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### The Spark, Volume 2 Issue 7

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# THE SPARK

Apr 12, 79

## Election Issue: The SGA President

Don Goldberg

The President of the Student Government is at best a thankless job, submerged in rhetoric and red tape, and taken less than seriously by a significant number of students and administrators. Yet there are many misconceptions concerning this position which should be clarified. First, the President does not have to be merely the leader of a group cut off from the rest of the students. Secondly, the President does not have to be disliked by a large part of the student body. Third, being a woman candidate should not be advantageous. And fourth, the job of the President can be a satisfying one, not tied down by party allocations and committee nominations.

In endorsing a candidate for a position as important as the SGA President (yes, a good President can make the position one of importance), THE SPARK deems it wise to first enumerate those qualities which will make a good President, and then try to find a candidate who best fulfills that criteria. This process is not simple, for many candidates have good qualities, and all, in any election, have bad qualities. THE SPARK will attempt to shed more light on some aspects of the decision.

Perhaps the most important characteristic of a Pres-

idential candidate is strength in leadership. Aggressiveness, charisma, and generally those qualities which can bring student response to issues is what is meant by a strong leader. This factor has for several years been lacking in Student Government, and is a large reason why students seem to lack faith in SGA. As nice as it is to have a President who presents all sides of all arguments, it is better to have one who can be outspoken on an issue and can thus challenge students to modify those views. The needless and endless semantic battles in SGA must be eliminated if interest is to be stimulated therein. An aggressive President can cut through this rhetoric and arrive at the heart of an issue.

Another vital quality which a President must have is a sense of perspective. By this is meant the ability to look at all the issues and decisions which must be considered, and to allocate the correct amount of effort which will go to each. The President must be realistic on which problems can be solved, and which will significant impact on the student body. This perspective is important for saving time and energy, which can be better applied elsewhere.

With this in mind, THE SPARK endorses Sophomore Class President Janine Frazza for

President of the Student Government. Her year as class President has given her a great deal of experience on both the organizational level and on a sense of priorities. She has also been a member of SGA for the year, and thus has experience with the workings of this body. But more importantly, Janine Frazza is a strong leader. Many Sophomore class representatives feel that she is competent and forceful. As Student Government President she could utilize such aggressiveness, which would be a great asset to SGA. ■

### Executive Board Elections

THE SPARK endorsements:  
SGA President- Janine Frazza

Judiciary Board Chairman-  
Jeff Lupoff

Social Board Chairman-  
"Skid Row"

SGA Vice-President-  
Abstain



# Letters

Dear Editor:

Your editorial from the last issue concerning the selection of housefellows was informative and accurate in its observations. However, it seems that the committee of students, faculty, and administrators is just a placebo for the student complaints, and I see little improvement in the entire process. For even though the committee made the final selection, Marg Watson and her housefellows still were the ones who narrowed down the list from the original seventy or so to thirty (they had said thirty-five), from which the committee had to choose twenty. In other words, the committee was given a leeway of only ten applicants to eliminate. This does not exactly make for an improved selection, by no fault of the committee's. For all practical purposes, the selection was still Marg's and this is clearly shown by many of the choices who have "paid their dues" for the position.

Name withheld by request.

## J.B. Chairman

Don Goldberg

The Judiciary Board Chairman, besides being in charge of the Board hearings, has various other responsibilities. Among these are serving on SGA's Executive Board, acting as a liaison between the Board and the faculty and the administration, and keeping accurate records on all the cases. All infractions of the Honor Code are first reported to the Chairman, and he then must introduce these cases to the Board.

Over the past year, the Judiciary Board had made efforts to better its ties with the students. However, the matriculation process was not altered to the extent which would make advances in developing a more intimate relationship with the new classes. Student Government did give the Judiciary Board a new task this year; it is now responsible for all appeals of the fire vandalism rules. This has resulted in time consuming cheap excuses being brought to the Board from parents "proving" that

THE SPARK would appreciate any response to the above letter. THE SPARK also questions the wisdom of putting women in Jane Addams and in Harkness for security reasons. These dormitories are especially susceptible to entry problems due to both their locations and their many windows and doors. We hope safety precautions will be taken.

On the same subject, the administration has talked about closing down Lazrus for the coming years due to the decline in enrollment. THE SPARK endorses this idea. There are enough vacant rooms elsewhere on campus this year to accommodate all those now in Lazrus, and the same should be true for next year. The utility costs thus saved would be significant, or the space could be used as a meeting place. We wish all the new housefellows good luck for the coming year. ■

the student was not present at the time of the incident.

With the large number of social infractions being brought to the Board this year, some sort of deterrent steps have been considered. Printing and publicizing the names of those who are guilty of such infractions has been proposed, and the students have been asked to vote on such a proposal. Yet at the April 2 Open Policy Public Forum views against such a measure have caused the Board to review this idea. Overall, it seems like the current Judiciary Board Chairman Joel Mishkin has been responsible in many difficult situations. He has made marked gains in opening up the "club", yet many feel that not enough has been done to achieve this. The lack of any case log this year is also disappointing.

THE SPARK feels that sophomore JB representative Jeff Lupoff is the most qualified candidate for this position. Jeff ran for this post last year, and although defeated he went on to win as the class representative.

THE SPARK

VOLUME II/ISSUE 7

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THE SPARK welcomes and encourages letters from its readers on any subject of a

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He has shown the drive and now he has the experience to be a good Judiciary Board administrator. It should also be noted that Jeff has had a perfect attendance record to this date on the Board. We feel that Jeff will work for a better relationship with the students and the Board, and that he will offer a needed perspective to this office. ■



# Social Board

The Lieb

The Social Chairmanship at the school is once again up for grabs. This is the one position that perhaps has a major effect on a major group of students here. The Social Chairman runs the Social Board which is comprised of the dorm representatives and the four class social leaders, (plus the ever present Connie Sokalsky). Although the dorms and the classes sponsor most of the events, it is the Social Chairman who is responsible for the scheduling and flow of the events. He has a big hand from the administration which only gives him Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to work with. The Social Chairman also must organize any concert that he can pull off. This year, after a limited selection the Board chose

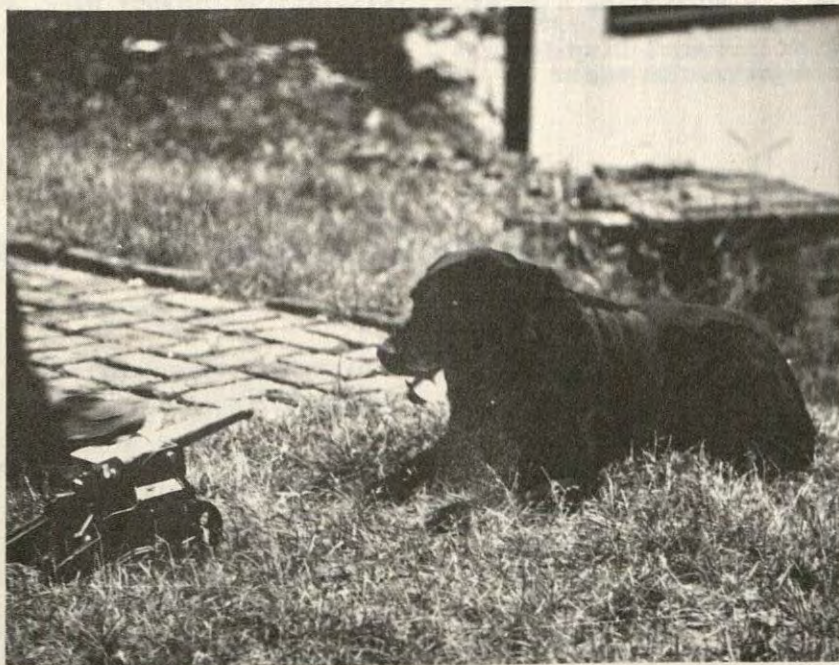
South Side Johnny in an attempt to have a successful show. It did not exactly make a lot of money, needless to say. Thus, to try and save money, a mini-concert committee was formed by the Board, which has worked well so far.

The Social Chairman is mostly an organizer when the Board sponsors an event, making sure that everything runs smoothly. Another part of the job involves being a voting member of the Executive Board of SGA. However, there seems, at least this year, to have been a lack of input by the Social Chairman to SGA.

This year the Social Chairman and the Board have worked together to bring such monumental moments to the student body as the mini-concerts and South Side Johnny, the Palmer Library Extravaganza, Connecticut's

first TOGA party, Studio 69, and comedians at Speakeasies. And who could ever forget B. Willie and Roomful of Blues. The thrust of Social Board has been to have parties with themes. If the dorm wants to avoid the sardine/trashhole effect the party must be held in Cro or Harris. These two locations somehow fail to stimulate the senses after a few visits. A real effort must be made by the Board to expand the scope of activities while maintaining the quality of the parties.

It is the opinion of the editorial staff of this fine journal that the school should elect Skid Row, not because of his charisma, or because he is the only candidate. Rather, he has experience as the Social Board's current treasurer and he is a hard worker. He is capable, and thus he deserves it. ■



"I'm scared to bark around  
her house at night-  
She's got a police dog who's  
cravin' for a bite"

Blind Arther Blake

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# TRIDENT PROTEST

## Why ?

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Lisa Pines

Three thousand people of every description crowded into half of the street, at first standing quietly, then singing, waving signs and banners protesting nuclear weapons. It was the morning of Saturday, April 7 in Groton, across the Thames River from Connecticut College. These people had gathered to mourn the launching of the Trident Submarine made by the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics, located in Groton. The Trident is a very expensive and powerful first-strike nuclear weapon. Its 24 missiles are capable of wiping out 408 cities each with five times the nuclear blast that devastated the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The submarine is part of a new group of weapons being developed by the Pentagon based on the theory of preemptive first strike. Our policy in the past has been defensive. Our weapon system had been developed so that a retaliatory attack by the United States would be so awesome that no one would attack us in the first place. This policy is called Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD). The Trident's purpose is to strike enemy missiles, silos, and other military targets before they have been used.

In addition to representing a dangerous leap in the arms race the Trident submarine is also costing a great deal of taxpayers' money. The Trident Conversion Campaign is an organization based in

Connecticut, which was instrumental in organizing the demonstration. They are not only concerned with the economic drain of the Trident, but also with its physical danger. The Trident and other defense projects shows how Southeastern Connecticut is effected by defense industry. One of their pamphlets lists their goals as:

- 1) Create an awareness of the dangers of the arms race and end the construction of the Trident submarine weapon system within the context of the struggle for full, world-wide disarmament.
- 2) Move the Southeastern Connecticut economy from its military dependency by:

- a) working for the creation or attraction to the area of new and useful industry.

## Scenario

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Allie Lyons

The anti-nuclear weapons protest held last Saturday at Electric Boat in Groton showed to the people of this country that the opposition to the building of nuclear weapons has not just been picked up by bored college students looking for a reason to leave their dormitories, and hit the streets in violent demonstration. Instead, as exemplified in Saturday's gathering of more than 3,500 people, the moratorium on all nuclear arms is being called for by citizens representative of all social, political, and economic orientations. In addition to concerned college students, including more than 150 from Connecticut College, Saturday's crowd was nurtured by middle-aged and elderly people, clergy, handicapped people, and members from various social,

and political organizations. As well as the protesters that came from every New England state, many of the marchers were long time residents of the Groton - New London area. A few brave Electric Boat workers risked their jobs and joined the demonstration. Members of organizations like Womyn Against Nuclear Destruction, and American Friends Services Committee marched. That there is such a diversity of social "classes" in opposition to nuclear weapons, reveals the fact that it is a "classless" issue. The comprehensive reason for the demonstration was, and still is, that we don't want to live our lives in fear of a nuclear holocaust.

The atmosphere of the protest was one of mourning for the launch of the Tri-

dent Nuclear submarine. Many people wore black or dark clothing, and many wore black armbands. One person wore a huge, black hooded shroud like that of the grim reaper. Signs saying "Trident Nothing To Celebrate," "God Help Us When It's Used," and "Mega-Death" were scattered among the crowd. The demonstrators stood in silent vigil as the dignitaries and onlookers arrived to celebrate the launching of the United States' newest death instrument. In acts of "civil disobedience," or moral obligation, more than 200 people blocked the entrances to Electric Boat by sitting down in front of them. The police then came and carried them away to be booked and released. Some sixty demonstrators were retained in the special



The three thousand demonstrators, including about 150 Connecticut College students, gathered to bring the Trident issue to the public's attention on Saturday morning. At 8:00 AM the demonstrators gathered in Griswold Park, a few blocks from the gates of the Electric Boat plant. Speeches were made and instructions given, stressing non-violence. The group then divided itself into three groups, each heading toward a specific gate to the plant. The protesters were all wearing black armbands to mourn the launch of the submarine, and were divided into vigilers and those participating in the lockout. The vigilers gathered on the sidewalks surrounding the gates as a sharp contrast to those in-

b) working for the conversion of the Electric Boat shipyard to non-military production.

3) Shift national and regional priorities away from preparation for war to meeting human needs.

The financial benefits of the Trident program seem to fall within the arms industry. A recent government report found that the average weapon contract profit was 56%. About \$8.8 billion has been spent so far on the Trident program, and the program is already a year behind schedule. The total cost of the program is conservatively estimated at \$40. billion. With all this money going towards producing things the government tells us will never be used, it is hard to understand the justifications on government cutbacks of education, health care, and housing.

side the plant, including Roselin Carter, who were celebrating the launch. A smaller group participated in the lockout.

At the North gate 35 people, three of them Conn. students, sat in front of the gate, and would not let the several bus loads of people whom appeared, into the plant. Later it was learned that two hundred people had been arrested at the main gate, when they refused to allow the celebrants to enter the plant.

As the Trident launch ceremony ended, the celebrants many of whom worked at Electric Boat, filed down the street past the now consolidated group of vigilers and lockout participants. The protesters began singing and waving their banners. As the Electric Boat workers and their families passed by, most of them did not look like they had much to celebrate. ■

booking area in the Groton Municipal building because they refused to reveal their names.

Along with the funereal ambiance of the demonstration, was an underlying current of shared harmony. People from different parts of the country felt somehow linked to others by the fact that they all shared the same cause. To this participant, it was extremely satisfying to realize that many, many others want a more secure life for themselves, and for others in the future-- a security that cannot be achieved by a massive arsenal of lethal nuclear weapons.

As could be expected, the mass media covered the event, and one national television newscast described it as "reminiscent of the 1960's Vietnam war demon-

strations." This is a popular misconception in relation to anti-nuclear weapon demonstrations, and it was particularly misconceived with the recent Trident protest. Perhaps the fact that people were protesting nuclear weapons, which theoretically (but in this case, should never) imply war, evokes the comparison to the Vietnam War demonstrations. But unlike many protests of the 60's, the Trident protest was conducted in an entirely peaceable manner. Those who participated in acts of "civil disobedience" by blocking E.B.'s gates, did so with a strictly non-violent attitude. Perhaps we learned from the events of the 60's that violence is certainly not the means for conducting a demonstration for peace. We have also learned that violence in a

demonstration, among other things, undermines and detracts from the importance of the real objectives of the rally.

The demonstration didn't halt the launching of the Trident. We could never have hoped for that. But we did achieve what we had set out to do. We made it known to the public that there are many people who will not sit back and allow the U.S., among other nations, to continue amassing weapons that will destroy us all. We made our statement on Saturday, and will continue to do so in the future until consideration for humankind replaces the distorted myth of "national security" in the defense branch of our governments. For as Nick Lowe wrote, and as Elvis Costello sings, "What's so funny about peace, love, and understanding?" ■



# Soggy eggrolls

Dave Rosenberg

Squirrel Hill is the Jewish section of Pittsburgh. Most Jewish sections have fish markets, butcher shops, pizza parlors, tailor shops, delies and Chinese restaurants. Squirrel Hill is no different. One butcher leaves, another replaces him. Tony's Pizza goes under and Allielo opens. Every time I go home I can get the same food, but its at a new spot. During the eighteen years that I've been in Pittsburgh there has been one strange exception, a gloomy pale colored Chinese restaurant. In those eighteen years I've never seen anyone go in or out of this place, nor have I ever heard of anyone eating there. Rumors circulate. Some say its a numbers joint, others claim that its a cover for the mob. I believe that it must be a National Historical Landmark; its been perfectly preserved and unchanged for as long as I can remember. A neon light advertising Duke Beer burns on in the window like the Eternal Flame of the neighboring synogogue. Duke Beer has been out of business for seven years. Do they still sell it? I never really thought about it until the last time I was home. It wasn't the Duke Beer specifically that I thought about, it was the fact that something might actually exist behind the front door. The restaurant lived, totally ignored, like a paraplegic begging at the corner. We were hungry and it was two in the morning and Pittsburgh isn't New York, so everything was closed. We were out of luck. Simultaneously my friend and I saw the burning Duke light. We mirrored each other's expressions and shrugs, "I wonder... well, why not."

No patrons were inside, except for one heavy-set gentleman who resembled a three toed sloth. We stumbled into the booth behind his. The other half of the restaurant looked as though it had never been used. The tables were set, but there were no lights on above them. An elderly Chinese lady handed us menus. English escaped her lips like curses from a nun. She spoke words of English, but didn't seem to comprehend. The mere presence of customers shocked her and the cook. We were violating their time and space. Therefore, she made communication as difficult as possible. We certainly were the only customers of the evening; the three toed sloth was part of the furniture. My friend tried to order first:

"Do you have sweet and sour pork?"  
 "What?"  
 "Sweet and sour pork."

"Won ton?"  
 "Pork."  
 "Won ton pork?"  
 "No, no... forget it."  
 How about soup?"  
 "Suit?"  
 "Won ton soup."  
 "Hmm huh..."  
 "Forget it, just forget it. Forget it!"  
 "You want won ton?"  
 I broke in, "Just make it two egg drop soups."  
 "Ah, why not you say. Egg drop you should say." Some how we completed the order in this manner. She ripped off the check and handed it to us. "Pay now or no food." We were so shocked that we obliged. Soon two orders of egg drop soup appeared. The soup was very authentic- a cup of Campbell's Chicken Noodle with a hard boiled egg mutilated into it. We left. The three toed sloth stayed. Numbers joint- maybe, Mafia cover- I doubt it, but Chinese restaurant- no way. ■

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