

Fandance —

Kissing, Smacking; It's Still Illegal

By JERRY BENNETT Battalion Co-Editor

There's been a change in the Italian capital that's just about as demoralizing as when Nero misunderstood the meaning of "hot music." If a guy prefers a loving smack to holding hands, he had better start reaching for his billfold. If the cops are around it's going to cost him \$1.60. And if the girl pecks back the fine is doubled. According to the latest issue of Parade magazine, this lovers' dilemma is due to Italy's public decency law, designed to stop public kissing. Now if the law only took kissing out of the public eye and turned it over to private enterprise, everything would be all right.

50 Per Cent

But the cops get a 50 per cent rake off for every clinch they can break up. So parking or taking a stroll to the ruins has become almost as risky as assassinating the premier. However, the police haven't put every place off limits. Lovers can kiss each other goodbye in train stations or airports. Italians take advantage of this without any intention of going anywhere. But an elephants' graveyard would be more romantic. The local citizens aren't the only ones affected, either. When it comes to kissing, the old social proverb, "When in Rome do as the Romans do," means just that. Parade reports that an American tourist got a ticket for smacking his date at a sports stadium.

The textbooks tell us that this country got its first cooing on how to throw the book at public offenders from good ole Rome. Now with due respect to Justinian and all the tega clad politicians, Roman law should have been fed to the lions if it is going to tamper with kissing. The European tourist trade has started full blast again and everyday someone is introducing a new rage which is supposed to have started in Italy. Luckily this nonsense has been centered around such things as food, womens fashions, haircuts and movies. So far no one in the states has been harmed by the Italian influence. Pizza Pie is becoming more popular and some girls even enjoy looking like their last barber had a nervous twitch. Silvana Mangano, who gave Americans a new respect for rice, has become an institution. Some people thought Ingrid Bergman took things a little too seriously, but now all that hub-bub has practically been forgotten.

Things In a Mess

However, who's to guarantee that an Italian law wouldn't become just as chic here as Roberto Rosellini? One thing's for sure. If the Italian translation of public indecency, as applied to kissing, became popular here, things would really be in a mess.

Right now a person is supposed to be taking his life in his hands if he lights a cigarette. Also, in some parts of the country, the song "40 Cups of Coffee" is scheduled for number one on the Science Fiction Hit Parade. If the good night kiss is ever outlawed, nerves would be cracking from coast to coast.

Football Coaches

Cops would be getting richer than football coaches, and necking would have to go underground. Automobile sales would drop, and practically the only people buying gasoline would be the armed services, doctors and grandmothers. Beaches would start losing patrons, and night club owners would have to look up and start raising chickens for a living.

Think what such a law would do to the song writers. Disregarding Stan Freberg or Deacon Andy Griffith, there is hardly a record made today which is not based on romance. Lines would have to be added naming the fine in such songs as "The Touch of Your Lips", and Broadway musicals like "Kiss Me Kate" would have to be staged against the background of an airport.

Completely Revised

The movies would have the hardest time of all. The production code would have to be completely revised with a time limit slapped on handshakes between the sexes. Titles like "Union Station" might get by, but what would be done about names like "Kiss of Death"?

To outlaw kissing in this country, except within the confines of one's own domain, would force most of the advertising firms to start medicine shows. To make it short, this country makes a lot of money because of smooching. Take it away and we can kiss our economy goodbye.

No matter what the hardshell moralists say, a little polite necking never caused a national moral crisis either here or in Italy. And the good night kiss is as common to a civilized society as Coca Cola. Kissing has never belonged in a crowded building or on a busy street corner. For one thing it's not as much fun that way, and it causes traffic wrecks.

Smacks and Hugs

But there's nothing wrong with a few smacks and hugs at the front door or in an automobile. This is where it belongs, not in a country's law books.

However, if an anti-smooch law should ever be passed in the USA, one thing is certain. People who try to catch their train at a station won't make it. They'll never get through the crowds.

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published by students four times a week, during the regular school year. During the summer terms, and examination and vacation periods, The Battalion is published twice a week. Days of publications are Tuesday through Friday for the regular school year, and Tuesday and Thursday during examination and vacation periods and the summer terms. Subscription rates \$9.00 per year or \$75 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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Council Listens To TV Fund Report

The Memorial Student Center Council heard a report last night from Charlie Parker of the television fund committee that the TV drive is well on its way to a big success. Parker said the fund "has come along quite nicely," and there is \$600 more in the fund this month than at the last meeting.

About 50 letters were sent out to Mother's clubs, and 12 replies have been received, he reported. The average donation so far has been \$80. The total funds collected in the drive now total \$1,206, and two TV sets have been given. Construction on the antennae should start within a few weeks, Parker said.

John Samuels, president of the council, gave a report on the Carnival for Don Friend, who was absent. Samuels said the variety show will not be held, but that the carnival will take its place and be held in DeWare Field House.

A report on the progress of the MSC picture brochure was given by Parker, who said many pictures have been gathered, but no progress other than that has been made. Samuels said the brochure probably will be ready by the end of the year, but lack of sufficient funds will prevent the printing until possibly next year.

A constitutional by-law was changed by the council. The law said the "chairman or co-chairmen" of the committees in the directorate will sit in as members of the directorate. The words "co-chairmen" were dropped.

A brief discussion on the required grade-point ratio of qualifying council members and chairmen was held. The council voted to drop the discussion.

The council voted to delete the word club or clubs wherever it appears in the constitution or by-laws.

The council gave the nominating committee permission to interview candidates during the week March 1-7.

Annual awards will be presented at the MSC banquet April 22, the council voted.

The council voted to hold the election for next year's officers and

committee chairmen at its meeting March 8.

Bob King, chairman of the music committee, requested the council allocate additional funds to sponsor the Intercollegiate Talent show March 19.

These added funds were needed in order to bring down talent from Oklahoma university and Oklahoma A&M, and to pay Doc Hull who will act as master of ceremonies at the program.

King reported there will be only one price charged this year. All seats will be 75 cents each.

The council authorized Oscar Garcia, chairman of the dance committee, to go ahead and order the recognition medals for committee members.

Jules Vieaux, chairman of the art committee, presented his proposal for reorganizing the directorate. The council took no action, since it is awaiting approval by the directorate, but called a special meeting for Feb. 23 to discuss the proposals.

A&S Council May Give Scholarship

The Arts and Sciences council last night discussed establishing a scholarship from the council's funds.

The A&S council now has about \$280 dollars in its treasury. The money comes from Aggies Follies profits.

The council decided to have the treasurer, Bill Coppage, investigate the possibilities of establishing the scholarship.

The council's committee to investigate the formation of a Phi Beta Kappa honor society here reported that a letter had been sent to the national headquarters of the fraternity, requesting information.

The council also discussed High School day and Open House day.

Bryant

(Continued from Page 1)

of the student senate; Monty Montgomery, head yell leader, and Louis Capt. and Norbert Ohlendorf, representatives of the football team.

When he stepped off the plane and saw the crowd behind the wire fence, Bryant said, "It scared me to death. I'm not used to this sort of thing." After shaking hands with Capt. and Ohlendorf, he said, "Oh, yes, I saw enough of you boys last year." The Aggies defeated Bryant's Wildcats, 7-6, last season.

"I've always had great respect for the Southwest conference," said Bryant, "not only because of the athletic setup, but I've always felt they've been knit closer together. . . . A guy would go out Saturday afternoon and kick your teeth out, but shake your hand after the game."

What's Cooking

- TUESDAY 7:15 p. m.—Collegiate 4-H Club meeting, room 2B, MSC. Will dismiss in time for the basketball game. AIEE meeting, room 207, Engineering building. Organizational meeting, all visitors welcome. 7:30 p. m.—Pre-Law society meeting, assembly room. YMCA. To elect officers for the Spring semester. Institute of Aeronautical Sciences meeting, room 208, engineering building. General business: Planning of IAS bar-b-q, inspection trip to Convar and Chance Vought. Possibly a film will be shown. Entomology club meeting, room 105, Biological Science building. Refreshments. Accounting society, MSC. Mr.

Horsley of the placement office will speak.

Fish and Game club meeting, 3rd, floor, Agriculture Engineering building. Business meeting.

Horticulture society meeting, room 2D, MSC. Election of officers and plans for presenting papers at High School Science meeting. Freshmen invited.

Permian Basin club meeting, MSC.

WEDNESDAY

5 p. m.—A&M Gymnastics club Meeting, Little Gym.

LFL ABNER



POGO



She Said, Eek!

Mechanical Man Reaches for Girl

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (AP)—The ideal man for this hectic age arrived in the nation's capital today. He's a mechanical man who can walk, talk, follow spoken directions, smoke, play the piano, tell the difference between red and green and count up to 10 on his fingers.

But what makes him perfect for these troublesome days is this: He has no brain, and hence hasn't a worry in the world.

The fellow's name is Elektro, and he's a monster. A 260 pounder, 7 feet tall, he's made of aluminum and painted bronze. With him is his faithful Sparko, a mechanical dog which can sit up, bark and wage his tail.

Elektro is a direct descendant of other mechanical men that J. M. Barrett began building in 1930 for Westinghouse out in Mansfield, Ohio.

The new monster, with his built-in, electronic habits, is here to help dedicate a new radio-television building, Broadcast House, and his first public appearance was at a Kiwanis luncheon.

It takes two trucks to tote Elektro, his control gadgetry and Sparko's doghouse, and they were delayed for fog over the mountains. When newsmen and photographers arrived, engineers were still busy adjusting their boy.

From time to time a test was run and Elektro would say: "Chlorophyll is green. It is the color of money."

"We made this schedule too tight," a publicity man said. "As soon as we finish here, we got to set him up all over again. He's on television tonight."

"Chlorophyll is green," Elektro said. "It is the color of money."

The photographers got a singer, Jeanne Dowling, on the stage.

"Move a little closer, honey," a photographer said, "so he can put his arms around you."

Miss Dowling moved closer. Elektro moved his arms. "Eek," cried Miss D.

Thirteen Seniors To Go to Pasadena

Thirteen senior business administration and engineering majors will go to the Diamond Alkali company in Pasadena Friday to study applied techniques of their fields.

After a day of studying plant operations, the group will have a barbecue dinner at the Lyon's Den, employe clubhouse.

The group will leave the college Thursday night and will return late Friday. Seniors making the trip are Harry N. Gilland, W. S. McLaughlin, Charlie Boyd, Melroy Brandt, W. E. Brown, John F. Huber.

James K. Yates, Jerry O. Robnett, Carroll W. Phillips, Robert J. George, James L. Nygaard, Donald K. Moore, Carlos Sepulveda.



BIG CHAMP—Dayton Crenwelle of Fredericksburg, the 16-year-old whose steer "Shorty" is grand champion steer of this year's Houston Fat Stock show is shown with the steer and Edgar Brown of Orange, who bought the animal for \$12,500. Dayton's brother, Joe, is a junior at A&M.

By Al Capp

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By Walt Kelly