

Editorial

Apathy Plagues Capitol Campus

When asked about nuclear power, the great scientific genius Albert Einstein once said, "Take the issue to the public square; let the people decide."

The comment is a relatively modern one, but the idea it professes dates back many centuries. It was considered the root of the American system that when a controversy arose, the people should be allowed to decide their fate for themselves, and, indeed, did so. Participations in government was considered a privilege rather than a burden. Activism and a need to "Stand up and be counted" considered the rule rather than the exception.

Before the late 1960's, the American college student was not given the opportunity to participate. Rule was autocratic and, at times, stern by college administration. Those who wished to be active were encouraged to refrain from doing so until he or she had had "enough experience".

During the late 1960's and early 1970's this philosophy began to change. Students fought for, and often received some form of governance on their college campuses. The student finally had some say in the way his institution and often his place of residence, was run.

One would think that this tradition would be carried through to the present day, as problems facing colleges today are as important, if not as publicized as the ones facing students fifteen years ago.

This is no the case.

At Capitol Campus, like many other institutions, apathy rules the day. Job and personal interests are considered paramount, whereas campus issues are almost, if not totally, ignored. The recent Student Government elections saw but one candidate run for each office. Voter participation also was low, as less than three hundred from a student body of over 2600 cast ballots.

Yet the same people who fail to participate are the first to complain about the quality of life on campus. When asked why they don't participate, "I just don't have the time", or "I really can't make a difference myself", are the usual replies.

Perhaps this generation will have to learn, like those before it, that activism begins with oneself. That "the other guy cannot be relied upon to improve the quality of life. Perhaps also that those who would complain but do nothing deserve the negative aspects of what they complain about and should refrain from complaining, not until they have had "enough experience", but until they have tried to do something about it.

Accounting

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courses which will not be offered) are

Accounting faculty members were asked to comment on the problem. Mr. Charles Kern refused comment. Mrs. Susan Coldwell feels that students should not be too upset over the lack of advanced courses. She says that other undergraduate colleges do not ordinarily offer advanced courses either, and that most advanced courses are offered at the graduate level. Unfortunately, Capitol Campus does not have a graduate accounting program. Mrs. Patricia Wilburn stated that while the ideal situation would be to offer all the advanced courses, practical considerations must be taken into account. Mrs. Wilburn points out that undergraduate study is not designed to guarantee success on the CPA examination although the study will provide the minimum requirements to sit for the examination. She also feels that most students will fair well in work situations even without the advanced courses because, as she points out, much of what a student learns will not immediately be put to use. From an advisory point of view, Mrs. Wilburn feels that more breadth is needed rather than more technical knowledge. She recommends that more Business, Economics, Finance, and other non-business courses be taken, although she would like to see Seminar in Accounting which would address current topics.

Dr. Gilmore, the Division Chairperson, was asked to comment on the students' concerns. He points out that the University seeks to meet the needs of all students in all programs and options, and he notes that some options give students more

recommended for minimum entry into the various accounting fields." She admits she will be able to acquire the necessary requirements for graduation," but feels she will "not be as well prepared as expected." She also points out that "6% of the CPA examination is based on 'Government Accounting'—a course which is not being offered!" Susan also made inquiries into this problem. While she can "appreciate that courses are not being slated due to insufficient faculty," she wonders why during "82-83 five elementary courses are available when four advanced courses are not (when) as of the 83-84 year, the elementary courses will no longer be offered." She feels the lack of advanced courses being offered will be a "detriment (to) next year's seniors and graduation students."

flexibility than other options. Accounting, unfortunately, is one of the most structured options. Dr. Gilmore also points out that course proposals are based on three aspects—Faculty Resources, Money, and Student Interest. While expounding on Faculty Resources, Dr. Gilmore noted that

1) two accounting instructors are leaving and that no replacement is presently in sight,

2) the demand of accounting educators so greatly exceeds the supply that it would take 15 years to catch up,

3) while the campus offers highly competitive salaries (from the educational point of view), the salaries do not come close to what individuals can earn in industry and accounting firms, and

4) most accounting instructors are specialized—that is, a particular instructor usually cannot adequately teach every accounting course.

An Honest Letter

Future Graduates:

I am a recent graduate of Capitol Campus. I stood in the line of business majors, waiting...watching the tense but relieved, hopeful faces of my classmates. The pride was overwhelming as each approached the stage, received his/her diploma and greeted the administrators.

They called my name. The tension mounted as memories of student life flashed in my mind. I was proud to be graduating from Penn State—even from Capitol Campus—even in the gym.

Dr. Gilmore, Head of the undergraduate Business Dept., was the last administrator I was to greet. Instead of the expected, "Congratulations and Good luck" I had received from the others on the platform, he jeered, "Oh, so you finally made it after all this time." He was referring to an incident on which I questioned his advising. The hostility in

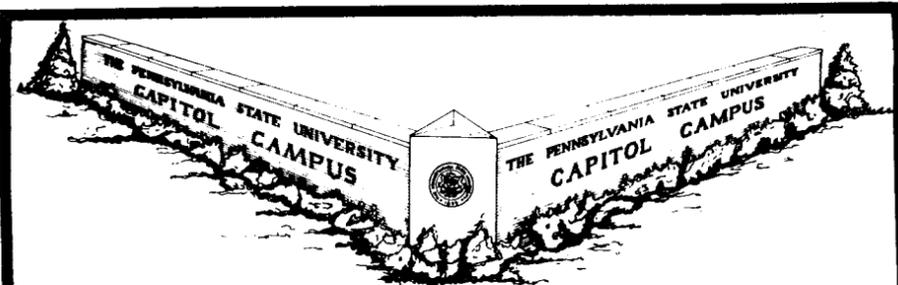
his spiteful eyes left me in shock.

Reaching my seat, I sensed the same feeling in a fellow classmate. He had received a similar comment from Dr. Gilmore. Is he capable of saying anything positive to a student? to anyone?

Well, don't despair! At least we all know that if someone like Dr. Gilmore can "make it" in this world, any of us can—even as graduates of Capitol Campus. If our education doesn't get us jobs, our experience in dealing with the idiots C.C. seems to recruit for teachers and administrators will.

I don't feel it's necessary to sign my name. Unless Dr. Gilmore made such comments to all of the graduates, he'll know who I am when he reads this. I hope he realizes the negative impact he has on people...I can't believe it's only on us students.

A graduate



C.C. reader

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The C.C. Reader serves the following four-fold purpose: (1) To keep students informed about their campus community; (2) To provide editorial comment on issues facing the campus community; (3) To serve as a forum for student poetry, photographs, graphics, cartoons, and other creative endeavors; (4) To serve as a learning mechanism for all students interested in the journalistic process. This includes reporting, editing, layout, typesetting, and paste-up.

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