

Perspectives Page

EDITORIAL Canal Talks

Now that Congress is beginning to discuss the new Panama Canal treaty, this controversial issue has begun to take back its place in the national spotlight.

Late last year the mail in many congressional offices ran a strong 100 to 1 opinion against the ratification of the treaty. This mail was largely generated by massive funding of extreme right-wing organizations.

"How important is the Panama Canal to the United States?"

"Can the canal be defended if we turn it over to Panama?"

The answers to these questions will shed some light on this issue. The importance of the canal to U.S. trade is constantly decreasing. Only 16 percent of total U.S. imports and exports now come and go via the canal. These figures are constantly decreasing as the size of the ships have become too large to use the canal.

In terms of defense, the canal may be easier to defend under the new treaty. According to a State Department official testifying before the State Foreign Relations Committee, "The canal complex is susceptible to varying degrees of sabotage ... The political environment, therefore, is a very important factor in canal defense. The preferred defense of the canal would be in conjunction with a friendly Panama."

With these factors in mind, there seems to be little reason for turning down the treaty. Working with a friendly Panama is the best way to secure the Panama Canal for U.S. interest.

Women In Management

Middletown- WOMEN--do you believe in developing to your highest potential? MEN--do you want to understand and help improve the role of women in organizational leadership?

The conference "Women in Management" will be offered at Penn State-Capitol Campus on Tues., March 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., according to Ronald Melchiorre, area director for continuing education.

The conference is designed to promote career planning and executive development for women. It will take into

consideration upper-level managerial and executive skills requirements, as well as some of the barriers that might be operating against the advancement of women.

The cost of \$55 includes all educational services plus lunch and coffee. Registration must be completed before Fri., March 3.

For additional information contact the Continuing Education Office, Penn State-Capitol Campus, Middletown, Penna. 17057; or phone 717-787-7753.

LETTERS



EDITOR

Governor

Drops Bomb

To the Editors,

The Governor dropped a bomb on higher education last week, and this campus will suffer from the fallout for some time. Despite inflation increases, the recent budget fiasco, and the high interest payment made by the state related universities, the good Governor has decided to allocate the same amount of money to higher education that he granted us last year.

How do the state-related universities meet their increased budget requirements? One way is through increased state aid. The Governor's decision has seriously damaged that possibility. The other ways to meet the budget gap are administrative and operational cuts or tuition increases. Already Capitol Campus has been told to cut operational costs during the next five years. Further cuts there would leave us in a desperate situation. Tuition increases would seem to be likely, but Penn State already has one of the highest tuition rates at any land grant or state related school in the nation.

The state legislature would seem to be one of the few places we can look to for help. Some of the legislators have said they will support increases for the schools and now it is time to make them deliver on these statements. During this election year we should tell them that they had better begin to pay attention to our needs and the needs of the vast majority of people in the state. The pressure is on from private institutions to keep our tuition high so that they can continue to compete with the state-related schools. We are the ones who suffer when the legislators listen to them. Perhaps we should begin to apply some pressure of our own.

David Nikoloff
11th Term
Public Policy

NOW's

Howell

Replies

Dear Editor,

I have a few questions for Ms. Jane Richards regarding her recent letter to the editor. Her largely incoherent style has made it difficult to rebut, since I don't know what's she's talking about most of the time.

First of all, what is a feminist fanatic or a lesbian elitist? These groups, she claims, are behind the push to pass the E.R.A. Does she know that such "feminist fanatics" as the American Bar Association and such "lesbian elitists" as the League of Women Voters support the E.R.A. More conservative groups are hard to find. The E.R.A. is hardly a plot by a secret cadre of radicals. Does she also know that the current national president of NOW is a housewife?

My second complaint is for both Ms. Richards and the editors of the C. C. Reader. Ms. Richards notes that I did not answer all of Geiger's allegations. Of course not, my answers were out by six pages by the editors. She apparently did not read the footnote which stated my letter had not been printed in full. Also, the editors should have made an indication when Ms. Richards letter was printed last week that my letter had been cut.

Ms. Richards is welcome to examine and debate the entire letter if she wishes. All she need do is drop a note in the NOW mailbox in W-110.

Anniken Howell

Mistake

Corrected

Dear Editor,

How could you do that? You blew my letter. What you printed was "I seriously doubt there is anyone left who believes 'Equality of rights under the law' will prohibit Americans from seeing in private." What I wrote was "...peeing in private." P as in perunia. What was that ... censorship or a typo? I can't decide which is worse.

A. Van Dyke

[Editor's note: We are truly sorry about that mistake, Ms. Van Dyke, but your p's and s's look so very much alike. Could you please do us a favor and type your next letter? Until then mind your p's and s's.



SGA News

One of the walls in Vendorville will be used by the S.G.A. as a space for an organizational mural. A twenty-five dollar award will be given to the student who presents the best design for the mural. Anyone interested in the design competition should come to the S.G.A. office for details. The award is for the best design proposal and no work on the wall is included in the competition.

S.G.A. elections will be held the third week of the Spring Term. Students will be elected for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Senior Senator. Petitions will be available for candidates on March 1 in W-110. You must fill out and return a petition if you want your name on the ballot.

A student is interested in your views towards the S.G.A. What do you think the S.G.A. has accomplished? What problems can they solve? What can the S.G.A. do to be more effective? Drop your replies off in the orange and yellow box in W-110, the S.G.A. office.

Thank you,
David Nikoloff

Energy Pinch

The prolonged nationwide coal strike has reduced coal levels throughout the Commonwealth and in many other states. To assure that ALL citizens do not suffer electricity shortages, Governor Shapp requests that energy conservation be practiced everywhere. Therefore we are asking you to cooperate while at the campus.

What can you do?

1) Turn off all unnecessary lighting, space heaters, radios, etc...

2) Windows should be kept closed at all times. Shades and blinds should be closed overnight and on weekends, except on ground floors.

3) On those heating units containing fans, turn the fan to the lowest speed.

4) Insure that all copy machines are completely turned off when not in use; the use of such machines should be reduced as much as possible.

LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER NOW SO THAT THERE IS ENOUGH FEUL FOR EVERYONE LATER!!

Capitol Campus Reader
of the Pennsylvania State University
The Capitol Campus
RTE. 230, Middletown, Pa., 17057
Office W-129-131
Phone (717) 944-4970

Editors-in-Chief.....Brian McDonough

Doug George

Editorial Page Editor.....Jim Musselman

Jeff Stout

Layout Editor.....Ed McKee

Greg Holt

Copy Editor.....Peggy Hartzel, Rick Haythornthwaite, Neil Landes, Frank Lynch,

Randy Myers, John Stachowiak, Sandy Stern, Maureen Doyle

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Bill Kohl

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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.