

Editor's Corner

Despite the relative inexpensiveness and the advantages of having one's own computer, it is easy to become immobilized by the staggering choice now available in the market. If you are not already a computer expert, it is difficult to make an informed decision on which microcomputer to buy. Too often the main source of information is the sales person whose knowledge of a political scientist's specific computing needs is limited and who is not in a position to provide a disinterested analysis of what is available.

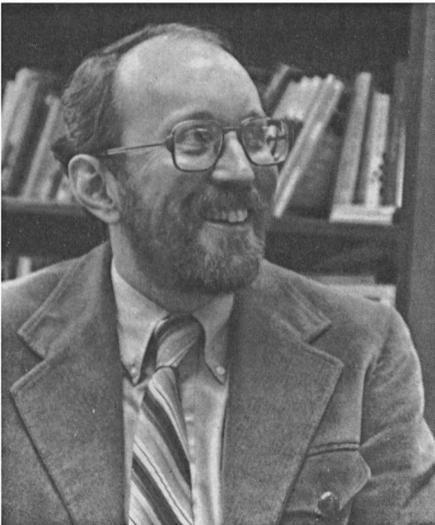
This issue of *PS* is designed to help introduce the newcomer to microcomputers, and the articles are written specifically with political scientists in mind. Gregory Marks leads readers step by step into the world of microprocessors. He will help you make an intelligent choice tailored to your own needs. Carl Grafton and Anne Permaloff evaluate several statistical

packages for microcomputers which they have found to be of varying value in their research. If you are in the market for a computer or software, you should read these articles. If you are not yet ready to take the leap, save this issue, as it is almost inevitable that at some point you are going to need the information contained herein.

Because the field is changing rapidly, Marks is assembling a newsletter on the latest computing developments and examples of typical applications. It is available, free of charge initially, by writing him at the Institute for Social Research, 426 Thompson Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

Another source of current information is the *Political Science Micro Review* which has been started at North Carolina State University. The *Review* has two components: (1) a quarterly newsletter focusing on items of interest to political scientists using microcomputers, plus listings of programs which subscribers may type and use directly; and (2) a six-disk volume containing programs written for the Apple II microcomputer and compatible with Franklin and Basis. The subscription price for the newsletter is \$10 and the disk version plus newsletter is \$25. For more information, write Micro Review, PSPA Link 215, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina 27511. (The *Review* requests that any checks sent to them should be made out to North Carolina State University.)

For department chairs facing the question of whether to purchase microcomputers, the Departmental Services Committee will hold a workshop at the Annual Meeting on Friday, September 2, from 10:45 to 12:30 at the Palmer House in Chicago. Marks, with Samuel Kirkpatrick, will conduct the workshop.



Carl Grafton



Anne Permaloff

Annual Meeting

The workshop on computerizing departments is only one of several special activities at the Annual Meeting this year, which will be held from September 1-4 at the Palmer House. For example, there will be a workshop on nonacademic careers, one on retrofitting the Ph.D. for business careers, and a short course on politics, markets and neighborhood change which will include a tour of eight neighborhoods in Chicago.

The program will include theme panels on the science of politics, dialogues between "mainstream" and "radical" political scientists, and plenary sessions featuring William Riker's presidential address, the Lasswell Symposium, and a special session on Gender Politics in the 1980s. Details on the Annual Meeting can be found in the section on Association News and in the preliminary program in the second half of this issue.

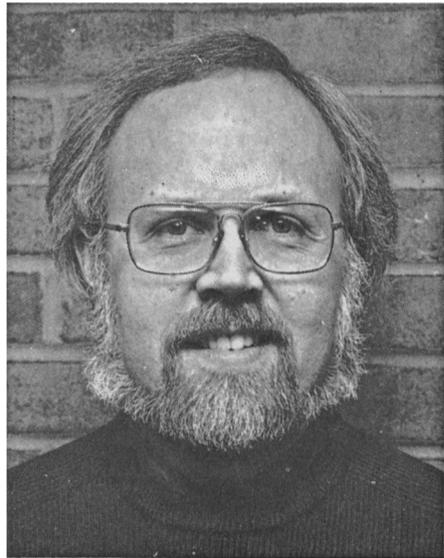
The dialogue panels were conceived by the Caucus for a New Political Science and are being jointly sponsored by APSA's Program Committee. In part to set the stage for the dialogues, the Forum on the Discipline in this issue of *PS* features an article on the development of the discipline by Michael Parenti, a mem-

ber of the Caucus. He argues that even though there are an increasing number of models and approaches in political science, an orthodoxy still exists which preempts other views and allows "important scientific questions to remain unexamined." As usual, *PS* encourages responses, as does Parenti.

PS Mail

Finally, we have received letters concerning the late arrival of *PS* to members. On occasion announcements are already out of date by the time members read about them.

This problem occurs for two reasons. First, sometimes announcements reach our office too late to appear in a timely manner in *PS*. We make an editorial decision that our members need to know about certain announcements even though there may not be time to respond prior to the published deadline. We do this to make readers aware of the possibilities in future years. Also, sometimes deadlines are extended, and we would not want our members to miss the opportunity which a particular announcement represents because we failed to print the announcement.



Gregory A. Marks

Editor's Corner

A second reason for the disjunction between the deadline of some of the announcements in *PS* and receipt of *PS* is that we cannot predict exactly when *PS* will reach members' homes or offices. We have discovered that due to variations in delivery from our mailing house and by the postal service, some members may receive *PS* one week and other members may receive *PS* as late as three weeks later. As a result, we include announcements that may be timely for

some readers but not for others.

We are working to coordinate our publications at APSA so that announcements which may not be timely for one publication may be included in another. For example, fellowship opportunities are now being printed in the *Personnel Services Newsletter* as well as *PS* so that we can inform as many members as possible of opportunities of this sort.

Catherine Rudder

June 15: Summer *PS* Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials for the summer issue of *PS* is June 15. Please indicate in which section submitted material should be placed. Also, items for *PS* should be submitted in *PS* format, whenever possible.