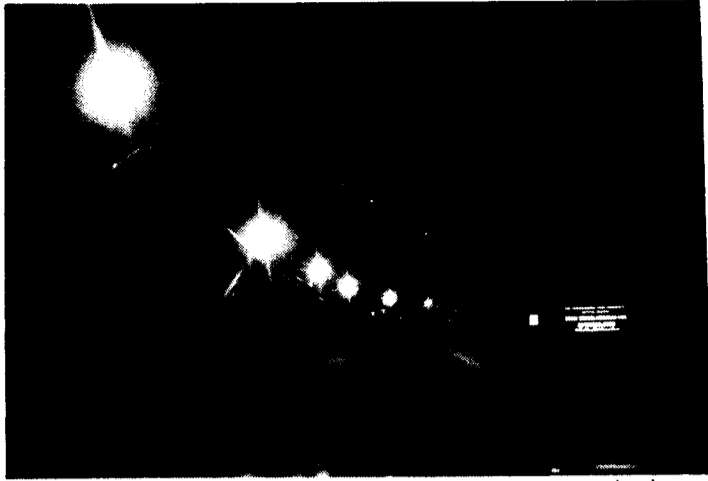


Late Night Notes



Meade Heights, A.M.-beckoning

by Fred Prouser

10 April '75

Last night I spent a few hours with some friends after a rather hectic day. The easiness of the evening and the conversation that flowed was a rare occurrence. You see, some of these friends happened to be in Viet Nam at one time. They gave part of their lives in that God forsaken country, luckily they lived to talk about it. Some of their friends can't speak now, they're dead. That's war you know.

America was an oblivious country during the war years. The 60's were guns and butter. Technicolor gore with Walter Cronkite as you ate your evening meal. Well, these friends of mine were over in Indochina sweating their guts out in 110 degree weather while I was living in a 2-S collegiate world.

Death comes in many ways. Perhaps the most gruesome death is not your own, but that of one of your buddies being blown to bits by a land mine. Since you witnessed the instantaneous end to this life, and you were a medic, it was your job to literally pick up the pieces of your friend's body that were still recognizable human.

That sort of experience stays with a person. And all I can say is that my friend that evening spoke with words of personal pain. He left Viet Nam without a scar on his body. Others like him who fought in Nam are only memories, over 50,000 memories that reside in the hearts and minds of the relatives they left behind in the states.

Viet Nam is a bad memory now for my friends. Sure it was hell, but my friends do have fond memories about that land where America tried to intervene its democratic principles against the people's will. Saigon.. the city where money talked. Card games into the night... the horrible, yet beautiful splendor of a phantom jet striking its target... the obliviousness of a helicopter flight somewhere over Viet Nam at night.

One of my friends said that when anything ever happens now that tends to bum him out, he remembers that he came back from the Nam and he just says to himself, "fuck it".

A psychic price has been paid in Indochina. My friends paid that price. The rebate that they are getting now as they watch the land where they spilled their blood and guts go the other way, is just too much for some of them to bear. Is there any other way to cope with a situation where you saw 100 of your buddies die by saying anything else but "fuck it"? I think not.



The Capitol Campus Reader

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Classroom Problems Aired

Students are frequently confronted with classroom situations (exclusive of grades and grading) which cause them considerable anguish and inconvenience, University Council was told in a preliminary report by a subcommittee.

The subcommittee, with Dr. Donald V. Josephson as chairman, was named to identify problems students face. Among the problems that had been cited earlier are possible discrimination; chronic absenteeism; late classroom arrivals by the faculty member; failure to keep office hours; condensation of a term to allow early departure; changing classroom schedules; scheduling comprehensive examinations on short notice or on last class period; excessive use of motion pictures to allow faculty to be absent; and cancellation of Saturday classes.

The subcommittee identified scheduling of comprehensive examinations, failure to keep office hours, cancellation of classes and discrimination as the most seriously abused situations.

The subcommittee also found that most students do not know where to turn when confronted with classroom problems and that many do not consult their advisors or the office of their associate deans for various reasons, including fear of reprisal.

"There appears to be a real need for a 'visible' and well publicized procedure that students can follow in reporting classroom problems," Dr. Josephson said. "Actually, the channels are now available but students either don't know they exist or avoid using them."

The subcommittee will continue to identify problems as well as to seek ways to inform all students of procedures they can follow in confidence to report classroom problems, procedures that are not now well-known.

Discussion continued on the condition of classrooms as it affects quality of instruction. Included were ventilation and cleanliness, especially late in the day.

Council in discussing the matter recognized energy conservation needs as well as economy of operation are related to the problems faced.

A report from the subcommittee studying the matter of smoking in classrooms is expected at the meeting on April 17.

A Note From The Editor



THE SGA

BLEW IT!

In a rare display of ineptitude, the Student Government Association really blew its last official activity. In the recent elections for next year's SGA, the old SGA seemed just a little too eager to get out of office and as a result, has left the campus democratic process in shambles.

The handling of the Spring elections has been one mistake after another. First, they were held the second week of this term, when, Constitutionally, they should have been held the sixth week of Winter term. Secondly, the mass publicity due these elections was never given the chance to materialize, thus failing to produce a better voter turnout. Thirdly, voters at the polls should have been made more aware of the balloting procedure. Fourth, the SGA, moved too hastily (in my opinion) in dividing the results in two parts and accepting bad ballots; and then scheduling a new election for just the President. Finally, the Student Court compounded all the previous incompetence by upholding the SGA's bad move.

When all this is combined with the fact that, except for the President, all other winners were sworn-in at the April 8 meeting of the SGA, what we get is an obvious ambivalence on the part of the old SGA towards its successor. The fault, I think, lies not with any one particular person, or for that matter one particular group; but instead with the handling of the matter as a whole. Still, SGA has to be held ultimately responsible for their elections.

We may never know why SGA broke down, but I think they owe their constituents (especially the Juniors) a better chance for a good student government next year than the one they were given. How responsive will this next group be when none of them were elected by as much as ten per cent of the student body?

That idea carries itself further into the Presidential debacle. How could SGA accept ballots that obviously weren't treated with the care they deserved by their voter, who just checked off whatever names appeared on the ballot? How can they reverse tradition and themselves and count one ballot as two?

As I heard one student official remark, the invalid ballots were probably from people who didn't give a damn in the first place. They just voted for their friends and checked off one name in each of the other (Senatorial) categories. Is this the democratic way to insure that the best candidate wins? How can this constitute a fair vote?

Although it's all water under the bridge now, I think the SGA should have either accepted the original results for all positions, or it should have rejected them all and called another General Election. And that election should then have seen greater publicity and campaigning, especially in the Reader. Anything less constitutes a travesty of the principle of the democratic process and another disaster for the already all-too-shit-on Capitol Campus students.

J.S.B.

P.S. By the way, make sure you vote on April 21 for your presidential choice; either Sue Bretherick or Scott Deardorff.

Some Thoughts

On The Student Press

"The intention of those who are pushing 'independence' is to make the college press like the commercial press. But the two are different and should remain so. College journalists may admire the professionalism of the commercial press - its makeup, photography, large staffs, and the like-but they should continue to be more experimental, daring, contentious, and intellectual than the commercial press. They should lead their readers, not follow them; challenge, not reassure them. Left to the wisdom of the courts, the college press will be able to continue its mission."

From
"Freeing the student press"
by Melvin Mencher
Columbia Journalism Review,
Sept. Oct. 1974

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