

BATTALION EDITORIALS

The Senate Election: Too Little Too Late

A mandate for change or a spark of opposition? The Student Senate is very likely to get both tomorrow as students once again indelibly stamp their approval or denunciation upon coeducation and voluntary ROTC training. Unfortunately neither voice is likely to be heard.

Circumstance will decide the outcome of the Board of Directors meeting this weekend—not student elections. A dissatisfied student body, faculty and administration have long recognized the need for a change if the University is to participate in the enrollment market successfully. That change is full and unrestricted coeducation and a voluntary Corps of Cadets.

Thursday's election is very likely to be an encore of the one held two years previous. The Civilians will vote yes to the changes and the Corps will vote no. Bitter feelings will be the only tangible result.

The obvious question now arises—why not leave things the way they are? We are doing fine as things are. Why rock the boat, these proponents claim.

Undergraduate enrollment is far below the normal increases shown in other state colleges. The Corps is dissatisfied because those who really don't want to be in it must be pampered and carried along as deadwood. And most of all, the future of the University is in doubt as internal conflicts prevent a stable educational program.

Are we to turn back this weekend and forsake all the progress made during the past 10 years? The board must decide to move, and full coeducation and non-compulsory ROTC is the only forward pathway open.

'Spoon River' Turnout Reveals Student Attitude

A graphic example of one of the main roadblocks in A&M's path to academic greatness was provided here Monday night. The smallest audience of the Town Hall year turned out for the touring stage production of "Spoon River."

The few who chose to attend were rewarded with a genuine night at the theater. The four actors in the production held their audience rapt for the full two and one-half hours of the show's running time. They performed amazingly well in emotionally exhausting roles.

Reminiscences from the lives of some 75 persons in the mythical town of Spoon River were presented. This forced each performer to change character well over a dozen times during the evening. The professional troupe handled the assignment with the same class and brilliance that their reputations have been founded upon.

"Spoon River" was a confrontation with life itself. The emotions presented ranged from the intense to the hilarious. At various times the drama was shattering, spellbinding, and amusing. The brief interludes of folk music added to the overall effect of the presentation.

The turnout for this dramatic highlight was embarrassingly meager. There were so many vacant seats on the floor that at intermission an announcement was made permitting occupancy of them by those sitting in general admission areas.

Topflight universities consist not only of buildings, books, and respected faculties. They are composed of an attitude. It is an attitude which seeks for knowledge of life, and seeks for it in all the many places where it is to be found.

There are some who label A&M a "cultural wasteland." If this charge is true the blame can not be entirely laid upon administration policy or on the small-time environment which exists here. It is primarily the fault of those who could have filled those empty seats Monday night but didn't.

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THE BATTALION

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CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"Squirt, I think by now we all realize that you had a date last weekend so how 'bout cleanin' up your helmet!"

— Sound Off —

Editor, The Battalion: Does our university's search for academic excellence mean that we must sever ourselves from our past? Should academic excellence mean that we should compete with tu or Harvard in terms of student enrollment—offering students another "cookie-pusher u." in an effort to bribe students away from other academically excellent schools in Texas? Or can academic excellence walk hand in hand with the "Spirit of Aggieland" which has made A&M famous and its graduates men?

A little over a year ago I wondered if the Corps, the non-regs and the co-eds could share this campus together. Now, after renewed administrative attacks on "hazing?" and the declining morale within the Corps, the answer is obvious—"old army" and "those groty non-regs don't mix." To a non-reg, A&M offers little that can not be found in other schools in the state of Texas. To a cadet there is no other school in the state that even approaches the standards of A&M. Why take away so much from the cadets to give so little to the non-regs?

If you believe that Texas A&M should continue to give Texas the men of which she is most proud, that we should not turn on those

Aggies-exes who have constantly led the state in alumni contributions and have turned so many young men to A&M, and that the Spirit of Aggieland shall not die I urge you to support HB 493, establishing an all-male, military Texas A&M.

John E. Ebej, '67

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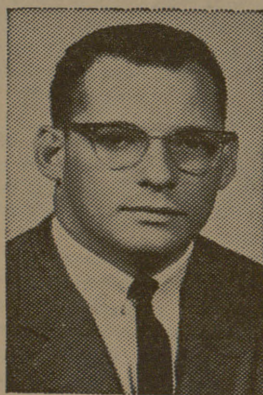
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Novice Conclusion Jumper's Guide

By HAL BOYL NEW YORK (AP) — Jumping to conclusions:

Many people today complain funerals are barbaric relics of the past, but most of them want just such a funeral for themselves. After all, it is the final sure way to catch the attention of others—and be the center of interest.

Left-handed women are usual-

ly more vain than right-handed women—but the most vain of all is a red-haired, left-handed woman with one blue eye and one hazel eye. Her vanity doesn't make much sense, but then vanity rarely does.

A bank robber or a barber has to prove his ability in his craft because we all feel competent to judge his skill. But if a man tells us he is a surgeon or a scientist he gets by on credit. We can't be sure whether he's brilliant or a dot.

Half the patients in hospitals would recuperate just as fast—and at less expense—if they were put into a good hotel with first-class room service.

One thing you notice about a man who works his way up from clerk to president of his firm: When he retires, he is rarely succeeded by another ex-clerk.

In the old days when a boy had an apple he ate most of it but gave the core to his buddy to finish. Kids don't do that much anymore. Is it because they are more sanitary - or more selfish?

Any waiter will tell you that fat ladies argue less about the food than skinny ladies, and cigar smokers tip better than cigarette smokers.

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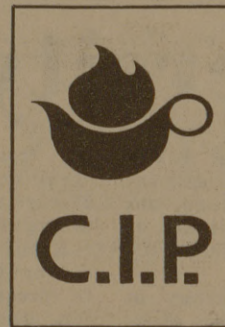
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By Charles M. Schulz



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