TITLES: Do they really mean anything?

By Linda McCarty

Thus far, **Capitol Times** has taken a brief but closer look at the degree titles of Capitol's two largest divisions.

Degree titles. Twenty years or even six months down the road students may ask who really cares. Employers may not care; friends and family will probably not notice the difference.

But degree titles, whether significant or insignificant, do connote something and it is important to pinpoint the meanings of the rather unusual titles that Capitol does grant.

After all, one must spend at least four years of one's life earning one.

We took a look at the Bachelor of Technology degree and found it is different in structure and purpose than a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. Thus, a technology degree is named such and is recognized by many regional employers as a practical "hands-on"education in engineering.

But if we turn to the B.B.A. and the M.A. we see degree titles which may have lost their traditional meaning to a point where, as Dr. McKenna of the Business Division said, "What is a B.S. in one school may very well be a B.B.A. in another."

But many degree titles remain unchanged. Is it because the "colony" chose to keep that which its "mother country" established for it?

McKenna also said that a degree is suppsed to connote something and if you have to stop and explain it then its meaning is obviously lost.

"Everyone knows what an M.B.A. is but a Master of Administration, well, you have to stop and explain,"he said.

McKenna also drew a very perceptive analogy when he compared Capitol to a colony and University Park to the mother country. When the "colony" was established back in the mid-60's the "mother country", unsure of what kind of "beast it may become was very careful of what kind of degrees to let its colony have."

And like America, Capitol grew up, McKenna said.

But many degree titles remain unchanged. Is it because the "colony" chose to keep that which its "mother country" established for it?

Or has the "mother country" refused to allow a change?

To correct our mistakes:

Our apologies to Jim Czarniecki and John Springborn, whose pictures we transposed in the 'Campus Commentary' of our February issue.

In the same issue, we overstated the pledges received by the alumni phonathon. The final pledge total was $25,066.00.

Finally, we inadvertently misspelled the name of Charles Aleksy, Supervisor of Safety and Police Services. We apologize.

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Unasked questions lead to grumbling

By James Fitzroy

Grumbling about the way things should be is a privilege enjoyed by all Americans. Everyone indulges in it, to the point that one could assume it is a right guaranteed by the Constitution.

Grumbling is a useful process for the stressed person who needs to blow off steam. It becomes a hazardous process when it replaces more productive ways of dealing with perceived problems.

Like asking questions. Like trying to become informed about things that bug you.

Questions do sometimes lead to stone walls, but the stone wall would give one's mind a real object to dismantle, an obstacle to overcome. Unasked questions create a void that the imagination fills with all manner of possible answers, all of which are probably erroneous.

While researching stories for this newspaper, the reporters came across the same issue from some quite different sources.

An interview with a faculty member found him perplexed at the propensity of some students to blithely proceed on assignments, quite unsure of exactly what was required. The solution seemed plain to him: Ask questions! (Of him, not your roommate.)

In any major, insecurity about what one is expected to achieve will only result in a confused product. Other professors interviewed on this point had the same answer: Ask me questions! They all considered the student willing to ask questions to be the most serious student.

Students who are afraid of appearing dumb by asking questions are dumb only in the sense that they are denying themselves exactly what they came to Capitol Campus for--an education.

This same inhibition applies when students are dealing with other members of the staff at various offices set up to deal with the non-academic aspects of our college experience.

Staff members tell of an "upsetting" amount of misinformation brought to them by students who say "my friend said" that this or that is so. The student usually has to begin again with whatever process he or she is trying to get through.

There are no guarantees that you will always get the exact answer to a question, even from the persons who should have it.

Policies change. Professors and staff members are human. Computers are not always right. But the question asked and answered will give you something to go with. The question unasked will only lead to frustration and add to that ominous background noise in the hallways--grumbling.