

BATTALION EDITORIALS

The Idealist On Campus: Listeners Hard To Find

Every college campus has at least one campus idealist who, although he may be inspiring in his determination, is a continual thorn in the side of his friends, fellow students and professors.

Having just awakened from his state of apathy and joined the ranks of the pseudo-intellectuals, he wonders how the world ever got in such a mess and why someone isn't doing something about it. On making the discovery that people are starving in Southeast Asia, the Russians are pouring arms into Cuba, the United States is losing friends in Latin America and nuclear destruction is threatening to end civilization, he is mystified that responsible persons can't see the evident answers to these clear-cut problems.

He decides action must be taken. With great enthusiasm he launches himself into pickets, petitions and verbal harassment of those around him. All opposing views are prejudice-bound and the persons expressing them are narrow-minded. In fact, they are so narrow-minded that they can't see his side of things.

He would take part in campus government but the illiterates there aren't interested in the enlightening reforms which must immediately be made. Besides, these problems are really too trivial for him to waste his attention on.

His campus newspaper isn't worth reading because it only covers things that happen around the campus and doesn't contain the news items that the New York Times does.

He is well aware of his right to protest and is ready to let everyone know about it. He just can't understand why his demonstrations fail and his listeners become irritated.

He is oblivious to the fact that he might gain more by producing instead of protesting, by working within the black and white world we live in instead of the rose-colored one he wishes to create. If he should wake up to the reality that he supposes himself to represent, he may accomplish something yet.

Challenge This Weekend

Over 1,000 young, eager high schoolers will swarm over the campus this weekend during activities of another High School Career Day. Despite the combined efforts of many persons to form an impressive program, these future collegians are going to be most impressed or discouraged by the students themselves, not by the administration or faculty.

Since most of the visitors will be staying in student dormitories, their impressions of student life are going to stay with them much longer. This is not only an opportunity, but a challenge for students to show these visitors what life and learning at A&M are really like. We owe this much not only to the visitors, but to ourselves.

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THE BATTALION

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ALAN PAYNE Editor
Ronnie Bookman Managing Editor
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J. M. Tijerina Photographer

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle BY BOOKMAN



"... But sir, you said that anyone could pass your course without studying, by just paying attention in class, so I thought I'd cut class today so you'd know that I was studying!"

Editor, The Battalion:

In your editorial column Tuesday, you stated that opposition to the continuation of the Junior ROTC program is justified. I disagree. As a matter of fact, I'm all for the proposed expansion of the program.

Your reasons for supporting the elimination of the present junior program did not really seem valid to me. I quote: "... the 50-year-old program is not justified because it does not offer direct commissions or recruit young men directly into the service... it is a vital question as to whether or not the program attracts enough young men into the service to make its training costs worthwhile... programs offered by local Reserve and National Guard units could adequately take up any slack resulting from the abolishment of the high school program... there is no doubt that the savings to be had by dropping the present high school program could find many alternate uses."

Well, first of all, had you bothered to check, you would have found that the mission of junior ROTC is "to lay the foundation of intelligent citizenship within the student and give him such basic military training as will be of benefit and value to him and the military service, if he becomes a member thereof."

The logic in the statement concerning Junior ROTC's failure to offer direct commissioning or recruiting is analogous to that of a statement such as automobiles are not justified because they don't fly. Why condemn something when it doesn't do what it

was never intended to?

Next, I fail to see the "vitality" of the question of whether or not the program attracts enough young men into the service. I always figured that it was up to our annoyingly efficient Selective Service Bureau to "attract" enough young men into the service, not Junior ROTC.

Further, the comment that the Reserve and National Guard programs could fill in the void created by the elimination of Junior ROTC suggested to me that the author of the editorial was somewhat confused about the requisites of the various programs in question. If I am correct, the minimum age for enlisting in either the Reserve or National Guard program is 17, with parental consent. Also, those enlisted in these programs are full-fledged members of the U. S. Armed Services, fulfilling their military service obligations.

Minimum age for enrollees of Junior ROTC is 14. Membership in this program does not give the cadet any credit whatever toward his military service obligation, although completion of the junior program is considered equivalent to the first year of basic Senior ROTC and credit for this is given.

Junior ROTC is, or rather was, designed to prepare high school boys for service in the Armed Forces, not substitute for it. Your equation of Junior ROTC and the

Politics In TMA Rejection

With the stink of shady politics hanging over the House chamber in Austin Wednesday, the Texas Maritime Academy was pushed one step closer toward oblivion.

Although TMA boss Capt. Bennett M. Dodson and his cadets are keeping a stiff upper lip, they are taking a beating in the legislature.

Reasons advanced for the elimination of the Academy are numerous, but most of them are

valid, and have probably had more of an effect than the principals would admit. Let's look closer:

1. A political hatchet job on Sen. A. R. Schwartz of Galveston. He irked senators and House members alike when he revealed the vote on the secret confirmation discussion session concerning W. St. John Garwood as a University of Texas regent. The TMA was to be based in Galveston beginning next year.

Capt. Dodson, discounts this

reason, but a member of the House's appropriations committee has admitted that it was considered.

2. A move on the part of House politicians to get a tax increase this session. Rep. Bill W. Heatley of Paducah, chairman of the appropriations committee, said the House yesterday if members were unhappy with the bill they could raise some more cash.

3. A blow against Rep. De Brown and Rep. Ed Harris of Galveston who are known not to be on House Speaker Byron T. Nell's "team."

4. A move by a land-lubber short-sighted committee that doesn't realize the value of a maritime academy for Texas. A majority of the committee is from areas which do not see the importance of the maritime industry as related to other industries.

Our lawmakers are overlooking the only question that should be considered: is this a worthy program?

If the answer is yes then there should only be one course of action. If the answer is no there is likewise one choice. This decision was supposedly reached two years ago.

Now, after Capt. Dodson has made commitments to his students, the federal government and the people of the state, our lawmakers have changed their minds.

Bulletin Board

Wives Club

Animal Husbandry club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the South Solarium of the YMCA Building. Mrs. Helen Snyder will speak.

Hometown Clubs

Milby club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the main lobby of the MSC. Pictures will be taken. Yankee club will meet at 7:30

p.m. in the Gay Room of the YMCA Building.

Houston-Reagan-Waltrip club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 226 of the Academic Building.

St. Thomas club will meet at 7:15 p.m. in the lounge of Dorm 5.

Big Thicket club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 2-C of the MSC. Abilene club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 208 of the Academic Building.

San Angelo-West Texas club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 2-A of the MSC.

El Paso club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 102 of the Academic Building.

Brazoria County club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 108 of the Academic Building.

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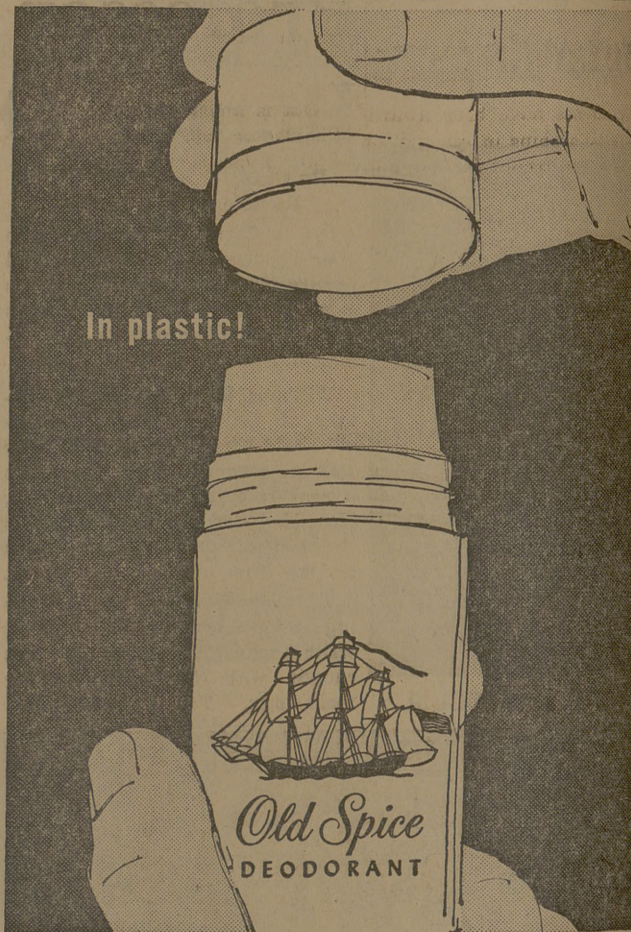
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PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz

3-14

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