

FILE

# C.C. reader

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Issue To Be Decided Soon

## Are Guns Needed?



photo by Harry H. Moyer

"Do you think the Campus Police should be armed?" was what the Campus Security Armament Committee wanted to know at public hearings held May 12 and 13 in the Auditorium and Gallery Lounge respectively. committee members shown here are (left to right): Professor William A. Welsh Jr.; Gratz Washenik, student; Professor M. Susan Richman, Chairperson; and Instructor James M. Combs.

Wednesday evening, May 28, was the last chance for students to let the Campus Security Armament Committee know how they feel concerning arming the campus security officers.

The committee, which has been active since February, is conducting a survey of the Capitol Campus community from May 21 until May 28. Survey forms for students are available from the Student Affairs Office, W-105, during the day, and from the Circulation Desk in the Heindel Library during the evenings of Tuesday, May 27, and Wednesday, May 28.

The purpose of the Campus Security Armament Committee is to make a recommendation to the Provost on the request of the officers of campus security to bear firearms in the normal course of their duties.

According to Dr. M. Susan Richman, Chairperson of the Campus Security Armament Committee, the

first thing the committee did was to survey students, faculty and staff in order to help identify the issues involved. The committee interviewed the Community Service Officers (Campus Police) as well as people who would be affected professionally, such as the Director of Student Affairs and the Coordinator of the Residence Living Program. There were also several meetings in which the committee members discussed the issues at length.

A summary of the committee's findings was drafted and distributed. Many copies of this summary were left on top of the Roundtable along with an announcement for the public hearings on armament which the committee held Monday, May 12, and Tuesday, May 13.

The purpose of the public hearings was to give members of the campus community a chance to make public statements on the issues. A total of twelve students and two faculty members spoke during both sessions.

Because attendance at the hearings was sparse, the committee presented questions to the people making statements, and also allowed questions from the floor.

Among the issues most debated was the question of whether or not there is a real need to arm the police since there were only 31 incidents involving deadly weapons in the Middletown-Lower Swatara-Highspire-Capitol Campus area in the last two years. Many students who spoke at the hearings felt that campus officers would not know how to respond properly to life-threatening situations because of the infrequency of such on campus.

William Bertolet, a 9th term Business Student, told the committee that he would feel more safe knowing off-campus police with guns would respond on campus than knowing that campus officers had guns.

Bertolet was also concerned that the campus police might overreact to unfamiliar situations.

Other points brought out during the hearings included the possible use of alternatives to guns.

Craig Shuttlesworth, full time student, suggested that the campus officers use mace, chemical paralyzer, shock sticks, shock boxes, or self defense instead of guns. He pointed out that there are no guarantees that the alternatives are "safe," but that the alternatives might be more appropriate for the officers than guns.

All in all, the hearings were conducted well despite the sparse attendance, but the debate still left a lot of questions unanswered. And for a simple reason -- there really isn't any simple yes or no answer to whether or not the bearing of arms overall is likely to deter or incite crimes of violence.

The Armament Committee would appreciate as many responses to its survey as possible to help the committee determine its recommendation.

According to Dr. M. S. Richman, it is hoped that the committee can make its recommendation to the provost soon in order that a final decision can be made before the end of Spring Term 1980.

## False Fire

By Mike Kondor

At least three fire companies and several police units responded to an alarm from the campus Main Building Thursday May 23 at about 5:25 p.m.

According to Fire Chief Richard Wilkins of the Lower Swatara Township Fire Dept., the alarm was turned in by campus security after a fluorescent light bulb exploded in the Education offices on the third floor.

Although the explosion caused an extremely unpleasant odor in the third floor office area, Chief Wilkins said that the explosion of the bulb "couldn't have started a fire."

When asked about the cause of the explosion, Chief Weaver of the Middletown Fire Co., backup unit responding to the call, said: "Every once in a while they explode."

Meanwhile, students and faculty members were treated to the spectacle of numerous fire, police, and rescue units racing to the scene.

Traffic was jammed momentarily near the main building at the height of the incident, as trucks parked in front of the Main Building and numerous firemen ran about searching frantically for the whereabouts of the "fire."

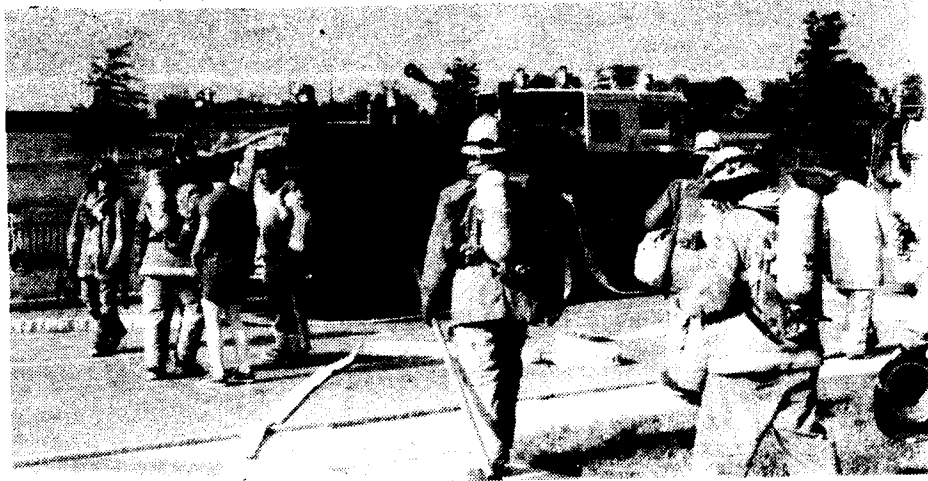


photo by Jan Hrabovsky

Members of the Union Hose Fire Company responded to a call at the Main Building along with two other fire companies when a fluorescent light bulb exploded on the third floor. There were no injuries reported.

John Blessing, a student at Capitol Campus and member of the Lower Swatara Twp. Fire Company, said the alarm came in at about 5:15 p.m.

Authorities declared the incident under control at about 6:00 p.m.

### CAPITOL CAMPUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- THURSDAY, MAY 29 -- Bible Study, W-138, 12 noon.
- PSPE meeting, Gallery Lounge, 7 p.m.
- Meade Heights 500, 6:30 p.m., start and finish at Coffee House -- Entry Fee \$2.00, sign-up at Roundtable 3-5 periods.
- FRIDAY, MAY 30 -- Students Aglow Fellowship, 907 Weaver Ave., 7 p.m.
- Good People's Productions Mini Concert, People's Park, 8-11 p.m. [Student Center if rain]
- SATURDAY, MAY 31 -- Good People's Productions Mini Concert, People's Park 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- SUNDAY, JUNE 1 -- MHBOG Spring Road Rally Begins 11 a.m., \$3.00/car driver and navigator.
- R.A. Pig Roast, 4 p.m., People's Park, \$3.00. Sign up at Roundtable.
- NOTE: Only \$4.00 per person who attends both Road Rally and Pig Roast.
- MONDAY, JUNE 2 -- SGA Meeting, 3:30 p.m., W-135.



INTERVIEW WITH DR. GROSS

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