

BATTALION EDITORIALS

Silver Taps

Twice in the past six days, Aggies have reverently stood in front of the Academic Building at Silver Taps, paying last tribute to a fellow Aggie passed on.

Silver Taps is Texas A&M's most sacred tradition, and any Aggie will tell you it is the most sacred of any school anywhere.

Because of this, certain rules of conduct have been set down for students to follow during the Silver Taps ceremonies. All of these rules are part of the great tradition.

First rule is that no one speaks either to, during, or returning from the ceremony. And unless it is totally necessary to break it, silence is maintained until the next morning.

Second rule concerns lights on campus. All lights should go off as the ceremony starts, and not come back on until daybreak unless it is also ultimately necessary. It has always been a common and acceptable practice for students having necessary studying to do, to hang blankets or other devices over their windows to keep light streaming out at a minimum.

Reverence is emphasized in these rules, which aren't really rules at all, but privileges. They provide a means through which students may honor the memory of a deceased comrade.

But twice in the past six days, these privileges have been violated. Perhaps the violations stemmed from ignorance; some more apparently originated from carelessness and apathy.

Silver Taps, above all other traditions of A&M, should not be disgraced by improper conduct. Each student should consider it his personal responsibility to maintain the atmosphere of reverence symbolizing the sacredness of the ceremony.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"... I'd like to have your name on this petition to th' S. W. C. Committee to make football games 55 minutes instead of 60 minutes long!"

Job Calls

The following firms will interview seniors at the Placement Office in the YMCA Building:

Wednesday
Humble Oil and Refining Co. and Esso Research and Engineering Co.—Chemical, mechanical, petroleum, civil and electrical engineering, geology and chemistry (B.S., M.S. and Ph.D.); electrical and industrial engineering (B.S. and M.S.); geological engineering (B.S., M.S. and five-year degree), and accounting, business administration and marketing (B.B.A. and M.B.A.).

Texas Instruments Inc.—Electrical and mechanical engineering and physics (B.S., M.S., Ph.D.).

Chemstrand Corp.—Chemical and mechanical engineering and chemistry (B.S., M.S., Ph.D.); industrial engineering (B.S., M.S.), and physics (M.S., Ph.D.).

U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office—Civil and mechanical engineering, chemistry, mathematics and physics (B.S., M.S.).

Wednesday—Friday
Monsanto Chemical Co.—Chemical engineering and chemistry (B.S., M.S., Ph.D.), and mechanical engineering (B.S., M.S.).

Union Carbide Chemicals Co.—chemical, electrical, industrial and mechanical engineering and chemistry (B.S., M.S.).
Summer Work
Humble Oil and Refining Co. and Esso Research and Engineering Co. will interview seniors Wednesday for summer jobs in chemical, electrical, geological, mechanical and petroleum engineering.

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On Campus with Max Shulman
(Author of "I Was a Teen-age Dwarf", "The Many Loves of Dottie Gulkis", etc.)

THE DATING SEASON

I have recently returned from a tour of 950,000 American colleges where I made a survey of undergraduate dating customs and sold mechanical dogs, and I have tabulated my findings and I am now prepared to tell you the simple secret of successful dating.

The simple secret is simply this: a date is successful when the man knows how to treat the girl.

And how does a girl like to be treated? If you want to know, read and remember these four cardinal rules of dating:

1. A girl likes to be treated with respect.
2. A girl likes a good listener.
3. A girl likes to be taken to nice places.
4. A girl likes a man to be well-informed.

—Sound Off—

(Editor's note: May's letter was dated Oct. 18, the night of Silver Taps for Ernest Rodgers Jr., '61, killed in an automobile accident Oct. 17 in Bryan.)

Editor,
The Battalion:

For two years now, I have attended the most solemn ceremony that the Aggies have—Silver Taps. This very serious moment is designed to honor one of the deceased of our student body and is the only time which we have as Aggies to pay our last respects to this person who is no longer with us.

The ceremony tonight was everything but that for some people. This is a memorial service and should be regarded as such. Instead, some of the Corps of Cadets simply find it is an interruption in their studies. Some cadets simply dropped what they were doing and same as they were—in blue jeans, tee shirts and even a few in shower robes. This is not quite the proper way in my mind for a

person to attend a memorial service for a deceased person.

Other people acted like it was a pain in the neck to attend the few moments we were over there in front of the Academic Building. They stood around and smoked cigarettes, talked, and acted like they would be glad when it was over so they could return to the activity that was interrupted.

Both going and coming, some few members of the Corps horsed around and chased each other as if they were out to have a good time or going to a picnic. There was no seriousness on the part of a good many of the people present at the solemn occasion.

When they arrived, they stood around with their hands in their pockets and slouched like they were about to go to sleep on their feet. When the first volley was fired by the Ross Volunteers, the only change some made in their position was to shift to their other foot.

After the last time through

a taps, they immediately reached for a cigarette if the one they were holding through the firing and playing of taps had gone out.

Immediately after the ceremony was over, the academic area of the campus lit up like a Christmas tree. The top floor of the Academic Building gave enough light to read a paper on the ground outside. Other buildings were lit up immediately after the ceremony was over, some to the point that the group had not started to disperse before the lights were on.

It appears to me that the people responsible for these lights could at least have enough respect for the person honored to leave the lights off for 10 or 15 minutes. Is time so valuable that these few seconds cannot be given over to the memory of someone who is no longer to walk across our campus? To someone that had very close friends among our student body? The whole thing smells strongly disrespectful.

Upon return to the dormitory area, lights were on all over the place. Some windows and blinds were open, the lights on, and no one in the room. It would have taken the OD more than an hour to collect the names of all those who were responsible. This violation of the Articles of the Cadet Corps could result in ten demerits up to Cadet Court. Still, is this solving the problem when we call the responsible parties up for discipline? Everyone should feel the actual purpose of Silver Taps and be very glad to comply to the letter, not from the threat of punishment.

I hope that I never have to attend another Silver Taps, but if I do, I hope that some people at least try to realize what the purpose of the gathering is and try to carry out to the best of their ability their part in paying

respect to the person who is no longer with us. Just try to keep this one thing in mind: What would you want the Corps of Cadets and the civilian students to do if you were the one to be memorialized by Silver Taps?
Leonard May, '63
P.O. Box 4984

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THE BUREAU OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

A girl likes to be taken to nice places

2. A girl likes a good listener.

Do not monopolize the conversation. Let her talk while you listen attentively. Make sure, however, that she is not herself a good listener. I recollect a date I had once with a coed named Greensleeves Sigafoos, a lovely girl, but unfortunately a listener, not a talker. I too was a listener so we just sat all night long, each with his hand cupped over his ear, straining to catch a word, not talking hour after hour until finally a policeman came by and arrested us both for vagrancy. I did a year and a day. She got by with a suspended sentence because she was the sole support of her aged housemother.

3. A girl likes to be taken to nice places.

By "nice" places I do not mean expensive places. A girl does not demand luxury. All she asks is a place that is pleasant and gracious. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, for example. Or Mount Rushmore. Or the Taj Mahal. Or the Bureau of Weights and Measures. Find places like these to take your girl. In no circumstances must you take her to an oil-cracking plant.

4. A girl likes a man to be well-informed.

Come prepared with a few interesting facts that you can drop casually into the conversation. Like this: "Did you know, Snookiepuss, that when cattle, sheep, camels, goats, antelopes, and other members of the cud-chewing family get up, they always get up hind legs first?" Or this: "Are you aware, Hotlips, that corn grows faster at night?" Or this: "By the way, Loverhead, Oslo did not become the capital of Norway till July 11, 1924."

If you can slip enough of these nuggets into the conversation before dinner, your date will grow too torpid to eat. Some men save up to a half million dollars a year this way.

To the list of things girls like, add the king-size, unfiltered Philip Morris Commander. Girls, men—in fact everybody with a taste bud in his head—likes mild, natural Commander, co-sponsors with Marlboro of this column.

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LOUPOT'S

THE BATTALION

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Walt Disney's "NIKKI"
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"From Here To Eternity"
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PALACE
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LAST DAY
"Armored Command"
Starts Tomorrow
Paul Newman
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CIRCLE
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LAST NIGHT
Tonight 6:30
"Two Ride Together" & "Silver Chalice"

PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz

DEAR GREAT PUMPKIN, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR COMING ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT WITH YOUR BAG FULL OF PRESENTS. I HAVE TRIED TO BE A GOOD BOY ALL YEAR.
HAVE YOU NOTICED?
AND THEN, SALLY, ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT, THE GREAT PUMPKIN APPEARS!
HE FLIES THROUGH THE AIR, AND BRINGS TOYS TO ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD!
HA!
I DON'T THINK SHE BELIEVED ME...