

# The new Patriotism: A thought based on observation

by P.R.J. SMITH

I will be tossing the word 'patriotism' around rather loosely here, so I would like to start out by explaining what the word means in my usage: patriotism is a mind set that is centered on a location or institution that has a significant role in the life of a person; so significant a role, that it inspires devotion to that location or institution in that person. The patriot will be "true" to that for which he has patriotism.

The old patriotism was a fundamental patriotism; a natural or rural patriotism. The people were products of the land they were born to, and they had a very special feeling for this land. After awhile, when organized governments became more centralized, this feeling grew to a national patriotism (I am not speaking of nationalism -- that's another thing entirely). This, too has given way to a larger role-playing institution as the object for patriotism: money.

The new patriotism is an economic patriotism; we are products of the dollar.

This new form of patriotism first took root in the United States, largely because we were a new nation without any long history or tradition and because we were striving to become a global power. This made us a nationally patriotic people with no temporal patriotism.

Temporal patriotism is a patriotism for the past. The present is a product of the continuing past, pointing toward (or dissolving into) the incumbent future; bearing with it a direct relationship and responsibility. In this mind set, any materialism is subservient to the conceptual destiny of the people.

Because we had no past beyond our birth, we were immediately drawn to materialism to fill out this lack. This has brought about our economic patriotism.

The past, to an economic-patriot, has a negligible importance, save as a starting point (born rich-born poor) upon which to build greater wealth. The future is essentially conceptualized as a continuing accumulation of wealth; therefore, destiny becomes subservient to the materialism of the present. The land (geographical placement) becomes irrelevant.

Economic patriotism is not a social patriotism. Natural patriotism was conducive to social intercourse among the people of an area because they were products of the same land and were therefore interrelated by their dependence on one another for the keeping of that land.

Economic patriotism is more conducive to an intimate relationship between the self and the dollar; a private patriotism where persons are interrelated only through relationships instrumental in furthering the growth of that private wealth. The economic-patriot is alone in his country.

This patriotism has polarized the world.

Because the relationships of nations are largely economic in nature, and because governments have become primarily based upon their economic systems, the leaders -- by way of the nature of the job -- must be economic rather than national patriots. Money is the nation's primary concern, not the people of that nation.

To the leaders, we are nothing more than a drawing pool from which they bleed their finances: our only purpose is to keep the dollar going. We are governed by those who have no concern for us; by those who have made themselves alone in time and place with the holy dollar.

We are cattle.

# Fed grants still available

Over one million students has applied for the Federal Government's basic Educational Opportunity Grants so far this year, and it is still not too late to apply.

First, or second year students can get between \$50 and \$1,050 to help with educational expenses. Basic Grants provide eligible students with a "floor" of financial aid which can be used at any one of over 5,000 eligible colleges, junior colleges, vocational or technical schools, career academies, or hospital schools of nursing. It costs nothing to apply for Basic Grants, and they never have to be paid back.

Before applying for a Basic Grant, students must meet three important criteria:

- be enrolled full time at an eligible institution of postsecondary education;
- be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;
- be enrolled in post-secondary school after April 1, 1973.

Eligibility for Basic Grant is determined by a formula which measures financial need. This formula, applied uniformly to all applicants, takes into account such factors as family income and assets, family size, number of family members in postsecondary school, and social security and veterans' special educational benefits.

To apply for a Basic Grant, students must fill out an "Application for Determination of Basic Grant Eligibility". These applications are available from the school's financial aid officer, or by writing **BASIC GRANTS, BOX 1842, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20028**. Even if a student has applied for other financial aid, he or she must fill out a separate application for Basic Grant. Four to six weeks after submitting an application, you will receive a "Student Eligibility Report" which notifies you of your eligibility. The amount of the grant depends on financial need and the cost of the school which you are attending. The student must take this report to the financial aid officer to find out the amount of the award.

Ask the financial aid officer now about Basic Educational Opportunity Grants. They could provide a foundation to build on.

# A Note from the Editor: Reruminating in the autumn of this Fall



In keeping with a one-year-old tradition, it's time to rehash old hash marks and point out the highs and the lows of this past Fall term, as it gets ready to give up the ghost.

The Fall '74 term began with an atmosphere of cautious optimism above a sea of turbulent apathy. It seems that, out of nowhere appeared an island of commitment embodied in the likes of SGA leaders McAllister and Hogg, and such others as Dave (Harpo) Nicholas of the Social Committee, Gretchen Sensemen of DTK, and even Ski Club's Chairperson, Bob Nace.

Of course, there were many others who helped calm the waves and set the Capitol Campus ship on its true course, whatever that may be. The greatest calming forces were provided by the friendly whirlwind from New York, Francine Taylor, who tackled her job as Public Info Officer with great vigor, and hasn't let up one bit.

The foreboding which may have struck some before the start of this term was stemmed, I think, and dissipated by the many landmark events of this first term of this year. Quite early in the year there was the annual Stone Valley leadership conference, which was, in many ways, highly successful. From there, the "events", as Dr. Lear has termed them, came on more and more quickly, each one attaining for Capitol greater and greater heights of accomplishment: The trustees finally approved a building that has been on the boards for years; Capitol enrolled its largest student body ever; High Sidey and our first Convocation lent us, as Fred Prouser said "a symbol of our identity"; SGA junior elections garnered their greatest support in a long time; HACC and Capitol Campus took positive steps toward cooperation; and an original C.C. dramatic production became a qualified success. Of course, space doesn't permit a listing of all the other lesser, but still significant accomplishments of the term.

There's the other side of the coin. But, whereas the front is a silver-dollar the back is just the size of a dime by comparison. Troubles that remain with us are the old "parking-lot screws" and problems with other University policies, lack of a Campus-wide survey for scheduling, and the continuing grief about security. Finally, there was the departure of Agnes Green (ex-Coordinator of the Student Affairs) for Delaware. We hope she's doing well. On a more personal front there is the rapid improvement of this tabloid the C.C. Reader. We have successfully endeavored to bring to Capitol greater coverage of "events" (thanks, Dr. Lear) happening both on and off campus. Evidence this by our coverage of Hugh Sidey's visit to Capitol, Dan Rather's visit to Hbg., Dr. Hussaini's recent tumultuous sojourn here on campus, the inauguration of the "ReaderAsks," and on-the-spot coverage of the Nitanny Lions as they roared (mewed against Navy & N.C. State) to another successful season and a berth in the Cotton Bowl (we're no Sports Illustrated, but we try). All this and the many other new features and specials have all been presented with you, the student, in mind.

So, all that has been accomplished would take a book (I've come close) to document. Suffice it to say, that we've only just begun.

— J.S.B.

P.S. Try to stay high enough to have a Merry Christmas (or Happy Chanukah) and a Happy New Year.

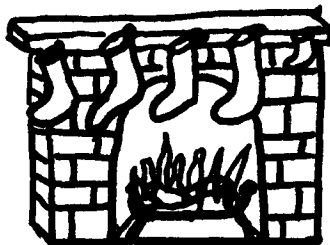


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# Aviation Club

On Tuesday, January 7, the Capitol Campus Aviation Club will conduct it's first ground school class. The FAA approved ground school is scheduled to meet every Tuesday night for three hours. Students graduating from the fifteen week course will be prepared for the F.A.A. written examination. Ground school is the first step in acquiring a private pilots license. In addition to ground school the Aviation Club is planning field trips and another Aviation Day this spring. All are welcome to attend this important meeting-class on Tuesday, January 7 at 6:30 p.m. room E224.

Larry Sowick  
Activities Chairman



**PEACE AND JOY  
TO YOU THIS CHRISTMAS**