

# Perspectives Page

## EDITORIAL Up All Night

This is the "Capitol Campus Reader" you are reading. It is the school newspaper of the Capitol Campus. It is put together by some of the students who attend this school. The term "some" is used loosely here. What would seem a more appropriate description of numbers, is more like an overworked few.

We overworked few have some notions as to the sale-ability of ourselves after graduation. When trying to accurately represent the voice of the students, and keep them informed as to current events and relevant issues (as is stated directly below this editorial in the masthead) the question, "Why do we do this?" arises.

There are those, who have no intention, whatsoever, to even casually glance at our weekly paper. That is unfortunate. Unfortunate to whom, we or they, is a moot point. To be so naive as to think that we work under some grand beneficent scheme, and are doing this work as a service to students, staff and faculty is utterly incongruous.

No, sale-ability is at work here.

"Yes I've graduated from the Capitol Campus and I've taken such and such a course. I've completed my academic requirements and ended up with a such and such grade point average. What else? Oh well, prospective employer, take a look at this. Here's my portfolio, I've worked with the people involved in putting a newspaper together. This is what I've done. Here are the stories I've written, here are the pictures I've taken. I've spent many a long hours' work helping to crank out this either four or eight page tabloid. How about a job?"

The above-mentioned incident will actually take place. The applicant has not only the theoretical compilation of how it should be, he also has practical "nuts and bolts" experience from working with a newspaper. Theories are all well and good, but they have their place.

The world is real. Experience helps. Practicality is a desired trait. Apparently this is the primary objective of the multi-media program. But, as it turns out, you can not always be sure that you'll be among the chosen few who will get the opportunity to go on an internship. (But this is a story in itself, not to be delved into right now.)

Recently I was in attendance at one of the innumerable parties held in Meade Heights. Being for the most part a stranger to these bashers, because my off campus residence makes it difficult to be present, I was introduced as the editor of the Reader, to a certain inebriate wench.

She said, "Big deal, you get to see your name in the paper every week." I was totally abashed and at a loss for words. I felt as though my bubble had burst.

Reflection, later, concerning this incident, brought me to the conclusion that maybe it is a big deal, for each of these papers adds to my practical, sale-ability.

You too can increase your sale-ability. Why not, we could use some help. Write for the Reader.

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The Capitol Campus Reader is the school newspaper of Penn State's Capitol Campus. It is published by the students who attend this school. We of the Reader Staff try to accurately represent the voice of the students, and keep them informed as to current events and relevant issues. We are published on a weekly basis.

## Up With Which I Will Not Put

By Tim Adams

"This is something up with which I will not put." Someone probably, and in fact did, say this long before I wrote it down. He was describing a misused preposition and I will describe a misused proposition.

The proposition in question is the petition currently being circulated throughout Meade Heights pertaining to security officers carrying guns. It is one thing to propose a project of this sort, and use reasoning and facts as a method of seeing the

project through, it is quite another thing to use distortion of facts to get the job done.

The distortion lies in the wording of the petition. Such ambiguities as "para-professional, probably armed" are being used to promote this project. Now I ask you, "What the hell is an armed para-professional?" Perhaps this is a dissident group of junior social-science students who can't be classified as professional because they're only had two years of schooling prior to

coming to Capitol Campus.

Well, whatever or whoever this nefarious and undoubtedly fictitious group is, they are scaring people into signing a petition about which those people have given very little thought.

If security officers need to be armed, let them present their program in clear language and with factual information and let's drop the dramatics. Otherwise, they should only be armed with their book of parking tickets.

## Happiness Is A Warm Gun Part II

By Ed Perrone

The SGA's "petition-poll" of resident students on the question of whether or not the Security Police should be armed with guns is not quite finished. According to Vice-President Ray Martin, unofficial results show approximately 75% of the students polled thus far are in favor of this move.

In a survey conducted last week by C.C. Reader Staff Writer Young Inyang, 74% of the students, 77% of the staff, and 83% of the faculty polled oppose giving guns to Security. That's an average of 78%. Against.

Something is wrong somewhere.

The Reader survey, at the very beginning, stated simply, "The last issue of the C.C. Reader, dated February 10, 1977, carried a report of a proposal by the S.G.A. to recommend that the Campus

Police Force be armed with guns. This survey is designed to seek your opinion." Then there followed blocks to check off: student, staff, or faculty; resident or non-resident; day or night student; for or against guns.

The SGA poll, on the other hand, started out by informing the reader that there had been burglaries of over \$2500 recently in Meade Heights; that they were carried out by "para-professionals"; that these para-professionals were "most probably armed"; and that the only way to achieve safety and stability in our endangered campus was obviously to arm our Security Police with guns.

Public opinion surveys are supposed to be written in such a way that they are objective; that the wording of the question doesn't influence the answer.

Which of these two surveys

do you think is objective? Which one's results would you put more credence in?

Ray Martin told me last night that "every word in that petition can be proven."

Prove it, Ray. In print. In public.

I'm not the only one who's questioning your techniques. People who have signed your petition supporting you claim that they've been misled, or object to your using scare tactics.

I believe in the right of the people - all the people - to decide their fate. If an important issue arises - and this is an important issue - it should be decided by everyone, in the open, in public, logically and unemotionally.

But I'll be damned if I'm going to let a small group of crazed para-militarists shove something down my throat.

Not without a fight.

## Letters: Concerning BSU

I have been of the impression that the Black Students' Union is supposed to be an organization that promotes unity and solidarity among the blacks on campus and in the community. The organization's main objective is to spread a better understanding among the majority, in hopes to alleviate barriers and pressures for a peaceful co-existence on campus.

My question is, "Is the B.S.U. all it professes to be?" If it is, you could not prove it by me. On February 5, 1977, the B.S.U. sponsored a Dinner-Theater Production of "Purlie Victorious", in the Student Center. I couldn't help but notice as I walked in, that there was a reserved section of tables, at which a group of students had mistakenly sat. I overheard one of the members of the B.S.U. state that these tables were reserved and that the kids should move. Rather than cause any dissention, the sister reserved another set of tables.

My lady friend and I socialized for a while before

sitting down to eat. When we went to be seated, the president, who was already seated, objected because his name was printed in the seat. So we politely moved. As we

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I was appalled to read in the C.C. Reader of 10 February that serious consideration is being given to equipping campus security officers with firearms.

Two points. The only crime specified in the article was burglary, which is not in itself a violent crime. One wonders why weapons would be necessary to deter a non-violent crime.

Second, there is some evidence that the presence of firearms increases the likelihood of aggression by angry people. Since even the best-trained officer is not immune to anger, there is the possibility that arming the security force will increase violence on campus.

This scares me.

Robert W. Colman  
Assistant Professor

### Just A Thought

Most of the time I cannot find the time to do nothing, without feeling guilty.

Most of the time I spend daydreaming, about what I would be doing when I have the time.

Then I realize, it is time to get back to work 'cause dreaming absorbs the time that may be spent doing yesterday's daydream.

But it is now too late, and I haven't even the time to complete that, to which I am obligated.

So, once again I feel that guilt of wasting time, smothering my thoughts.

I think Tomorrow, maybe, I won't dream so much.

By Steve Wasser