

# Interrupt<sub>8</sub>

NEWSLETTER OF COMPUTER  
PROFESSIONALS FOR PEACE

Nov. 1969

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## Perspectives

The Moratorium on October 15th, 1969 was the largest anti-war demonstration in history. November 15th should and must be even larger.

The U.S. Government has lost the war in Vietnam. Nevertheless, President Nixon in his speech on Nov. 3 pledged the unqualified U.S. support of the present corrupt dictatorship in South Vietnam, and the commitment of whatever U.S. military force is necessary to perpetuate this clique. According to Stewart Alsop, the Administration is trying to maintain the Saigon government while reducing casualties to a "tolerable" level. Edward Kennedy proposes that we withdraw our front line troops by the end of 1970 and that air, naval, and logistics forces are to be left in place until the end of 1972.

Such tactics are not designed to end the war, but are another method of continuing it. Even if American casualties can be reduced to zero, the other evils of our system will continue unabated:

- . The interventionist direction of our foreign policy
- . The inflated level of military spending
- . The neglected problems of racism and poverty
- . The increasing militarization of American society

It is essential that the war be ended now and be ended completely.

There are attacks currently being made to distract us from this goal. The New York Times on October 14 editorializes:

"The aim of the organizers of the protest movement, as the President well knows, was to take the anti-war appeal out of the hands of a radical minority more interested in its destructive political ends than in the end of the Vietnam war."

This is an obvious attempt to split the peace movement. Were it not for radicals who were protesting the war in 1965 - when the Times was supporting it - there would have been no base for a "respectable" Moratorium in 1969.

In addition, there have been many attempts by "former" supporters of the war, such as Averill Harriman, to misrepresent the Moratorium by saying that

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INTERRUPT

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PROFESSIONALS FOR PEACE

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BEAT THE RUSH!

PAY NEXT YEAR'S DUES NOW.

CPP NEEDS THE MONEY.

IT'S OUR DOLLARS AGAINST

THE PENTAGON'S BILLIONS.

CPP's activities in the cause of peace have exhausted the exchequer if not the generals. Therefore, we are asking that you pay next year's dues now. Just remember -- Laird is asking for a lot more than we are. Fill out the coupon on p. 8.

PEACE  NOTES

1,2,3 . . . MANY CPP'S

Since our last issue of INTERRUPT, CPP has been very active. We have contributed in the fight against the ABM and on Moratorium Day (Oct. 15), demonstrated against Honeywell's war profiteering. On Nov. 15 we will be marching with other professional groups in Washington D.C. calling for a total withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam. (Seats are still available on our bus leaving Friday, Nov. 14). Our analysis workshop is continuing and will hopefully provide a direction for future CPP activities. So, join us in Washington on the 15th, and join CPP to help build the largest organization of computer professionals concerned with social and political problems.

\* \* \*

At our Oct. 29 meeting in NYC it was decided that a steering committee was needed to take care of business. These meetings are open to anyone - just call Ed or Paul.

\* \* \*

CPP is one of the initiators of a coalition of professional and academic groups. The coalition, "Professional & University Faculty Committee on the Moratorium" includes groups of doctors, lawyers, dentists, psychologists, architects, teachers and others organizing within their profession. Watch for the Committee's ad in the NY Times of Sunday, Nov. 9.

CPP groups are currently organizing in major areas of the country. If you live in one of these areas and want to get active, get in touch with your contact. If your area is not listed and you're willing to serve as a contact, please let us know.

\* \* \*

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# War Is Good Business - Ask Honeywell

(\$351,625,000)

by Irven Rinard

The next time your friendly Honeywell sales rep drops by, ask him what he has in the way of fragmentation bombs. And pass it along. Your anti-personnel department may be interested.

Along this line CPP held a picket-in at the NYC Honeywell office located at 42nd Street and Second Avenue on Moratorium Day. Right outside their computer room at that. Those inside weren't too pleased--they pulled shut all the blinds that would work and continued business as usual--but the passers-by got a kick (and an education) out of the demonstration.

They were greeted with posters proclaiming and fact sheets detailing the extent of Honeywell's share of the war business bonanza. Like being twentieth leading defense contractor in the nation, or deriving \$351,625,000 dollars worth or 37% of 1968 net sales from prime military contracts, or making the greatest line of bombs, missile parts and grenades.

Their keenest war product is a fragmentation bomb cleverly designed to kill/main people without destroying property (Your local anti-capitalist will be more than happy to explain the full significance of this weapon). Honeywell being a modern, progressive, research oriented company, this weapon has been recently refined. The old fashioned model used metal fragments whereas the new model uses plastic. Cheaper you say? Ask any medic. Probing devices cannot detect plastic inside the human body, removal is severely hampered, and effective treatment is virtually impossible. It may even be the same plastic used in their latest decorator-designed computer console.

What can be done? The next step is being taken by an ad hoc committee including CPP to organize simultaneous demonstrations against Honeywell in Boston, Minneapolis and New York City in December. Unless you have a passion for plastic fragmentation bombs, plan to join in.

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## Ed Elkind to Speak out at Fall Joint

Edward Elkind, Co-chairman of CPP, will participate in a panel discussion, "Computer Related Social Problems: Effective Action Alternatives" at the Fall Joint Computer Conference (FJCC). The session will take place at the Las Vegas Convention Center Auditorium, Wednesday evening, Nov. 19 from 7:30 to 10 P.M.

Ed will stress the "need to organize computer professionals on political and social questions, particularly the use of computers by the military and for social control."

Among the other panelists are Paul Armer (Stanford U. and co-chairman of Computer Professionals Against the ABM), H. Grosch (National Bureau of Standards), Max Pelevsky (President, S.D.S.) and Thomas M. Rees (Congressman, Calif.)

Ed will be at the FJCC from Monday evening, Nov. 17 through Thursday afternoon, Nov. 20. It is important that

members and friends of CPP contact Ed (at the Boulevard Motel or via the message center at the conference) so that a CPP table can be set up to provide literature for conference visitors.

We hope that with the invitation to Ed and the more liberal makeup of the panel, these important issues will be discussed and programs initiated for their solution.

\* \* \*

The invitation to participate in this panel was extended to CPP only after the confrontation at the Spring Joint Computer Conference last May. At that time it became apparent that the members of the panel (Urgent - Increased Dialogue with Society) were avoiding most of the relevant issues - the war, ABM, militarism, racism, social control. CPP members interrupted the prepared speeches in an effort to increase the dialogue on the urgent matters facing our society.

# SICCAS or SICSIC revisited

( an ACM melodrama )

By Syd Feldman

The ACM Council, at its meeting in San Francisco on August 25th, created a Special Interest Committee on Computers and Society (SICCAS) with Mr. Robert P. Bigelow as Chairman. This action was a response to the outcry raised when ACM President Bernard Galler arbitrarily and undemocratically dissolved the Special Interest Committee on the Social Implications of Computing (SIC)<sup>2</sup>. see INTERRUPT 7.

The newly-formed SICCAS plans to set up study committees on:

1. Data banks and privacy
2. Jobs and automation
3. Education of noncomputer people about computers

Apparently SICCAS has no plans to discuss most of the issues which were of great concern to (SIC)<sup>2</sup> and which were discussed intensively at a meeting on May 14th during the Spring Joint Computer Conference. These issues were:

1. Involvement of computer professionals in activities related to the war in Vietnam
2. Racial discrimination as practiced in the computer field
3. Economic exploitation of the uninformed by computer schools

Obviously the ACM leadership wants a "safe" committee which will avoid controversy. In its view computer professionals should take a "neutral" view of the impact of computers on society. Support the status quo! Don't talk about the fact that computer companies make fancy profits from the war in Vietnam and inflated military spending. Who ever heard of a big computer company practicing racial discrimination. Sweep the unscrupulous computer schools under the rug. The ACM leadership approach doesn't even meet the hopes of DATAMATION which, in its October 1969 issue, said of SICCAS "Hopefully, the new Committee will continue to be controversial."

The first meeting of the Committee - open to all who are interested - will be held at the Stardust Hotel, Las Vegas at 8:00 P.M. on November 18th,

during the Fall Joint Computer Conference. The Committee will publish a newsletter at least 3 times a year. Mr. Bigelow has appointed Mr. Grenville R.S. Bingham as Editor of the Newsletter and Mr. Sydney Feldman as Secretary-Treasurer.

Membership in SICCAS is open to all members of ACM and to non-ACM members provided their major professional interest is elsewhere. Anyone wishing to join should write to Mr. R.P. Bigelow, 28 State Street, Boston, Mass. 02109. There are no dues.

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## The Service Organization

Stu Davis and Paul Millstein are currently working full time for the Service Organization of CPP. The effort is being made to:

1. provide the Movement with D.P. services
2. find "clean" work in the computer field

To date jobs include a system study for the American Civil Liberties Union and the design and programming of mailing systems for the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Guardian (a radical newspaper).

Stu and Paul are looking for additional work - if you have any leads please contact them at (212) 675 8490.

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### HELP WANTED

Key punch operators/persons to train typists in keypunching

To assist in file conversion for The Guardian

Contact Irving Beinlin OR33800

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## daniel McCracken:

### **ABM: We lose a close one, but it's only the first round**

CPP members played an important role in the attempt to block the Nixon Administration's Safeguard Antiballistic Missile system--an attempt that came so close . . .

Computer Professionals Against ABM is a committee organized by consultant-writer Dan McCracken, who is a CPP member although CPAABM was not a CPP function. The committee was organized hastily last summer by McCracken and an executive committee including Paul Armer of Stanford (formerly of RAND) who was then AFIPS president; Professor Joseph Weizenbaum of MIT; and Gregory Williams, who works for an industrial concern. Twenty three men were listed on the letterhead as "sponsors"; all were highly respected and very well known leaders in the field, with such names as John Backus of IBM, who practically invented FORTRAN, Max Palevsky, president of SDS/Xerox, Phillip Dorn, now SHARE president, three former presidents of ACM, etc., etc. No one has so far tried to apply to these men the pathetic stereotypes that are sometimes used to dismiss dissenters.

About 450 people eventually signed the statement drawn up by the committee. Some of the signers are well known and some not; no attempt was made to go for big names only. Taken together, they make an imposing cross-section of the field. CPP members constitute about 25% of the total. Ed Elkind and Paul Millstein distributed some of the statements early in June when getting even a few signatures was crucial, and a later CPP mailing included copies.

As everybody knows, the Senate revolt against the ABM lost on a tie vote. No one should feel, however, that the effort was wasted. This was a historic turnaround; it was the first time since the military became an amalgam of Big Business and Big Government that Congress has failed simply to rubber-stamp the Pentagon's requests. The reverberations have definitely not died out. After coming so close, many Senators have been encouraged to keep trying, on other issues. We have done our little bit, in the way we could be most effective, to support them.

And Safeguard will come up again for funding next summer. Don't go away.

# **MARCH ON WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 15**

Your presence in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 15 is a vital vote against the war. A few seats are left on the CPP bus, leaving from New York City at 7:00 p.m., Nov. 14, returning from Washington on Saturday evening. Cost, round trip, is only \$11.50. Bring warm clothes and plenty of food. Call Paul Millstein at 675-8490 to reserve seats.



"At 111 Wall Street we have 42% Negroes and we don't intend to recruit one more  
- (Personnel Officer at First National City Bank to a member of CPDA)

## CPDA or WHO GIVES A DAMN ?

by Maryann Kofler & Paul Millstein

Last year Computer Personnel Development Association (CPDA), a non-profit organization, trained blacks, Puerto Ricans, and poor whites in computer operations. Training of qualified students was successful. The problem was in finding jobs.

IBM turned down 4 of our applicants - reason: "They weren't strong enough."  
Met Life interviewed six men, only 2 passed their "test" for a job paying \$20  
a week less than average.

National Dairy: "I don't know what to do with these people." (personnel officer  
to a member of CPDA)

Originally formed as a subcommittee of CPP, CPDA became a separate corporation, and was staffed by both CPP members and others interested in the anti-poverty program. The training program was operated on a volunteer basis. In addition to technical training including "hands on" experience, counselling and job placement services were provided. Of 32 men completing the course, 19 obtained jobs as computer operators. Some of those not placed were drafted or received raises in their current jobs.

The program was extremely successful. However, a closer analysis reveals contradictions. Of the 19 men placed, 16 jobs were obtained through personal contacts, i.e., through friends or employers of the staff members. Despite strong and continued effort through both mail and telephone contacts with the corporations of the Urban Coalition ("We Give a Damn"), only 15 of 49 responded. This was the result of trying to deal with corporations that are "supporting" the fight against unemployment. Other groups who had trained computer personnel reported similar experiences, i.e., success in training students but difficulty in locating jobs other than through personal contacts.

The question one must ask is: Has industry made any real commitment in the fight against poverty or is industry merely conducting an expensive advertising campaign? Clearly, in true Madison Avenue fashion, the public has been deceived. Perhaps the success of the advertising campaign lies partially in the ready acceptance of the myth by certain members of society. Is it not more comfortable for some to live with the belief that there is a real effort to improve the condition of the poor and oppressed?

It should be evident that industry will not voluntarily take part in training and hiring the hard-core unemployed unless it becomes profitable. Current anti-inflationary policies are causing higher unemployment thus making it more unprofitable to help these people. (Unfortunately, it is a perversion of our system that human value and needs are secondary to "making a buck.") Therefore, strategies must be devised to compel big business into providing job opportunities for all.

### nixon's agnew

"We have among us a glib, activist element who would tell us our values are lies, and I call them impudent....we can afford to separate them from our society - with no more regret than we should feel over discarding rotten apples from a barrel."

The Vice President of the U.S.

"I am very proud to have the Vice President with his Greek background in our Administration, ... And he has done a fine job for this Administration."

The President of the U.S.

one more  
of CPDA)

# CPP ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

during the summer CPP organized an analysis workshop whose functions are:

1. To carry out a program of self-education in the areas of politics, business, foreign affairs, military affairs, and technology to provide a general background for
2. An analysis in depth of the operation of the American system leading to
3. Policy statements and position papers for the guidance of the activities of CPP.

The workshop met several times during the summer, devoting its sessions to phase 1. The procedure followed was to select a book or two bearing on a specific area from the reading list below and discuss it at the next session. Those areas covered were Latin America and the nature of the corporation.

The workshop will continue this fall. For the immediate future it is planned to continue with the program of self-education. Anyone who is interested in participating who has not already made his interest known should contact the workshop chairman (Irv Rinard, WA 4-7696). The general procedure will be similar to that followed during the summer. Participants should not feel that they must read every book and article chosen by the group for discussion; much can be learned from the discussion of those who have

done the reading. On the other hand, the more reading one can get through, the better the understanding of the problems involved and the more one will be able to contribute to the workshop and to the policies of CPP.

Some of the specific topics of interest include:

1. The relationships between American foreign policy, military commitments, and overseas business investment,
2. The distribution of wealth in the United States, the extent to which undue concentration and perpetuation of wealth yield a disproportionate share of political and economic power to the wealthy (both families and corporations),
3. The extent to which the military establishment operates beyond informed and concerned civilian control,
4. The effect of centralized corporate activity, particularly planning and marketing, upon the quality of life,
5. The nature and severity of the ecological crisis and the relationship between the necessity of economic growth for the stability of the economy and the increasing levels of environmental pollution and degradation, and
6. The limits of technological solutions to social and political problems.

The suggested reading list (subject to amendment and expansion) is:

1. Herowitz, D., The Free World Colossus, New York, Hill and Wang, 1965, 451 pp., \$2.45 (paper).
2. Williams, W.A., The Tragedy of American Diplomacy, New York, Delta, 1962, 309 pp., \$1.95 (paper).
3. Gerassi, J., The Great Fear in Latin America, New York, Collier Books, 1965, 478 pp., \$1.50 (paper).
4. Magdoff, H., The Age of Imperialism, New York, Monthly Review Press, 1969, 208 pp., \$6.00.
5. Lasch, C., The Agony of the American Left, New York, Knopf, 1968, 212 pp., \$4.95.
6. Lundberg, F., The Rich and the Super-Rich, New York, Lyle Stuart, 1968, 812 pp., \$10.00 (also in paperback).
7. Moore, W.E., The Conduct of the Corporation, New York, Vintage, 1966, 292 pp., \$1.65 (paper).
8. Galbraith, J.K., The New Industrial State, Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1967, 427 pp., \$6.95 (also in paperback).
9. Clapp, C.I., The Congressman, New York, Anchor, 1963, 507 pp., \$1.95 (paper).
10. Calder, N., ed., Unless Peace Comes, New York, Viking, 1968, 243 pp., \$1.95 (paper).
11. Wilson, A., The Bomb and the Computer, Delacorte, New York, 1968, 218 pp., \$5.95.

Perspectives, continued from pg. 1

the participants were opposed to immediate withdrawal. It seems evident that the millions who demonstrated were really opposed to Nixon's token withdrawals and want the war ended Now, not in 1971.

What must be done:

- . Everyone must go to Washington on November 15th!
- . We urge you to actively participate in demanding an immediate end of the war and withdrawal of all U.S. troops from South East Asia.
- . We must work to redirect our foreign policy to insure that the clandestine wars in Laos, Thailand, and Latin America do not replace Vietnam.

-----

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

// I'd like to join CPP and enclose \$10 membership fee.

// Please put me on the mailing list.

// Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help toward mailing costs.

// Change of address \_\_\_\_\_

To: Computer Professionals for Peace  
P.O. Box 1597  
Brooklyn, New York 11202

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