

The Case Against Guns On Campus Cont. From Pg. 3

S.G.A. had proposed arming "the regular Campus Police Force with guns." It also stated that "the five Campus Police are trained and sworn police officers, 'as well or better qualified' than any municipal police."

And, in our poll itself, which is reprinted in this issue for all to read, it was stated simply that there was a proposal to "recommend that the Campus Police Force be armed with guns." Don't distort the facts.

As to who conducted our poll, it was clearly stated in the issue in which the poll was published that it was conducted by the C.C.Reader. You say that only the last paragraph hinted that the poll was not conducted by the S.G.A.. Are you such egotists as to think that, whenever a poll is conducted, people assume it is run by the S.G.A., unless told

otherwise? Or that they are stupid enough to think that what was one week "the most popular thing since central heating" (February 10), became the next week (February 17) the most unpopular thing since bubonic plague? Don't distort the facts.

Your survey did indeed have a great "Scare Potential". In your letter you state "There have been three burglaries within a thirty day period on campus." Would that your survey had been so concise and objective. And speaking of your survey, why don't you make its wording public, as we have with ours? Are you embarrassed?

And why indeed did the S.G.A. request that the survey be kept out of the paper? I was present at the February 2 meeting, and the reason you give in your letter is only one of

the two. Yes, you did not want to advertise the fact that the Campus Police were unarmed. But it was made quite clear, both at the meeting in public and to me in private, that, if Drs. South or McDermott found out about this idea, they would stop it before it got off the ground. Chuck Alesky stated at that meeting that, if Dr. South found out about the survey "it's gonna get stopped here and die." Ray, Kitty and Carol made perfectly clear to me the next day that Dr. South was, to many students, "intimidating", and that he "has ways" of stopping the proposal. And that's the main reason you didn't want it published. Don't distort the facts.

Next, you claim to quote some arguments against arming "our" campus police. You're liars. The quotes you give are taken, verbatim, from an article

by H.E. Van Benthuyzen entitled "Armed Does Not Necessarily Mean Dangerous", which appeared in the *Campus Laws Enforcement Journal*, November-December, 1976. You know this, because you gave us the article. These quotations don't deal with our situation, they're just general arguments. Don't distort the facts. The next three pages of your letter are, totally, 100 percent, quotations from this article. You don't say this. You write as if you interviewed the Colorado State University Police Chief, and are quoting him. You don't say that this is from someone else's article. You can probably even be sued for infringement of copyright. Don't distort the facts.

As to your crime figures. Out of 161 complaints, two were burglaries, four were thefts. There were no assaults, vandalisms, disorderly con-

ducts, or indecent assaults, by your own figures. This is six out of 161. What were the other 155? Obviously, they weren't serious. What were they? Don't distort the facts.

And, finally, why talk to the District Attorney? He has no authority over this matter, and he told you so himself. The fact is, there is a University directive prohibiting any security forces on any Penn State campus from carrying a lethal weapon. This directive has been in effect since "approximately 1956", according to Mr. David E. Stormer, the Security Chief at University Park.

So, my friends, there you have the facts. All the facts, not distortions, lies and half-truths. The next time you write something for our paper, get things straight before you submit them. We run a serious newspaper here, not a sensationalist tabloid.

This is the Reader survey mentioned in the above article.

GUNS ON THE CAMPUS

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 ask your opinion.

Name.....Sex.....
Student Staff Faculty
If student, term standing
Residing on campus
Off campus Dorm.
Meade Heights
Day student
Night student

Do you support that security forces on campus should carry guns?

Yes No Neutral
Why?.....

Letters Cont.

protect themselves.

What the people saying "prove to me that our officers need guns" are really saying is "show me an officer who has been shot down because he had no defense, then I'll say guns are necessary." I say, let's not wait for a tragedy, let's be prepared if anything should happen. Face it, a police force with no guns is a joke in a society filled with guns. Let's worry about getting guns away from criminals, not policemen. Gun control is the answer we are looking for, not the disarming of the Police. Let's put everything into its proper perspective and alleviate the problems of guns one step at a time. The disarming of policemen is not a good starting point.

Thank you.
James M. Muschman

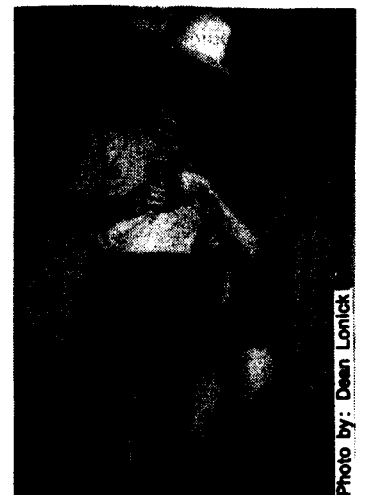


Photo by: Dean Lonick



Photo by: Dean Lonick



Photo by: Ingeborg Miller

Here Is A Story That Will Really Bug You

UP Pa. - Jeanette Robinson lifts the wire mesh on the washtub and peers over the rim. She reaches in and singles out one of the inhabitants, lifting him gently.

"You know, I never even saw a cockroach till I came to work at the Pennsylvania State University," she says. "I don't mind picking them up as long as they don't crawl past my wrist. Actually, they're fascinating creatures, being able to survive as they do under adverse conditions and mate in captivity."

"Now, look at this one," Mrs. Robinson continues, stepping away from the row of shelves that line the small 'rearing room'. "You see how almost white he is and how soft his skin is? That's because he molted about an hour ago."

Molting, Mrs. Robinson explains, occurs periodically in young cockroaches when they shed their hard shell and grow a new one. During the few hours it takes the new coat to harden the insect is susceptible to cannibalism by his fellows. This won't happen if the colony has been fed and isn't overcrowded.

As she talks about her charges the visitor glances warily around at the odd assortment of steel washtubs, large tin containers and jars --

all covered with chessecloth or wire mesh to keep in the roaches, black widow spiders, crickets and flies, and to keep out pests such as mites.

The setting is the insect rearing room of the Department of Entomology at the University. For the last 12 years Mrs. Robinson has been raising the insects needed for classroom work and for researchers' experiments. Her work is varied - from growing insect cultures to preparing slides, developing film, setting up labs and aiding faculty members in their experiments.

"I really enjoy my job," she says, "although I guess if I were only rearing the insects I would have become bored long ago. I have to keep busy."

That's been true both at work and in her 'leisure' time.

Although her looks belie her age Mrs. Robinson is the mother of nine and grandmother of 13. A widow, she lives on a small farm about 25 miles from the University with her youngest child, a 16-year-old son.

Eight years ago she was elected auditor of her community, Boggs Township, and is now into her second term. She studies voice and organ, sang in a choral group for a couple of years, sews, crochets, tends to her vegetable garden in

summer, and to her animals all year long.

She and son, Rhodes, have a Shetland Pony, an appaloosa horse, a Jersey cow and five Holstein heifers.

"We're farm people," Mrs. Robinson says. "We love animals, even though they're expensive to raise and keep us tied down. I guess I just like caring for living things. At home it's my animals; at work, my insects."

At the University one of her most important duties is taking care of the rearing room, she adds. Successful cultures depend on clean, healthy specimens.

Every couple of days she makes sure the insects have fresh food and water, and once in six weeks she changes their containers. In between she performs the varied duties that make her job interesting.

"If one of the professors needs a certain number of a specific species of cockroach of a particular age," she explains, "he tells me in advance and I grow them for him. We culture seven orders of insects and 21 species of cockroaches."

Unavoidably she lapses into a scientific terminology that makes her visitor interrupt now and then for a layman's definition. Her voice is soft, relaxed and assured, tinged

with infectious enthusiasm.

Although originally she had no background for the work she now does, thanks to the man who hired her, trained her and is still her boss; and thanks to the fact that she has taken courses in entomology, math, chemistry and the biological sciences, she is today something of an expert on the insects she cares for. Not long ago she spoke before a group of pest control experts on the care and rearing of cockroaches.

She's also become well acquainted with black widow spiders since her boss, Dr. Thomas Smyth Jr., is an insect physiologist currently studying insect nervous systems. Dr. Smyth is using black widow spider venom on cockroaches.

The deadly black widow doesn't scare her, Mrs. Robinson says, because she handles them with insect forceps, and before removing the venom the spider is chilled to make it immobile.

Her work, she says, is challenging and makes her feel she's doing something worthwhile.

"The more you work with insects, the more you appreciate them, she says. "When you think of how small they are and of how they survive under adverse conditions, it's truly marvelous."