So why keep saying it?

Because sometimes people listen. Even better, a few will decide to do something (on rare occasions).

Et cetera, et cetera, et cetera

... Please?

## Interviews :

(con't. from p. 1)

active in the Montgomery County Drug Commission.

Jane McDonald, Humanities:

1. I feel that our S.G.A. can be a positive influence for Capitol Campus. I would like to be part of that organization.

2. After only 3 weeks of the term, I am not qualified to discuss main issues. However, I am aware that much could be done to bring about better relations within the general student body.

3. None. I feel that going into this election politically inexperienced gives me a definite advantage. Not having had any previous appointments, my confidence in Capitol Campus's future is, indeed, strong.

Eugene Bryan, Social Science:

I feel that these three questions can be answered as one. You can't get things done in government without having people who are truly experienced in what they are doing. And I feel that I have had the necessary experience to get things done in a school.

My qualifications come from Pierce Junior College. After an unsuccessful attempt at President of the Freshman Class, I felt it my duty to make sure things were properly done for the members of my class. Unfortunately, due to no voting power in that party, I felt that the only way was to get involved in Student Govt. at P.J.C. As Treasurer and Executive Officer of the organization, I saw the workings of how to procure better government for the students and how to accomplish our means through the Administration.

Bernie Sheinfeld, Business:

1. I like to be involved in school functions.

2. Being here only three weeks, I have not had time to find out what main issues are involved.

3. I was S.G.A. representative at Bucks County Community College. Also, Co-chairman of the Election Committee and the Student Activities Committee.

GOOD LUCK ALL.

## Ladies and Ladies

At the opening meeting of the Mrs. Club on Tuesday, October 5th, the officers for the coming year were elected. They are: Betsy Zeiters, President; Marie Greider, Vice President; Connie Williams, Secretary; Carol Lambert, Treasurer. Jackie Burrie was appointed Chairman of the Club's Social Committee.

The most important topic discussed was the possibility of changing the Club's name to the P.S.U. Women's Club, opening the organization to single women as well.

An open house or get acquainted hour will be held by the Club today and tomorrow, from one to three o'clock, in the gallery lounge. During these times, representatives from the Club will be available to accept new memberships.

The Club is planning various social functions, including a Bingo Night, scheduled for Tuesday, November 30th, at 8:00 P.M.

Any woman interested in joining the Club, can contact Betsy Zeiters through the Student Affairs Office, or by phoning 652-1408.

## ZAP!! YOU'RE DISENTEGRATED!

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by Robert Barkan and Leonard Siegal

(Mr. Barkan received a Masters in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University. He is a member of the Pacific Studies Center and is currently researching the use of technology by the police and the military.)

Mr. Siegal, who studied physics at Stanford, is also a member of the Pacific Studies Center. He is currently writing an article on the Electronic Battlefield in Vietnam.)

If Pentagon plans are successful, Buck Rogers' "Death Ray" will be operational by 1980. The laser, a beam of high-energy light popularly acclaimed for its potential applications in communications and medicine, is nevertheless making its greatest contributions to the military. After spending \$100 million dollars over the past ten years the Pentagon will soon add laser ray guns to its arsenal of weapons. Presently government engineers, working under secrecy comparable to that surrounding the World War II Manhattan Project (atomic bomb), are creating a warfare in which supersonic planes and missiles will color the sky with deadly beams of high energy light.

To the weapons engineer, the laser is appealing because it can rapidly and accurately focus vast amounts of energy, heating targets to the point where they melt, burn, or explode. Recognizing this, the Defense Department's Advances Research Project Agency (ARPA) launched its initial laser lethal weapons program in 1961, only two years after the first operating laser was demonstrated. In February of that year, the Pentagon conducted a special briefing for over seventy aerospace companies anxious to divide up the initial funding of \$2.5 million. At that time, the military foresaw using the laser primarily for ballistic missile defense, but in 1962, the Army's Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia issued requests to industry for a hand-held anti-personal laser gun as well.

During the mid-sixties, the development of laser weaponry was impeded by high costs, limited efficiency, and a technological problem--scientists were not able to create lasers with high enough power to be used as weapons. But a classified breakthrough rekindled the Pentagon's interest. In 1968,

United Aircraft developed the first efficient high-power laser, and ARPA set up a top secret project, code named "Eighth Card" to oversee further development. Under a subsidiary research project, "Black Eye", engineers studied the feasibility of equipping satellites with laser guns to disable sensors aboard "hostile" satellites.

Since that time, development of laser weaponry has continued at high funding levels--\$30 million a year--and the research is paying off. Already the Army has used a laser to penetrate armor plating at a range of several hundred yards. At the center for laser weapons research, the Air Force's Special Weapons Laboratory near Albuquerque, New Mexico, a prototype laser gun was used to shoot down an unmanned aircraft.

The application of lasers exemplifies the domination of science and technology by the military. According to a survey reported in "Electronic News", about \$70 million will be spent for military laser devices. Yet only \$9 million will be spent for laser development for medicine and \$20 million for non-military communication.

The Pentagon is not spending its laser money just to prepare for a hypothetical future war. For the past few years, laser devices have been used in Vietnam for searching out and spying on enemy troops. Laser-guided bombs, used daily in Indochina, are credited with a tenfold increase in the accuracy of weapons delivery.

In the near future, laser ray guns appear to be feasible for defense against low-flying targets at forward air bases, for on-board ship defense against guided missiles and for disabling the enemy's spying devices. The Air Force is considering equipping its forthcoming F-15 fighter and B-1 bomber with laser weapons capable of destroying aircraft and missiles.

Recently, ARPA requested \$5.8 million to study the feasibility of supplementing the costly Safeguard ABM system with laser weaponry. Pentagon hopes to expand the use of lasers to destroy incoming ICBM's.

The government's attitude toward lasers may best be expressed by a management consultant who recently stated that the laser "will be the most revolutionary tool for mankind since the atom bomb."

## POET'S CORNER

wouldn't it be in-light-ning  
to be sucked right into a sunset  
to float within it naked and free  
and feel that glow inside of me!  
to watch my arms take on pink and purple orange hues  
and my hair golden and shimmering surrounded by a body of blues  
and to feel my feet dancing along soft billowy clouds  
my heart would explode if it happened now!

i'd spread my self all over the sky  
and not just lazily lie along the horizon  
like most sunsets ordinary do  
so they can make their exit fast  
and not miss any cues  
(and what do you suppose would happen if they did)  
would we have an eternal sunset in the sky  
would life be always golden yellows and screaming  
brillinfilled reds  
streaked with oran-ges

oh, sunset, come on  
let me sneak inside of you  
and we'll give the whole world one splendrous view  
that will be lasting forever for them to see  
and the colors will always be inside of me.

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