

The economic reply

MSC fund builds apathy

By MIKE PERRIN

The Association of College Unions-International (ACU-I) is in town today and tomorrow, so I decided to discuss methods of making student unions better.

First, though, let it be clear that there are no evil people around. There are only bad results because of an inept system.

The primary fault of the MSC is that it relies on fees forcibly extracted from the student body—if you refuse to pay your student service fee, you cannot attend A&M. The MSC rolls in better than \$300,000 per year from you and me whether or not they please us or even attempt to do so in their programs and policies.

This huge "cushion" of money makes it possible to bring shows which few people like or attend, such as Trapeze last week. The upper sections of G. Rollie White Coliseum were virtually empty. But Town Hall has \$32,500 to fall back on, so why should they be concerned?

This subsidy makes for lazy organizations—the C does not have to get out and hustle for student dollars for survival's sake.

Those individual committees which don't get guaranteed money are generally doing a better job like Aggie Cinema, which starts every year with \$400 left over from the previous year. In order to survive, Aggie Cinema must show movies people want to see, and they do.

OPAS supports itself with ticket receipts and voluntary donations and has full houses for an outstanding fine arts series.

A guaranteed income base does not key success to attendance; it keys success to political pull, the organizations with the most political pull get the most funding. Organizations which must support themselves key success to attendance. If no one shows up there are no more programs. Pressure is applied for good programs.

But there is more to the explanation than the presence of a guaran-

teed income base. There is also the MSC Council.

Not only are students forced to support the MSC with student service fees, they must also stand by and let the Council allocate those monies. This might even work if the people on the Council were on the firing line of programming, but they are not. All too often, officers on the Council have no real committee experience, much less programming experience. And each Council selects its own successors, so the situation never improves. In fact, it is so institutionalized that future Council members are not former committee chairmen.

The Council Assistants, or Directorate Assistants or Vice-Presidential Assistants (the name changes all the time) are groomed to become the next officers of the MSC. They are assigned to do each present officer's dirt work.

Of course, perseverance and slogging along usually result in the reward of a Council post—the Council which will set budget allocations, programming guidelines and assistance to the committees.

Council members are not affected by their decisions. They do not bear the brunt of the regulations they pass.

For example, none of them are involved in film programming directly, so why should they care what policy gets passed? So what if it won't work and if it violates trade practice of the film industry? No one on the Council has to obey the rules.

Only the committees must do that, since all the rules cover only programming.

The Council tends to perceive itself as restraining, not a promoting device; the people with the power are not doing the work. The Council makes the rules and dispenses the money. It costs them nothing regardless of their decision. They have no stake in promoting movies or concerts.

They do have a stake in proving that they are the bosses. To do this requires acknowledgement and

notice. They work more for show than effect, since their product is only the fuel for others' activities.

People doing the work don't have the power. Committee chairmen know what's involved in getting the word out, in organizing a committee and they have a stake in promotion. If their programs don't get out, then they get no satisfaction.

This is the difference—the Directorate is in it to promote program-

ming; the Council is in it to wield power.

This is why impossible demands are often made by the Council on the chairmen, such as poster distribution; after the Council officers could not solve the problem they threw it back to the Directorate to do it the way it had been done already.

Tomorrow: an ideal organizational structure for a student union.

Listen up

'Senate is just wasted time'

Editor:

I wholeheartedly disagree with many of the points brought out in the letter from a student senator on Oct. 22.

It was because of the Senate's inefficiency and ineffectiveness that I resigned from that body at the last regular meeting.

There have been very few meetings this year or last where anything constructive was accomplished. I will grant that a few minor, yet worthwhile things have been accomplished by our "illustrious student senate."

The purpose of this organization is to serve the needs of the student body, not to waste hours in senseless discussions or in the censoring of people whose mistakes have already been effectively pointed out to them.

Censoring by many self-righteous individuals who call themselves senators is an absurd failure to accomplish anything at all. Has censoring in itself ever contributed one iota towards progress? I doubt it.

In meeting after meeting I have seen senators engaging in futile exploitations of themselves and their constituents. These actions by this senate constitute a nauseating type of political passivity which I no longer wish to participate in.

Robin Coppedge

Joke returned

Editor:

In reply to Katherine Beadling's letter concerning women in the Corps:

The biggest Aggie joke in years is the women in the Corps. The Corps has always been respected and taken seriously, and has been the pride of Aggieland. Since women joined the Corps, red-butts is an unheard of word, and an even more unheard of trait. The situation of women in the Corps, "must be treated with extreme care" (HA!) according to the military science department.

If the girls in the Corps expect respect and admiration from the student body and the male Corps members they had better take a look at why the male members are respected and admired. When they were fish they didn't smile and giggle when they whipped out or humped it. They spoke and whipped out to all upperclassmen, not just white-belts. They weren't able to think, feel, or want.

I've heard very few male fish say that they "thought Mr. So-and-So was really a nice guy!"

When the women in the Corps can do something to earn respect like the rest of the people who have

completed a "true fish year in the Corps" they will be accepted and respected.

Many women in the Corps seem to treat it as a joke and in turn they can expect to be treated as jokes also.

As for women in the Aggie Band, it is obvious that Beadling hasn't been around Aggieland long enough to feel pride when watching the band. She is also probably looking forward to cheerleaders and pep-rallies at A&M.

Katherine Beadling should have stayed in high school or gone to T.U. and taken R.O.T.C.

Teri Chamberlain '76

Regarding Beadling's letter in the same paper, we can wait for the moment that women march on the field as members of the Aggie Band and hope the administrators have the decency to wait until we die before allowing it to happen.

Bill A. Schwab '75
Doug Hampton '77

The first was the heap of debris the steps. It seems that Aggies would support their team and also care for their school and appearance.

The second impression was difference in the lines now those of previous years. I wonder where all the fair weather Aggies came from.

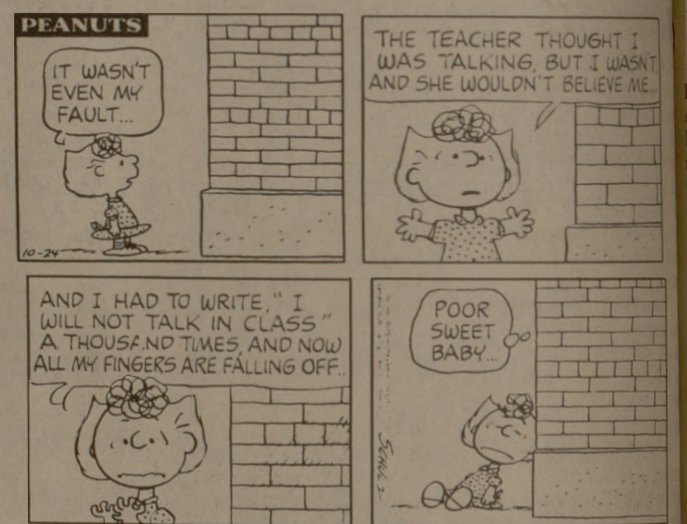
Even if the Aggies get out there I hope the enthusiasm will come and that these fair weather Aggies will become all weather Aggies.

Chester Amidon
Debbie Amidon

Sunshine Ags

Editor:

As I went to G. Rollie White to pick up my tickets two observations made an impression on me.

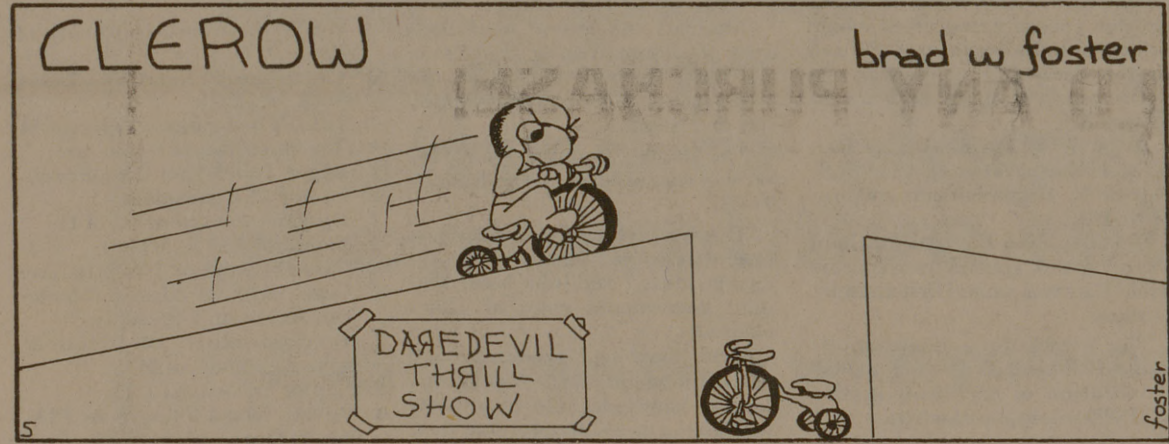


Right to speak?

Editor:

In reference to the Oct. 22 letter from Beall, Moss, Walters and Bard, we would question the right of four young women—never in the draft, never forced to leave the country, never forced to shoot at and be shot at by strangers they were told to hate—to say anything at all for or against draft dodgers.

How can these young women condone any "duty doing" by MacArthur while condemning the same action on the part of the Chinese? (It's okay if we burn the babies, huh?)



The Battalion

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