

# Interrupt,

NEWSLETTER OF COMPUTER  
PROFESSIONALS FOR PEACE

MAY 1969

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## Perspectives

### THE POLITICS OF BEING APOLITICAL

### OR I AM CURIOUS (ACM)

ACM - a society of professionals many of whom are working for companies supplying essential services to the Vietnam war effort - claims to be uninvolved in politics.

However, only a few weeks ago, the Special Interest Committee on the Social Implications of Computing was arbitrarily dissolved by ACM President Dr. Bernard Galler.

Computer Professionals for Peace deplores Dr. Galler's action and the manner in which it was carried out. The dissolution was a political act. It was also an undemocratic act taken with no consultation with either the ACM membership at large or the (SIC)<sup>2</sup> officers and members.

ACM assertions that (SIC)<sup>2</sup> had done nothing and had no mailing list have no basis in fact. The secretary of (SIC)<sup>2</sup>, Robert Shapiro, pointed this out in a letter to Dr. Galler. Had ACM made a real attempt to contact the officers of the committee, they would have learned that the group was currently involved in writing a position paper on the Social Implications of Computing. At a (SIC)<sup>2</sup> meeting on February 20th, 1969, this paper was discussed and a resolution adopted condemning the war in Vietnam. The resolution, which also covered several other issues, is reprinted on p 9. The paper and resolution appeared in INTERRUPT 5 and the April issue of Computers and Automation.

\* \* \* \* \*

Why has the ACM acted in such a manner?

ACM has no intention of allowing the continued existence of a committee acting on critical issues - the Vietnam war, the ABM, the power of the Military Industrial Complex, racism, urban decay, and the relevance of computers to all of these questions. The Association needs to appear concerned and intends to reorganize (SIC)<sup>2</sup> as a "safe" committee which will avoid even debating these issues.

Computers are at the heart of every military system and are being used to develop techniques for counter insurgency and social control. A Social Implications Committee that ignores this is not only irrelevant but deceives the very community it purports to serve.

ACM's "neutral" position is in fact support for the status quo. The ACM leadership

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INTERRUPT

NEWSLETTER OF COMPUTER  
PROFESSIONALS FOR PEACE

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Treasurer's Report

May 5, 1969

Members and Friends,

Since February 1968 a total of \$2101.17 has "passed through" the treasury of CPP.

Where did this sizeable sum come from? From you, as follows: dues payments \$1470; contributions, collections, parties \$631.17.

How was this sizeable sum spent? In contributions to other worthy organizations (Peace and Civil Rights groups, GI coffee houses) - over \$200. For printing and mailing six issues of Interrupt - about \$900. For all kinds of peace leaflets and mailings to you, and to the general public - about \$500. For the rest, the usual run of organizational expenses, ranging from our CPP banner, party overhead, hall rentals, etc.

The moral of the story: CPP has tremendous potential. We need more dues payments (\$10 per year) and more contributions, so we can pay for more Interrupts, and more leaflets in order to rally more people in the computer field to be more effective in the fight for Peace.

Richard M. Klein  
Treasurer

PEACE



NOTE

April 5 Demonstration.

Special to INTERRUPT

It was a peaceful and rainy day. It was also the day that the Peace Movement served notice to Nixon that the war is now his.

In New York City, over 75,000 gathered near Bryant Park and, led by hundreds of active duty GI's, (a significant show of opposition to the war by the men being forced to fight it) marched up Sixth Avenue to the Central Park bandshell. At the rally, Dave Dellinger, Prof. Howard Zinn and other speakers demanded an end to the war, an end to U.S. imperialism, and support for liberation movements in the U.S. and throughout the world. There was particularly strong support voiced for the Black Panther Party.

CPP had a group of about fifty. Carrying signs calling for an end to the war and an end to the A.B.M., and carrying umbrellas calling for an end to the rain, they marched out of step to the delight of the people lining the avenue. CPP attracted wide attention by distributing 2,000 punched cards proclaiming WE WILL NOT PROGRAM DEATH. Bystanders and protesters alike seemed impressed by our presence in the parade - "it renews your faith" said a member of the Stony Brook contingent.

Despite the rain, the opposition was out in full force. (The Daily News had urged their "patriotic readers" to "think up a suitable answer to it.") About 30 "patriots", members of the National Renaissance Party picketed the demonstration. The neo-nazis' most memorable sign was "PACIFISM IS FEMININE" (The Women's Liberation Movement has no comment -ed.)

There were no serious incidents during the day (the now traditional parade has always been peaceful). All in all, it was a successful day for the Movement and CPP.

## Why CPP Is Going To The Spring Joint

Imagine a teacher's convention being held in 1969, where the general theme was "The Teacher and Society." What a strange feeling of irrelevance would be generated on reading through the schedule of sessions and evaluating them in the light of this theme if there were no mention of the role of educators in today's society, and nothing about the environment in which schools must function; no mention of community control, for example. What if there were a session on teachers and the public, led by an educator who maintained that a better selling job must be done for the teaching profession to improve its status with the general public. In his published views on this subject, the educator had not referenced the social and political realities of the day, nor that many teachers were involved in some of the more sordid aspects of the educational world, but had merely recommended a better snow job. And his fellow panelists were just those teachers whose activities had caused the profession to be held in low regard. What if the Board of Education had just summarily dissolved the only teachers' forum for discussing and acting on all of the social implications of teaching, but had consented to let a new group of people who were interested in discussing just a limited set of these implications hold a meeting one evening during the convention.

It would seem to be the duty of any teacher who really was concerned with his role in society to go along and make known to the sponsors of the convention that teachers do not function in a vacuum. Their work interacts with society at a level much more

vital than considerations of professional status are likely to reveal. A concerned teacher must stand up and say, "You are asking the wrong sort of questions here (if indeed you are asking any)!"

There's no need to carry the analogy further. As computer people, we should be aware that our work affects "society" at many levels. If computers have a bad public image, shouldn't we realize that it's not only computer jokes and gleeful pieces in the media about "computer errors" that causes this? People justly feel threatened by many applications of computers, from the invasion of their privacy by mass data banks to the violation of their physical safety by the escalation of the arms race - the ABM is a prime example in which computer control is of the essence. The way to improve our image is vigorously to oppose socially destructive applications and seek out constructive ones. We should not attempt a soft sell to play down the horrors of the nastier aspects of the domination of our field by the military, nor try to defend the idea that any computer application which appears to be more efficient in terms of cost-effectiveness should therefore be undertaken without regard to the human problems involved.

We are a part of society - it is completely schizoid to separate the issues which affect us all from the areas in which we work. We did not decide that the SJCC should address itself to a theme of "Computers and Society," but apparently the ACM, AFIPS, and IEEE did. We must not stand aside and allow them to make a mockery of what are vital issues

## March 4th Movement News

The following  
for January,  
of a leading  
about missile

From: Science Action Coordinating Committee  
14N-218, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139  
To: C.P.P. and friends  
Subject: Activity to effect a moratorium on the MIRV and ABM Research  
at M.I.T.

SACC is a group of scientists and students of science who are concerned with bringing humane control to bear on the direction and uses of technology. Our first activity was the March 4 research stoppage, which began at MIT and spread to about 50 other universities.

SACC is now embarked on a project which requires the help of other people, both scientists and non-scientists. Although much public discussion is taking place about the ABM, little effort is now being made to stop the deployment of the MIRV devices.

The MIRV, when deployed, will greatly multiply the US offensive capacity, perhaps to the extent of giving the US a first strike capability.

MIT's Lincoln and Instrumentation Laboratories do about \$100 million/year in DOD research. This makes MIT first among university DOD contractors and 14th among all DOD contractors. Lincoln Laboratory has for the past 12 years done most of the basic research for the ABM system. The Instrumentation Lab has done a great deal of MIRV research in connection with its Poseidon Project. (Other projects of the "I-Lab" include an all weather helicopter guidance system applicable to the War in Vietnam.)

Following March 4, SACC began to organize around the I-Lab activities. We were invited by engineers inside the I-Lab to address the scientists working there. The invitation was contravened by the Director of the Lab. The MIT Vice President in charge of the Lincoln and I-Labs is a man with a long, illustrious career as an employee of the DOD. In short, the administration of MIT is not sympathetic to our efforts.

We are now demanding that a moratorium be established on MIRV (Poseidon) research. We have considerable support among MIT students and faculty for this proposal. Rather than becoming involved in confrontation with the Administration in what has now become a typical and destructive fashion, and which has allowed college administrations to isolate the dissident groups, SACC is undertaking the following action:

1. To continue to leaflet outside of the I-Lab.
2. To distribute literature and to canvass the MIT community.
3. To picket non-obstructively the I-Lab.
4. To contact groups outside of MIT for support.

The fourth item centers around a mailing campaign. We would like



## ANTI COMPLICITY LETTER

The following letter, reprinted in its entirety from the Atlantic Monthly for January, 1947, was written by Norbert Wiener to a research scientist of a leading aircraft corporation who had asked Dr. Wiener for information about missile research he had conducted during the second world war.

SIR:

I have received from you a note in which you state that you are engaged in a project concerning controlled missiles, and in which you request a copy of a paper which I wrote for the National Defense Research Committee during the war.

As the paper is the property of a government organization, you are of course at complete liberty to turn to that government organization for such information as I could give you. If it is out of print as you say, and they desire to make it available for you, there are doubtless proper avenues of approach to them.

When, however, you turn to me for information concerning controlled missiles, there are several considerations which determine my reply. In the past, the comity of scholars has made it a custom to furnish scientific information to any person seriously seeking it. However, we must face these facts: The policy of the government itself during and after the war, say in the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, has made it clear that to provide scientific information is not a necessarily innocent act, and may entail the gravest consequences. One therefore cannot escape reconsidering the established custom of the scientist to give information to every person who may inquire of him. The interchange of ideas which is one of the great traditions of science must of course receive certain limitations when the scientist becomes an arbiter of life and death.

For the sake, however, of the scientist and the public, these limitations should be as intelligent as possible. The measures taken during the war by our military agencies, in restricting the free intercourse among scientists on related projects or even on the same project, have gone so far that it is clear that if continued in time of peace this policy will lead to the total irresponsibility of the scientist, and ultimately to the death of science. Both of these are disastrous for our civilization, and entail grave and immediate peril for the public.

I realize, of course, that I am acting as the censor of my own ideas, and it may sound arbitrary, but I will not accept a censorship in which I do not participate. The experience of the scientists who have worked on the atomic bomb has indicated that in any investigation of this kind the scientist ends by putting unlimited powers in the hands of the people whom he is least inclined to trust with their use. It is perfectly clear also that to disseminate information about a weapon in the present state of our civilization is to make it practically certain that that weapon will be used. In that respect the controlled missile represents the still imperfect supplement to the atom bomb and to bacterial warfare.

The practical use of guided missiles can only be to kill foreign civilians indiscriminately, and it furnishes no protection whatsoever to civilians in this country. I cannot conceive a situation in which such weapons can produce any effect other than extending the kamikaze way of fighting to whole nations. Their possession can do nothing but endanger us by encouraging the tragic insolence of the military mind.

If therefore I do not desire to participate in the bombing or poisoning of defenseless peoples - and I most certainly do not - I must take a serious responsibility as to those to whom I disclose my scientific ideas. Since it is obvious that with sufficient effort you can obtain my material, even though it is out of print, I can only protest pro forma in refusing to give you any information concerning my past work. However, I rejoice at the fact that my material is not readily available, inasmuch as it gives me the opportunity to raise this serious moral issue. I do not expect to publish any future work of mine which may do damage in the hands of irresponsible militarists.

I am taking the liberty of calling this letter to the attention of other people in scientific work. I believe it is only proper that they should know of it in order to make their own independent decisions, if similar situations should confront them.

NORBERT WIENER

# AMERICAN POWER

by Robert Oh Faber

America

is like one of those small towns  
or midwestern cities  
or New Jersey suburbs  
that are a good place to come from.

I am always meeting people from there  
they wouldn't be precisely what they are  
if they hadn't been there first  
well thank god if the bill of fare  
had been subtler  
they wouldn't have learned  
to vomit.

I don't pledge allegiance to the flag  
of the United Fruit Company of America  
For which it stands  
They can go take a ship for themselves

For when they converged  
a few years ago  
on the upstate hangout of the  
old mafia

the dead hand? oh yeah.  
they conveniently pulled a screen over  
the fact that in the next town  
whose DA drew up the indictment, was the  
prime

headquarters of a prime constituent of  
the New Mafia: the White Hand if you will  
There sits the IBM  
Building like a layer of Troy its space gui-  
dance plant

smack on top of a village that lives  
in the middle of the 19th century  
mores as well as tempora

But not only does it send  
its insidious binary subliminals  
out over the world

But mafia-like, it puts its people in office  
here in this little 19th century  
in these little 19th century  
in these little 19th centuries all over  
America

that send their delegates to congress  
like all the rest of them do, like GE  
The Commercial Stakes of AMERICA  
the New Mafia, the White Power, the elbow-  
diggers

and the winkers,  
the brothers-in-law  
My father and senator whoosis are like that,  
they say

No, you don't have to move to Poughkeep-  
sie, Ericsson

but you might find it difficult if you  
don't -

And the chief of police says well we got  
nothing on

the statutes against it but...

and Jim Frame, talented pressure applier says  
I don't give a shit what you ain't got Gerald  
Meade

put a stop to it cause we don't like it

Gerald Meade the local

chief of police who has

pulled some shady deals when he was the local  
auctioneer

says: Yessir, Mr. Frame, We'll find a tech-  
nicality.

The IBMers move into the new green-lumber  
pseudo-colonial

suburb on the hill.

Something Heights they call it

Those places are always called something  
heights

Joe Barbara's place, scene of the played-up  
raid,

was on a hill too, oddly enough, facing this  
one,

but across the river.

Went down in history as the "Appalachian con-  
ference"

but the local garment sweat-shop

and pay-TV syndicates all knew what was going  
on

all the time, as did Jim Frame and Gerald  
Meade

and probably TJ Watson himself

all pledging allegiance to the flags of them-  
selves

interweaving, interweaving

all the red and white and blue  
elections insuring so-called democracy

but you know who pulled the strings

the strings warped onto the loom

to weave old glory oh say can you see

the Web. said the spider to the fly -

One can no longer pledge allegiance to what  
one thought

it was, if that web is the fabric, I say

part the threads, what's behind

the star-spangled curtain?

woven on that power loom.

Like I say

it's a good place to have come

FROM

Where do we go from here?

is aligning itself with those forces making a profit from the war.

We reject the position of our professional association and demand that the dissolution of (SIC)<sup>2</sup> be rescinded. (SIC)<sup>2</sup> must be allowed to deal freely with the critical issues of our time.

### SJCC : What, When, Where?

The Spring Joint Computer Conference will be held in Boston May 14 through May 16 (Wednesday - Friday). C.P.P. plans to attend the following sessions:

- \* Keynote - General James M. Gavin  
Wednesday, May 14, 9 A.M.  
War Memorial Auditorium
- \* Computers and the Underprivileged  
Allen L. Morton Jr., president of Computer Personnel Development Assn., Inc. (the C.P.P. sponsored school) is among the panelists  
Wednesday, May 14, 10:30 A.M.  
Cheri 1
- \* Urgent - Increased Dialogue With Society  
Included in the panel is Milton A. Lipton of the U.S. Army Electronics Command and representatives of several leading war contractors  
Wednesday, May 14, 2 P.M.  
Room 200, Auditorium
- \* Meeting of the Special Interest Committee on the Social Implications of Computers (SIC)<sup>2</sup>  
Wednesday, May 14, 8 P.M.  
War Memorial Auditorium
- \* A Rally co-sponsored by C.P.P. and the Science Action Coordinating Committee will be held on Thursday, May 15. Details will be publicized at the convention.

For information in Boston during the convention call  
Citizens for Participation Politics  
(617) 426 3040

SEE YOU IN BOSTON, MAY 14, 15 AND 16 AT THE SPRING JOINT COMPUTER CONFERENCE.

why

people from all over the country to write letters to MIT President Howard Johnson requesting the moratorium on Poseidon Research. Letters should make reference to the fact that MIT's DOD research activities are a matter of public concern. A duplicate of the letter should be sent to Crocker Snow, City Desk, Boston Globe. This should be indicated on the letter to President Johnson. We feel that such letters would greatly enhance our effectiveness in working for peace at MIT.

People in the Boston area are invited to join our picket.

(Here we're including a sample letter already sent to the M.I.T. president - Ed)

Howard Johnson  
President, M.I.T.  
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear Sir,

As a computer programmer, I am very aware of the vast potential for good of today's advanced technology. This heightens my awareness of and concern over the misuse of this technology for ill-conceived schemes designed mainly, it seems, to line the pockets of defense contractors and considerably diminish the prospects for world peace.

I urge you to accede to the request of your clearer sighted students and faculty and declare a moratorium on the Poseidon Project at the Instrumentation Laboratories. Research leading to the development of MIRV devices can contribute only to the US offensive capacity. How much overkill do we need?

In the light of the urgent needs of society today, surely you can find more meaningful research to do. It is a matter of public concern that M.I.T. and the other universities are not serving the interests of the population at large, but prefer to research better means of death and destruction.

Your sincerely,

Barbara Marsh

MAKE YOUR STAND FOR PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH CPP  
AT THE SJCC, MAY 14-16.



President  
h. Letters  
ivities  
ould be  
indicated  
s would

1 From page 4

SJCC ?

WAR NOTES

Continued from page 3

to every one of us. The domination of society by the military-industrial complex and the draft, interact to channel people into some of the more destructive areas of our profession: the war in Vietnam goes on and funds are not available for the research and development necessary for constructive applications. The speakers list of the SJCC looks like excerpts from the top 50 defense contractors list. It is time for responsible people to stand up and be counted.

The following corporations are listed among the top 100 Department of Defense contractors for fiscal year 1968. (source: the Congressional Record, March 24, 1969)

<u>Corporation</u>	<u>Net value of military prime contract awards</u>
General Electric	\$1,488,707,000
L.T.V.	758,261,000
Raytheon	451,754,000
Sperry Rand	447,197,000
Honeywell	351,682,000
R.C.A.	255,012,000
I.B.M.	223,661,000
Collins Radio	134,754,000
C.D.C.	56,802,000

**RESOLUTION**

As professionals in the computer field and members of (SIC)<sup>2</sup>, we have the responsibility, through our professional association, to oppose the use of our skills for destructive and anti-social ends. Therefore, we urge that ACM adopt these proposals as part of its national policy.

1. We oppose the war in Vietnam, U.S. military presence throughout the world, and economic and political subversion of other nations. Since there is widespread involvement of our profession in these endeavors, we urge all computer professionals to review the moral consequences of their involvement in furthering these efforts.
2. We oppose discrimination as practiced in the computer field by direct or indirect means such as educational requirements, arbitrary testing procedures, and restrictive promotion policies.
3. We oppose the establishment of mass data banks which pose a threat to our privacy and concentrate power in the hands of a few.
4. We oppose the economic exploitation of the uninformed by unscrupulous computer schools. We support the implementation of accrediting standards for the computer educational field.
5. We support the active encouragement, development, and funding of programs for the constructive application of computers toward the solution of the many problems faced by our society.

WAR NOTES

The following organizations are listed among the top 100 Department of Defense contractors for fiscal year 1968 (January 1 to December 31, 1967).

Organization	Value of work
General Electric	\$1,488,707,000
L.T.V.	758,101,000
Raytheon	451,744,000
Boeing	447,707,000
Rockwell International	357,012,000
IBM	327,867,000
Collins Radio	297,122,000
C.D.C.	288,800,000

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

**RESOLUTION**

As professionals in the computer field and members of CPP, we have the responsibility through our professional association to oppose the use of our skills for destructive and anti-social ends. Therefore, we urge that ACM adopt these proposals as part of its national policy.

We oppose the war in Vietnam, all military research programs, and the world-wide economic and political subversion of other nations. Since there is widespread involvement of our profession in these endeavors, we urge all computer professionals to re-examine their consciences and their involvement in this war.

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 towards mailing costs.
- Change of address

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