

COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS FOR PEACE
FINALLY ANNOUNCES ANOTHER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

- An Open Forum On --
 - TECHNOLOGY, POLITICS, YOU AND THE 70'S
 - Featuring --
 - SHORT SPEECHES BY ED ELKIND & IRV RINARD
 - HEATED QUESTION & DEBATE SESSION
 - COOLING REFRESHMENTS

-- When and Where --

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 8:00PM
GODDARD TOWER COMMUNITY ROOM, 711 AMSTERDAM AVE (94TH ST) NYC
Make Sure You Come--Post This On Your Refrigerator

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pectives

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Tying these problems together requires some "Who?" questions. Who is really conspiring? Who is responsible for Song My? There are people in the government and on the board of directors of Honeywell whose war crimes are more reprehensible than Lieut. Calley's. Who benefits from our shiny new technological projects, such as the space programs, new air

Interrupt₉

NEWSLETTER OF COMPUTER
PROFESSIONALS FOR PEACE

February 1970

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Perspectives

This issue of Interrupt, and this editorial in particular, is different from most. C.P.P. has been developing in many different directions. Rather than trying to outline in this issue precisely why we are choosing certain actions, we are telling you about them. We ask you to consider the political situation in the U.S. today; read Interrupt carefully; judge the relevance of our actions; make a commitment to join and support us. We need your involvement in our increasing analysis of our role as technologists in today's world.

This last decade has seen an increase in the problems of the world. The war in Viet Nam has been with us for nearly ten years; it continues with no end in sight, despite the current token withdrawals. Housing, medical care, purchase power, and pollution have emerged as critical problems with no quick or easy solutions available. Racism is entrenched in our culture; the "civil rights" record gives black people little hope of any real change.

Recent developments demonstrate the extent of the problems. We are told that human resource programs now receive a higher priority than defense, but the HEW appropriations are vetoed (under the banner of fighting inflation), while more money is requested to expand the ABM. We are still being told that superiority in the arms race will put us in a superior position to demand disarmament talks. We are told that the government is no longer producing chemical and biological weapons, but those weapons continue to be manufactured for use in Viet Nam. There is a stepping up in the repression of dissent-- the Chicago "Conspiracy" trial, the Panther 21 in N.Y., the murders of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, the GI trials at Fort Dix and other military bases.

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INTERRUPT

NEWSLETTER OF COMPUTER
PROFESSIONALS FOR PEACE

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ACTION  NOTES

HONEYWELL

At lunchtime on December 12, a CPP contingent met outside Honeywell, on 42nd St. at Second Avenue. We had leaflets exposing Honeywell as a leading defense contractor, and deplored its manufacture of a particularly odious fragmentation bomb (see Interrupt 8), as well as our own "We will not program death" leaflet which describes CPP's activities. The group split up and went to different parts of the building, speaking to Honeywell employees on the premises and explaining why we were there, tying our presence to the Moratorium, and handing them our leaflets. It was not long before we were asked to leave the building, which we did peacefully after some protests, and continued our conversations with employees outside, on the street. As a result of our activity, one girl resigned her secretarial position with Honeywell. Michele Minott of Brooklyn, who was wearing a peace button, said: "I felt like such a hypocrite when I discovered what the company was doing that I just had to

quit". She told the personnel department of her belief that the Vietnam War was wrong. "I certainly don't want to contribute to it in any way", she told us.

Less dramatic ways of demonstrating your distaste at Honeywell's war profiteering include boycotting Honeywell products such as Pentax cameras, and using your influence to prevent your companies' using Honeywell computing equipment. Also, of course, you can help publicize Honeywell's war orientation by joining our pickets and leafletting. If you are interested, contact Jay Bitkower at 799-4354.

The Beaver55 is a group of people, single and married, workers and students, young and old, who started from different parts of the country and ended up together in Chicago as a community for active resistance. They describe and justify their recent actions thus--

"Some of us completely destroyed 1A, and 1A delinquent draft files and ledger books in the local boards in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. Some of us entered the Computation Research Center of the Dow Chemical Company and destroyed magnetic tapes (they erased information with a magnet--Ed) and processing cards used to store and process scientific research into such areas as nerve gases, napalm, defoliants and other secret weaponry. Technical marketing research information for these materials was also destroyed.

"We have done this because we are not blinded by the lies that corporations attempt to pawn off on us. A growing number of us understand clearly how American Foreign policy is used to make possible the rape of human life and natural resources in developing countries. Military intervention is readily resorted to whenever financial interests are threatened by people struggling to free themselves from

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THE TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY by Jacques Ellul

Reviewed by Peter B. Miller

Perhaps the question asked most by contemporary political and social philosophers is: what is the exact nature and genesis of the crisis we face today? One can find as many different answers as philosophers. Broadly speaking, the answers range over the following categories.

1. Spiritual/religious - The roots of all beliefs have been shaken so badly that we have become profoundly disoriented and confused. God is dead, and without God, there are no transcendent values that give life meaning. We therefore wander through our lives bewildered and without reference points.

2. Sociological - The traditional structures of society that gave men security and nurture have failed or collapsed. The church no longer has power. Communities have been crushed by the urban megalopolis. Ethnic and cultural identity has been lessened to a large degree.

3. Political/ethical/economic - Our country and world is divided into haves and have-nots. Rivalry for power exists between all groups.. And power in any form seems very remote from the individual. Governments pursue policies that have long since lost the support of the people. In general, the very forms of political action have ceased to function.

4. Psychological - We live in a seemingly schizoid world. The division between feeling and reason has never seemed greater. In order to live in a large city, a person must numb himself to all the influences and stimuli around him, e.g. the Gennovese case in Queens. The word most often used to describe this condition is alienation.

Given this variety of answers, how are we to find the truth? Indeed, are all the

above crises symptoms of a deeper disturbance, or are they merely the growing pains of the human species as it evolves and changes?

Into this intellectual fray has jumped the French philosopher Jacques Ellul with his book, The Technological Society. Simply stated, Ellul says we have created a Frankenstein monster called technology. At first it seemed beneficent and promised the elimination of many of the burdens that had caused man's suffering. Now, however, it has grown so strong that it is out of our control, lives by no other rules but its own, and like the monster of old threatens to destroy its creator.

Ellul defines technique in general as the collection of means for producing ends. Thus the concept of technique can be extended to all activities, from producing bombs to black magic. The current crisis, as Ellul sees it, is that value judgements about the ends of technology have ceased to be a factor in decision making and we only judge good or bad in relation to the means. Thus General Electric can say "Progress is our most important product", meaning that if they find a more efficient way to do something (e.g. kill people) it is a good thing.

How then is this beast to be tamed? Ellul is very gloomy about possible solutions. He feels that scientists and technologists are too short-sighted or self-serving, and large corporations too greedy to change the directions we are heading in. He also dismisses the new Humanism as childish idealism. Here, however, I believe his analysis is faulty. The very existence of groups such as C.P.P. shows that at least some segment (a growing one) of the technological structure can be brought to a level of moral and political consciousness. It is clear that part of the answer lies

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Letters to the Editor

November 22, 1969

Computer Professionals for Peace
PO Box 1597
Brooklyn, New York 11202

Dear Sir:

On reading the November Interrupt some ideas came to me about helping CPP activities in various ways.

1. The Service Organization is looking for "clean" work in the computer field. We are trying to expand our medical-computer science program (described in catalog enclosed herewith). We have a 2-year teaching program training junior scientists in computer science and biomedical applications. We need faculty members. Anyone interested should contact Professor W. Siler at the above address. We would be interested in receiving community college graduates into our program as well. Besides the scientific computing section, there is a large section of the computer center devoted to hospital and accounting applications. Anyone interested should contact Robert Geisler at the above address.

2. I would be willing to give lectures or do tutoring as a means of aiding CPDA trainees, especially those who may be attending community

book review

in bringing more and more scientists and technologists to this point. A broad attack must be made against the institutions of technology that are considered sacrosanct by so many Americans. This includes universities and corporations. We must demand from them a new accountability and moral responsibility, and if they do not respond (most likely) we must be ready to

colleges. I have a Ph.D. in math and considerable training in the physical sciences and I could give courses in calculus, numerical methods, FORTRAN, etc.

Sincerely yours,

Veronica Hall PhD
Asst. Prof. of
Computer Science

Dec. 6

Dear Sir:

Recently I was handed one of your sheets referring to Honeywell's war products. At first glance I thought the sheet supported the war and in a fit of anger, tore the sheet in half while standing on Fifth Avenue. But when I got home I reread the sheet and to my surprise and embarrassment discovered I had made a terrible mistake. I apologize and I heartily support the boycott of any company profiting from the sale of war products. We must have an immediate end to this ridiculous war if we expect any type of peace in our country.

Good luck and lots of support

Ellen Seideman
Scarsdale, New York
Age 14

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change them through direct action.

The Technological Society is recommended reading. Even though weighty and academic in style, Ellul's historical analysis and broad framework provide good analysis and factual underpinnings for future actions and goals.

CORPORATE ORGANIZING: report from the front

C.P.P. is one of very few activist groups whose members have ready access to that vast proportion of the work force employed by the big corporations. Those of us who work for big banking, insurance, manufacturing or other concerns have an opportunity not only to talk to our co-workers about the war and other obviously political issues, but also to make some connections concerning the role of the corporations in society. We can relate people's dissatisfaction with their working conditions to the corporate structure, and try to make many connections between the keenly felt day-to-day oppression of say, a 36-minute lunch break and the less obvious restrictions imposed on our freedom by the powerful financial control the big corporations have over the city. (an example is the recent 50% subway fare hike. This was necessitated not by the 8% wage increase but because the MTA is still paying off huge debts, with interest, to the very corporations who need the subways to transport their labor force, and who have already profited vastly from them.)

Here are two reports from members of C.P.P. actively engaged in talking to their fellow workers in big corporations. Several other corporations are also being attacked.



It's Great to Have a Great Bank Behind You!--

cc: Tovsky

Action at Manny-Hanny

On the morning of December 8th, a few co-workers and I passed out leaflets to the employees of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co. at the operations offices. The leaflet condemned U.S. military involvement in S.E. Asia and urged workers to meet together in the lobby the following evening to go to the Nixon demonstration at the Waldorf-Astoria. Later that day we were warned by management not to engage in political activity and not to meet on bank property. Despite this intimidation we were back the next morning passing out leaflets. I myself was being observed by a bank

guard who hid behind a pillar. After finishing leafletting, I entered the building, stopping off to offer the same guard one of the leaflets. I asked him why he was watching me. He said, "I can watch you as much as I want, it's a free country isn't it?". I then proceeded to the elevator only to notice that this guard and another had followed me in. They got off at my floor but refused to speak until after they had gotten my name from the sign-in sheet, at which point one of them said, "Shut your mouth and stay right here".

That day after work, the chief of security approached me in the lobby and threatened to arrest me and anyone else meeting there. Since other groups like the ski club with all their gear congregate in the lobby, I asked him if he thought this action against us was political. He said "That doesn't concern me, I have my orders". We met in the street.

What did we learn from what happened? The directors of the bank engage in politics every day, not only through bank business but also by distributing political propaganda to bank employees, at our expense, e.g., positions employees should take on bills before Congress or the NYC Council. But employees are harassed and intimidated if they on their own time and at their own expense engage in political activity.

ITEM: On November 1969, The Senate Investigations Committee named MHT as being the repository for more than \$1.5 million garnered in black market operations in South Vietnam.

Jay

Met-Life Report

In order to participate in the October 15 Moratorium several employees from Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. distributed leaflets addressed to company employees asking them to meet after work on October 15 to march together to Bryant Park. A contingent of over 20

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ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

The importance of political action and its relation to political theory is becoming clearer to CPP's most active members. Our reading and discussions have raised our political consciousness to a point where we are prepared to commit ourselves to more (and stronger) actions, and our actions raise new questions and give us a different perspective on our theoretical background knowledge.

This really productive learning was well illustrated by the last analysis workshop. We had planned to discuss an article by Paul Goodman on technology from a recent issue of "The New York Review of Books". This article argued the need for a new attitude amongst science and technology workers, the need for a change of emphasis in the application of technology: also there was an extensive analogy made between organized religion at the time of the Reformation and "organized science" today. Many of his ideas were not new to us--our agitation within A.C.M., our attitude towards "professional neutrality", our attempts to reach our fellows in the computer field, CPDA, our participation in the March 4th Movement, our picketing of Honeywell, all demonstrate how strongly we feel the need to turn technology around so it will serve the people in this country.

In the few days before the workshop, many of us had participated in Honeywell protests. We had leafleted for and participated in the anti-Nixon demonstration in New York City. We were in a situation of having been identified with these protests and had a log of feedback, both from superiors and co-workers, about them. At the workshop we talked a great deal about the lessons we'd learned from this activity and its aftermath. We talked of possible future courses of action, of legal and moral aspects of work-place organizing. We considered the interaction between different parts of the movement, and what we could learn from the G.E. strikers and the

murder of the Chicago Black Panther. Ecology, the profit motive, the intellectual isolation of the pure scientist . . . we tied all sorts of things into our discussion of the article, cemented by the reality of our political experience. And before we went home, we had decided where to meet and what to do for our Third Moratorium day action at Honeywell's midtown offices.

We urge more people to join us, both in our actions and in our analysis workshop.

Currently the analysis workshop is concentrating on the radical implications of technology on society. The intent is not only to collect information to better prepare ourselves but to provide vital data to the workers in the field and the other groups in the movement.

Some of the areas being covered include the impact of computer applications on weapons systems, privacy and data banks, the individual in relations to automation, and computer aided instruction.

The next meeting will be held on:
February 16 (8 O'clock)
Irv Rinard's
349 West 21st St. Apt. A
WA-4-7696

* * * * *

beaver 55

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political and financial domination. In Vietnam it is clear how many people our government is willing to kill and napalm to protect corporate profits.

"To the Movement we say: We have found an alternative to violence and passive demonstrations which responds to the urgency of the situation in America. To our families and friends we say: Understand and join us.

These actions must continue: the spirit of the people will not be overcome."

Black Panther
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REGIONAL NOTES

NEW YORK AREA

There is a CPP General Membership Meeting at 8:00PM on Thursday, Feb. 19, 1970, at:

Goddard Tower Community Room
711 Amsterdam Ave.
(betw. 94th & 95th Sts)

New York, N.Y.

This will be an open forum with short speeches and discussion on "Technology, Politics, You, and the 70's".

PHILADELPHIA AREA

There is an organizational meeting for people living or working in the area at 2:00PM on Sunday, March 1, 1970, at Joan Manes':

4422 Pine St.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104
(215-EV2-0952)

LOS ANGELES AREA

There is a meeting of the CPP LA chapter at 8:30PM on Feb. 25, 1970, at the: Westdale Center

(rear of bank)
2920 S. Sepulzeda St.
Los Angeles
For further information, call Ken Zeidman (213-397-5002) or write to him: 4068 Globe Ave.
Culver City, Cal. 90230

BOSTON-CAMBRIDGE AREA

The Boston chapter foresees action in four areas:

1. Honeywell--leafletting is under way.
2. Labor--the NLRB is supporting

the rights of some workers in the computer field who were fired for trying to organize a union.

3. Public Meetings--a subcommittee is trying to set up some prominent speakers.
4. Programming Services--helping other peace groups.

For further information concerning the Boston-Cambridge chapter, contact: David Ecklein (617-244-8054)
14 Sterling St.
West Newton, Mass. 02165

HELP!

The Vietnam Moratorium Committee would like help in obtaining free (cheap?) computer time in the Washington, D.C. area for processing their mailing lists. Anyone in the area who can help should contact Peggy Shaker, 1029 Vermont Ave., Washington, D.C. Phone - (202) 347-4757.

* * *

The Committee To Investigate Assassinations is a group of people studying the findings of the Warren Commission and other sources relevant to the murder of John F. Kennedy and other important political figures in recent years. They believe they can prove the complicity of prominent people, including members of the FBI and CIA, in the assassinations and the strange deaths of about 50 other people associated as witnesses or sources of information with the President's murder. They need data processing help to cope with the vast amount of evidence they have collected. Anyone, particularly in the Washington area, who can help should contact Bernard Fensterwald, the chairman, at 924 No 15st N.W., Washington, D.C.

Gen. Big Brother is Watching YOU

The Army has plans to keep tabs on civilian activists using a computerized data bank, according to an article in the New York Times on January 16.

Christopher Pyle, a former captain in Army Intelligence at Fort Holabird in Baltimore, was reported as saying in The Washington Monthly that nearly 1,000 plainclothes Army investigators keep track of civilian political activities by attending political rallies, protest marches and other gatherings. But base most of their reports to Fort Holabird on the files of "municipal and state police departments and of the F.B.I.

"To assure prompt communication of these reports, the Army distributes them over a nation wide wire service. Completed in the fall of 1967, this teletype network gives every major troop command in the United States daily and weekly reports on virtually all political protests occurring anywhere in the nation.

"Today, the Army maintains files on the membership, ideology, programs and practices of virtually every activist political group in the country," he said.

The surveillance program was started in 1965, Mr. Pyle said, but at that time was designed only to give military officials early warning of possible civil disorders.

The Army also plans, according to Mr. Pyle, to link its teletype systems to a computerized data bank at Fort Holabird, to which Federal agencies such as the Secret Service, the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. will have access.

Spokesmen at the Intelligence Command at Fort Holabird and at the Pentagon declined comment on Mr. Pyle's article.

corporate organizing

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people gathered, forming a nucleus of future company activists. Following through, we decided to circulate a petition requesting the use of the company auditorium for a debate on the Vietnam war. For December's Moratorium Day we passed out another leaflet informing employees that armbands and buttons would be distributed at the information desks during the hours of 11-1:30 on December 11, and in front of the main entrances on the morning of December 12.

With this announcement we evoked a response from management in the form of a "Hot Line" distributed to all section supervisors advising that the company would not permit the distribution of anti-war material on company property or on company time. The memo further stated "...it has come to our attention that bids requesting the use of the Company Auditorium for discussions of the Vietnam situation during lunch hours are also being circulated. The use of the Company Auditorium for such discussions will not be permitted." Despite these threats we distributed 160 armbands and sold 100 buttons to employees eager to express their anti-war sentiments in a company where the American Legion has company sponsorship and where American flags are given out on company property and on company time with the company's blessings.

The success of this action we hope, will provide encouragement to groups in other companies.

Ellen

The most candid definition of Vietnamization we have yet seen turned up in an editorial, "How Not to Win The War", in the Jan. 15 weekly edition of the Paris Le Figaro, which is conservative and pro-American. It said Ambassador Bunker in Saigon once admitted that Vietnamization consisted only in changing "the color of the corpses".

actives

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the ABM, heart transplants, the system 360? Whose priorities are setting the priorities of the nation? Who benefits from high medical costs, exorbitant rents and mortgage rates, prices hikes, subway fare increases? Why do the people have no say? A close look at the political scene shows that the many problems are interlocking. No one problem can be solved in isolation. No one person can provide a "single solution".

C.P.P.'s actions will continue to expand if you become a member, an active member. We already have active chapters in Berkeley, Boston, Los Angeles, and New York. Organizational work is starting in Philadelphia and Poughkeepsie. Even Datamation, in its review of the 60's, regarded us as a significant development. We need your help to develop further. We need your suggestions and support in planning actions, your knowledge and abilities in developing an analysis of how technology can best serve the people.

"And in 1969, the heretofore esoteric world of the computer found itself in the real world as some of its constituents made themselves heard on such controversial issues as the antiballistic missile system and the war in Vietnam. Raucous but concerned voices were raised at the SJCC panel titled 'URGENT--Increased Dialog With Society' as a group called the Computer Professionals for Peace vocally protested what seemed to them the bland nature of the panel proceedings in vocabulary that included Anglo-Saxon expletives (four-letter and otherwise) normally reserved for more private verbal punctuation. The gathering was upset, which certainly must have been one of the intentions of the CCP [sic], but the import was clear; a significant segment of computer people, primarily young people, is, like the young everywhere, challenging the traditional concepts of its elders and demanding that attention be paid to the social implications of the machines that enable men to shoot at the moon and at each other with ever increasing efficiency."---Datamation, January, 1970.

The wheel of the law turns
without pause.

After the rain, good weather.
In the wink of an eye

The universe throws off
its muddy clothes.

For ten thousand miles
the landscape

spreads out like a beautiful brocade.
Light breezes. Smiling flowers.

High in the trees, amongst
The sparkling leaves

all the birds sing at once.
Men & animals rise-up reborn.

What could be more natural?
After sorrow, comes happiness.

Ho Chi Minh



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

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 \$ _____ contribution

TO: COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS FOR PEACE
P.O. Box 1597
Brooklyn, New York 11202