

CAPITOL CAMPUS READER



Vol. 6 No. 14

Capitol Campus

Penn State University

February 10, 1977

Rise In Crime Warrants Guns On Campus?

By Ed Perrone

Due to the rise in crime both on campus and in the surrounding area, the Student Government Association last week took up debate on a proposal which would arm the regular Campus Police Force with guns.

The proposal, introduced by SGA Vice-President Ray Martin, called for the SGA to take a poll of all resident students regarding their opinion on this question. If a majority of these students are in favor of it, a petition with their signatures would be sent to University President John W. Oswald, along with a letter from the SGA requesting permission to implement this decision.

Martin, Meade Heights Resident Assistant John Leierzapf, and SGA Senator Charles Alesky - a member of

the Campus Police Force - argued that a new policy is necessary because the Campus Police are now inadequately equipped to effectively protect the campus. They cited a sharp rise in the number of complaints received by Security in January as opposed to the previous months, and a recent rash of burglaries in Meade Heights as the basis for their position.

According to figures obtained from the Security Office, the number of complaints received there during the period from June 1 through December 31, 1976, was 364. In January, 1977, alone, there were 161 complaints.

When interviewed on Monday, Chief of Security James Paul expressed his support for the proposal. "The sidearm is the basic tool of the police

officer," he said. "Would you send a surgeon to perform an operation without a scalpel?" He also pointed out that the five Campus Police are trained and sworn police officers, "as well or better qualified" than any municipal police.

Dr. Jerry South, Director of Student Affairs, disagrees, however. He stated that the arming of the police is "not a wise idea at this time, because there is no demonstrated need for it." He also brought up the possibility of an accident. "You can never tell when somebody will overreact, no matter how well trained."

South stated, however, that security policies are constantly being reviewed and are subject to change. In December, 1976, a board was formed called the "Student Affairs Subgroup for Security", consisting of 2 faculty and 2

student members. Its purpose is to provide "student and faculty involvement on an ongoing basis, reviewing the hiring of security personnel, and evaluating training programs, policies, and manuals." The faculty members, appointed by the Faculty Council, are John Jones and Lemuel Molovinsky. Students members, appointed last night by the SGA, are Ray Martin and Kitty Nestor.

Also at last night's meeting, Ray Martin, Chairman of the special SGA committee running the student poll on the question, said that the proposal appears to be "the most popular thing since central heating." He said that response from the students polled thus far is running approximately 80% in favor.

Changes Opinions Sought

By Brian McDonough

Change is in the air concerning the Capitol Campus unit and term systems.

A report requested by the President of Penn State, Dr. John W. Oswald, and researched by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Duane R. Smith, is making the rounds of the faculty and student community.

The report is in response to a self-evaluation of Capitol Campus's goals and directions for the seventies and beyond.

Originally established as an experimental branch campus of Penn State in the turbulent sixties, Capitol once comprised only a handful of professors and students. The unit concept was initiated in order to give the internal flexibility desired in a unique teaching situation, as well as to develop the full potential of the institution within limited resources.

Records Office Attempts To Speed It Up

By Karen Pickens

In order to avoid long frustrating lines, registration materials will be mailed to undergraduates on February 14, according to Lonnie Schaeffer in the Records Office. The material will be sent to the student's local address. If you've not received the registration materials by Friday, February 25th, or if your packet contains incorrect information, check with Records Office in W-101.

Payment for Spring term is due on Friday, March 4. Registration will be in person on March 9, 10, and 11. Forms should be completed and signed by an advisor before registration. This material, plus an I.D. card and fee receipt are necessary for enrollment.

The Records Office will not process any early registrations, Ms. Schaeffer said. If a student misses his scheduled day, he can still avoid the \$10 late fee by registering on Thursday, March 24.

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The inherent "differentness" of Capitol has stayed with us as it has grown to its present size of well over 2,500 students, faculty and administration. The flexibility necessary to the survival of an experimental institution was sharply limited when internal recordkeeping and other program requirements equated the "one unit" concept with four credits.

As anyone who can count knows, four credits (one unit) times the presently required eighteen courses equals seventy-two credits. So, technically, seventy-two credits are necessary for anyone to graduate from Capitol in any program.

Reason enough for change? Perhaps. But the question is much more abstract than that.

The report issued by Dean Smith, and available to interested parties, carefully considers both sides of the unit versus credit concept and refrains from conclusive statements, while at the same time acknowledging that the time for making a decision has come.

Ultimately, the question of unit/credit requirements, as well as the desirability of switching from a term to a semester calendar, will be resolved this June by the Provost of Capitol, Dr. McDermott.

However, as an academic community, and a rather unique one at that, critiques and suggestions from the groups upon which these proposed changes will have the greatest impact are greatly desired by the Provost.

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Weekend Weather

The Eastern Pennsylvania extended outlook for Friday-Sunday: Possibility of rain or snow Friday and Sunday. Temperatures will range from 20 to the upper 40's both days. Clear skies are predicted for Sunday with morning lows from the mid 20's to mid 30's. The high temperature for Sunday will be between the mid 30's to mid 40's.



Photo by: Ingeborg Miller

At first these icicles seem threatening... but they grow on you.