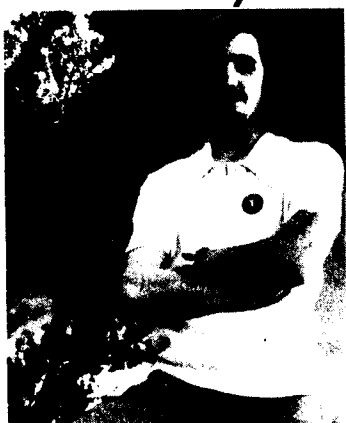


A Note from the Editor:



Remembering Capitol

In my last literary adventure, I attacked the abysmal low points of Capitol life. I did it because they were things that needed to be said; feelings currently floating around. However, in the years ahead, what will really matter to us and me are the memories: the images that represent past realities in our minds.

The memories of Capitol aren't really so bad. My two years at Capitol have indeed been marked with an underlying sense of futility. But they have also been marked by a sometimes irrational sense of hope.

It seems we were always hoping for the better, and when that hope materialized into action, some things actually happened. The happenings weren't always the right remedy, but the point is that they did occur.

Anyway, Capitol has been blessed with a core of students, however small, who really care about what happens to them and their peers. To them, we should all give our thanks for taking the time to feel for others. They were the chief apostles of hope and action.

Although Capitol doesn't live up to the image and ideals it promotes, it is nonetheless a unique institution which contains the promise for attaining what it presumes to achieve. It remains partially a victim of its benefactor and creator, University Park. Because of that, it will be handicapped in its striving until the Park finally realizes that it should be allowed the freedom to guide its destiny, attached to mother only by the purse strings.

The other factor in Capitol's development is the faculty and administration. Normally, administration is viewed as an obstacle by students; rightly so in many cases. But even there, a lack of rapport has obscured the many good things done for students by administration. The bolstering of Capitol's image and spirit thru Public Information and the Provost's attempts to promote this campus's position in the University are but two of many examples.

I, along with my colleagues, have been, from time to time, beset with poor teachers or unnecessary courses: perhaps not any more than any other institution, but just in the most conspicuous spots. There are several courses I have taken that I have thoroughly enjoyed, and the lemons are dwarfed by the apples in the barrel of profs at Capitol. I just want to say thanks to those who've helped. It's just too bad that there are those who hinder.

In final summation, it's been a liveable two years. I won't strew my path out with hearts and flowers, 'cause it just ain't like that, but I can't justify leaving behind thorns and garbage. There have been a precious few moments here I've totally enjoyed and I'm sure if I bothered to count, the better times would outweigh the worse.

I'll just leave with this thought: no experience can be a bad one if its lesson isn't wasted on you.

- Jim Bollinger



The Capitol Campus Reader

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Late Night Notes

by Fred Prouser

It's now the morning after the night before. Sitting last night with 3 friends, I began to realize that the real world is not all its cracked up to be. The work-a-day world is full of frustrations - and there is no comparison between the security of the collegiate experience and the uncertainty of the 9 to 5 grind.

In the last READER, the editor blasted the institution we know as Capitol Campus.

Perhaps by now he has reconsidered his thinking, but honestly, where could you carry a full load of courses and work on a college newspaper - putting more time and effort into getting the newspaper out than on the academics. It's possible at Capitol, because this writer's professors were patient and understanding when projects and reports were not in on time. They acknowledged that working on the READER was part of my education too and agreed to defer a good deal of course requirements until this summer. Any other institution would not be as flexible. Capitol is, and hopefully will remain so.

The future of Capitol Campus seems assured. The elements of change are always jangling around - but it seems all it takes is the people to affect the change.

Change has come slowly this past year in many positive ways. By communicating with each other, faculty, students and administration can benefit each other, rather than detract from each other.

By simply talking face to face with each other in the future - perhaps we can avoid hassles that will always crop up when people simply do not understand the other's position.

As this column is being written, the halls are empty near the Roundtable. Capitol is a different place late at night or early in the morning. It seems that you only get to really know a place when you're about to leave it. That's the way Capitol Campus is right now at 6:52 a.m. All the good people who have helped us on the READER this year will be trundling into the building shortly. Without their help - Jim and I would have never made it up to this, our 24th issue. Thanks for the experience - it has been real.

'The Road Not Taken...'

A Message from Dean Wolf



Graduation time is a time of reflection for both students and faculty, for institutions and individuals. Apropos of this moment is an expression centuries old which reads "if you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there." A favorite poem of mine uses the road metaphor in a more hopeful context, however. And it is that poem which I would like to use as the theme for these comments to the eighth graduating class of the Capitol Campus of the Pennsylvania State University.

The poem is Robert Frost's "The Road not Taken" and it concludes with these memorable lines: "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference."

For Frost, the question was whether or not to live the life of a poet, a choice which would affect the rest of his days. Now you may question the validity of these lines from mass, urban, technological society, but give them some thought. Even in such a world you can find yourself on that less travelled road and it will make all the difference.

You have already followed a less traditional and familiar path in coming to Capitol. I sincerely hope that it has made all the difference for you up to this point. But your future choice is not simply a vocational one, for many of you are on that road. It is concerned with your life - the kind of person you will be.

At Capitol you have probably learned how to do many things, and that is as it should be. But universities ought not to be simply places where one learns how to do things. They should also be places where strenuous debates occur on why and whether things should be done. If we have taught you well you will not only know how to do something but more important, you will have developed the habit and made a commitment to examine alternatives in all your future choices.

Despite the interdependent nature of our lives, we live in a world of our own choosing. If we see disaster around the corner, it's there. But if we don't draw any conclusions until we get around the corner, no matter where the road leads, we can retain our freedom of choice. We can examine the paths, the alternatives, and then choose. And, in fact, this choosing is the essence of a free society.

Reminiscent of another Frost poem, there are many paths through the distracting woods of life, and more turns than you can imagine. Study them and the underbrush, learn to read their signs and your own, and you will do more and better than you even dared to hope.

Soon you will go forth to meet the future armed with a degree from one of America's truly fine universities. That degree signifies the satisfaction of your alma mater that you have learned well from the accumulated wisdom of the past. But even more pointedly, it symbolizes her faith that you have mastered the skills of mind and heart to make you worthy leaders in the struggle for human advancement in the future.

We have tried to provide you with a common core of knowledge for we need knowledgeable people who can discuss the major areas of social concern. We have designed curricula with you, the new learner, in mind. We have hopefully displayed, analyzed, supported, and maintained various life styles, for this pluralism is the key to the real strength of American society. We have striven to develop people who can cross boundaries, or straddle them. Old-young, white-Black, male-female, radical-conservative, believer-atheist. Yes, it's a different kind of education with high standards true to its own purpose. We're proud of it - and of you - for you represent our best effort.

George D. Wolf
Dean of Faculty



CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU -
WHATEVER YOU DO - WHEREVER
YOU GO - WHOEVER YOU ARE!!

Sunrise, the sun does rise
Sunrise, and open your eyes
Sunrise, and search the skies,
Sunrise, and begin your lives

Sunrise, it's off to work
Sunrise, living's no quirk
Sunrise, but man does it hurt, and
Sunrise, get in and drive
Sunrise, into the ratrace jive

Sunrise, and nature's serene
Sunrise softly in her rosy scene
Sunrise, can time stand still
Sunrise in a man's bound will?
Sunrise has never killed, but
Sunrise thru man direct, means
Sunrise will soon sun set.

-Romeo

