

A Note From The Editor



Way TO Go,
Francine!

Francine Taylor, our new Public Information officer, brought with her an infectious enthusiasm and undimmed optimism. She was brimming with energy, and some of us more experienced old-salts of Capitol thought to ourselves (at least I did): "Just wait til she's been here a while".

Francine came to us from New York and a stint with Time magazine loaded with ideas and unbounded enthusiasm. She came to us with grandiose schemes and insisted on calling us Penn State-Capitol Campus, forcing the identification with the parent University onus and on all of Pennsylvania.

She wasted no time in making her presence felt. She immediately began sending out regular, well-written press-releases (many of which have graced these pages), and she scored an early triumph with television and radio interviews covering the activities of the beginning of the year here at Capitol. Then she helped set-up a most thorough orientation program.

However, the key to her success lay in her most ambitious scheme of all. That scheme evolved as the first official academic Convocation ever in the eight-year history of Capitol Campus. And the real key lay in whether or not she could bring it off successfully.

To help her in the plot, she called on an old friend and associate from Time, Hugh Sidey, perhaps the nation's top journalist. This Coup d'Etat really began to get the ball rolling. The next step was to get faculty to agree to cancelling classes during the ceremonies (although, I understand there were those who didn't anyway). Finally, she arranged major local press coverage, and put together a relatively short and interesting program.

As the fateful day drew near, the Public Information office bombarded the press and the school with news of the coming event. Finally, Oct. 8 dawned bright and beautiful (I wonder if she arranged that, too). The last act and final determinant was whether or not she could induce the normally incredibly apathetic Capitol students to show up for the spectacle.

I personally expected the Big Top on the front lawn to be much less than half-full. To, I think, everyone's surprise, the tent was packed, and there was almost Standing Room Only for most of the affair. And this turned out to be no one-time fluke. At the open forum later in the afternoon, the auditorium was also well-filled with students and faculty alike.

I want to take this opportunity to heartily congratulate Francine on the success of the affair, and to be the first to eat my own thoughts. I wish her continued success, which I am sure she will always enjoy. I also want to congratulate the Capitol Campus students for showing everyone that this place may not be such a hotbed of apathy by participating on such a large scale, and making Francine's debut here such a resounding success. Lastly, I want to congratulate all others involved with the Convocation (especially those poor guys who had to pass out programs). I sincerely hope that this portends of much better things to come for Penn State-Capitol Campus.

— J.S.B.



The Capitol Campus Reader

The C. C. Reader is published by the students of the Pennsylvania State University at Capitol Campus, Middletown, Pa., and is printed by the Middletown Press & Journal during the Fall, Winter and Spring Terms.

Opinions expressed by the editors and staff are not necessarily those of the University Administration, Faculty or Students.

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Save Stony Creek Valley

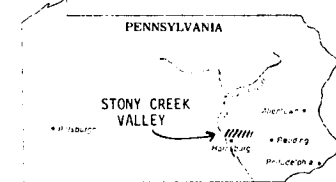
The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As a trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

Section 27, Article I
Pennsylvania Constitution

The people of Southeastern Pennsylvania are threatened with the destruction of their last unspoiled, natural area, known as Stony Creek Valley.

Stony Creek Valley is nestled between the Second Mountain and Stony and Sharp Mountains approximately 12 miles north of Harrisburg. The uninhabited, contiguous wilderness covers about 35,000 acres and is 18 miles long. A free flowing natural trout stream runs through the valley and empties into the Susquehanna River.

The Pennsylvania Power and Light Company and the Metropolitan Edison Company are proposing to flood nearly one-third of the valley floor and denude and excavate a large portion of Stony Mountain to construct a hydroelectric pumped storage plant. This area is surrounded by public hunting lands owned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission who traded away the interior to the utility companies.



The Stony Creek Valley Coalition, Inc. was formed to preserve Stony Creek Valley as an unspoiled recreational and educational natural area. This coalition, consisting of 20 organizations as of June, 1974, opposes the construction of pumped storage or any other facility in Stony Creek Valley. The Coalition supports environmentally sound and efficient energy production and storage.

Natural Resource Destruction
The pumped storage facility would cast irreparable damage in the heart of one of Pennsylvania's two most important and highest quality wilderness areas. 1700 acres of interior natural area and 4½ miles of cold water fishery would be destroyed. Downstream and surrounding area would suffer damage during and after construction. When operational, about 58 percent of the lower reservoir and 69 percent of the upper reservoir would be exposed mud flats during weekly draw down periods. The utility companies have additional flooding rights of several miles that would extend the lower reservoir and mud flats into Lebanon County. The 54 and 100 foot weekly water level changes in the lower and upper reservoirs would create a turbulent

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The Convocation: A Symbol Of Our Identity

By Fred Prouser

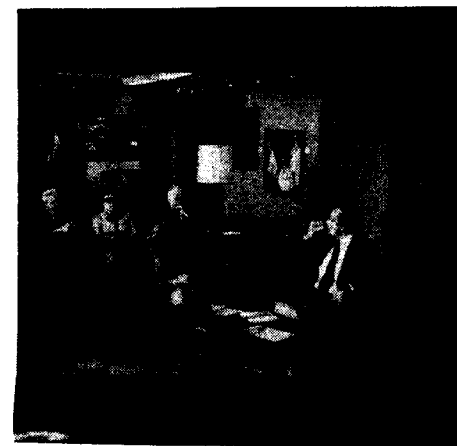
Convocation Day was a focal point in our existence as a University. It served to unify faculty, staff and students and in a broader sense - to say that we have arrived as an academic institution. In these hard economic times, Capitol Campus has the largest enrollment in its history, 2,200 students and plans for expansion with the new multi-purpose building. In addition, twelve new faculty members have been added to the staff this year.

Capitol is reaching out into the community, letting the public know we exist. Be it through student teachers, urban term students, conferences held on campus or coverage in the media; Capitol Campus is making a conscious effort to promote its existence as a useful institution within the community.

New programs have been instituted such as the Multi-media Journalism option within the Humanities department. Through further development such as this, Capitol can draw a more varied student body.

The designation as a Servicemans Opportunity College draws attention that twenty-five percent of our student body are veterans and as such are important in the future of Capitol Campus. To meet their needs, a special office has been instituted to offer counseling on benefits available to them from the Veterans Administration.

All these plans are a start in the right direction. What we need now is an awareness on the part of the individual here at Penn State-Capitol Campus, that the individual is Penn State-Capitol Campus. We are a campus of people, small enough to be personal yet large enough to provide a quality education. As long as this balance is maintained, we will continue to live up to the motto, "Innovation in Higher Education."



Youse Can Get A Ejucachun Here!

by Frank Daloisio

Has there been a recent decrease in the quality of education in the American system? It is my observation that there are many indications that point very strongly toward answering this question in the affirmative.

Having come from a community college in eastern Pennsylvania, I have noticed the emphasis on mass education, instead of on quality education. However, this is not to imply that everyone who attends a community college is an inferior student, nor does it mean that it is impossible to get a good education at such a school. Moreover, this problem is probably not limited only to community colleges; in fact it may have originated in the major universities of America, with the reduction and near removal of requirements for a degree. It is my understanding that in some universities a student is given carte blanche and can virtually write his own program. This, under certain circumstances, is not a bad idea, provided that it does not leave large gaps in his education. A perfect example of such a gap, it seems to me, was afforded by the announcement by a student government official that "youse guys hafta come to us", during a speech to the student body. If this is how a senior expresses himself, what are we to expect our degrees to mean? Can anyone out there help me get a good "ejucachun"?

Deadline For Copy

For Next Issue:
Today, 12 Noon

FOR NOV. 1 ISSUE:

OCT. 25, 12 NOON

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