

Bonfire Show Rejection Could Injure A&M Image

Texas A&M took a step it might long regret when it canceled the Nov. 24 performance of Johnny Cash last week because the country and western singer is "an accused felon."

Fearful that the university's image could suffer serious consequences, A&M officials severed the contract last Saturday — six days after Memorial Student Center Council members had refused to second a motion that the Cash performance be squelched.

It is a flower in the administration's lapel that they hold the image of this university in such high esteem and are willing to risk even legal action to protect it.

Certainly, Texas A&M did not intend to prejudice nor to deprive a citizen of his inalienable rights, but the move could easily be interpreted as such a violation.

The question of jurisprudence should not enter the debate, officials argue, but how can it be omitted?

Officials say, quite simply, they do not desire an accused felon to be publicized as a campus attraction. They say Cash's appearance on campus would suggest the university approves of the act for which the singer was charged Oct. 4 in El Paso.

However, to reject or ostracize a person because he has been charged with a criminal act is in fact, a violation of the "innocent until proven guilty" clause.

Johnny Cash, both theoretically and according to law, has committed no wrong until proven in court.

Therefore, again according to law, Texas A&M has repudiated a contract between an innocent U. S. citizen and the university.

The question of whether or not the school was guilty of prejudice is indeed linked to the question posed by the administration: "Should an accused felon be allowed to appear at a university-sponsored function such as Town Hall?"

Anytime a right or privilege — such as the one granted Cash by the A&M Town Hall contract — is repudiated, it is in effect a prejudgment that a wrongful act has been committed.

A&M stands to lose face in other areas by the action.

Town Hall, undergoing financial hardships for several years, could suffer. The Johnny Cash appearance almost guaranteed a packed house and a huge payroll for the declining Town Hall fund. While chairman Mike Nabors and other committeemen are actively seeking a popular replacement for Bonfire night, it is likely that net receipts will be reduced.

Powers of student organizations also are questioned again. The MSC Council rejected a plea to cancel the concert at its Nov. 8 meeting after a member proposed the idea. So strong was the student-faculty organization's feeling that the motion did not receive a second.

However, six days later the decision came down that the performance had been squelched.

In an issue dealing specifically with student affairs, the council's opinion was overruled and action taken by higher authorities.

If student groups are to administrate the affairs of the students, they should have some authority to insure their decisions.

These questions merit extensive consideration by A&M officials who by their positions can not and will not close their eyes to criticism.

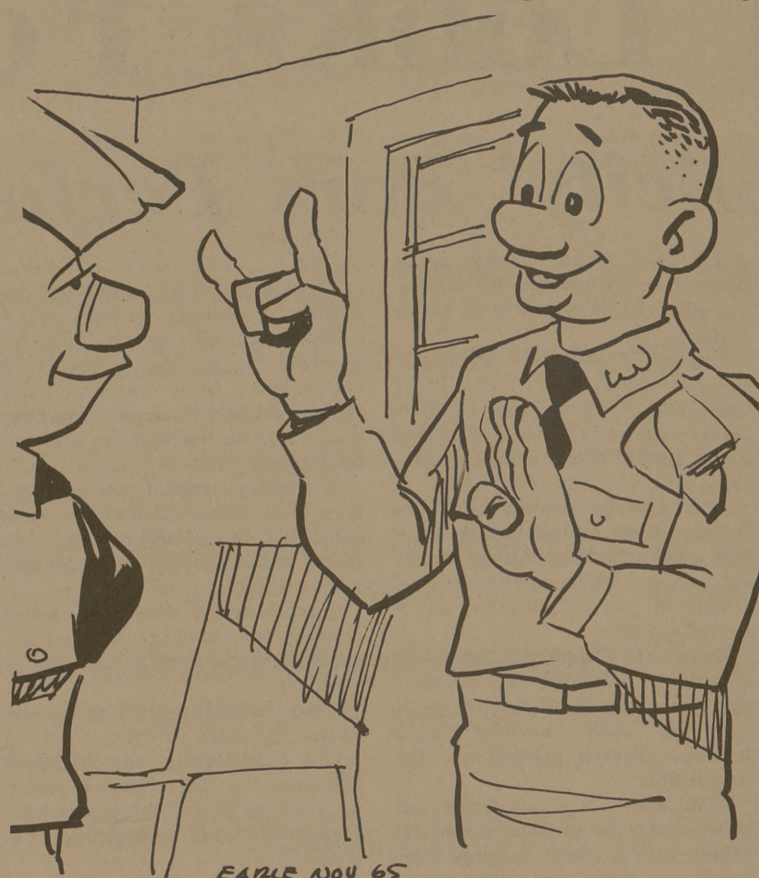
The image of this great university, the entertainment afforded students in an otherwise cultural and social vacuum, and student control of student activities are all of major concern to the administration, faculty, staff and student body.

Actions that endanger these areas should be very carefully considered.

A great university demands this much.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



EARLE NOV 65
"Three weeks ago this meant 'we lost two' at TU, but now they're running out of fingers!"

Gerald Garcia

Date That Nearly Wasn't

Did you hear about the Texas A&M freshman who almost didn't have a date to the TCU Corps Trip because he was not able to call Denton?

The week prior to Corps Trip the fish was very excited because:

It was going to be his first Corps Trip.

Upperclassmen had described past jaunts to North Texas.

And he had a Tessie lined up.

On Wednesday, before the trip, the A&M first year student received a letter—which had taken 18 hours to be delivered—from his Texas Woman's University date. She made one request.

The Tessie wanted him to call Thursday night to determine where they were to meet before the Maroon and White A-Go-Go in Tesseland. The fish should have never tried to follow this order.

The fish got a pass from the CO to skip CQ on Thursday night to go to the Memorial Student Center to make the call.

He received his first setback at the MSC phone booths. Well, exactly, he never did see the booths because he wasn't the one planning on phoning.

The freshman decided to try the YMCA phones. Here he was luckier. But, by the time he got an operator his dialing finger was worn out.

Then his troubles really started. The operator was handling so many calls that the fish had to wait about five minutes before she got the party and number he was calling.

Now it was a hopeless case.

The operator dialed the number and the fish heard a familiar expression:

"I am sorry sir but all the circuit to Denton are closed. Would you like to replace your call or should I keep trying," the operator said.

"Please keep trying," the fish requested.

The next day the fish's buddies picked him up at the YMCA where he was still waiting for the circuit to clear. The fish did find the girl at the dance.

She wanted an explanation and claimed things like that were ruining the relationship between the schools.

Maybe when the phone system improves, the A&M-TWU relationship will improve.

At the Movies

with Lani Presswood

"Agent 8½" has only one redeeming virtue, and you spell it S-y-l-v-i-a K-o-s-c-i-n-a.

One suspects that this movie was produced to satirize the current spy craze in entertainment—not exactly an original idea but still a potentially very funny one.

Unfortunately though, something happened between the drawing boards and the projector. At least I hope the drawing boards envisioned something better than what eventually came out, because the final product is sure nothing to write home about.

It's a mildly engaging picture all right, but if it weren't for Miss Koscina's presence the whole thing would fall about as flat as a Czechoslovakian flapjack.

Why Czechoslovakian? Because the city of Prague serves as a setting for the show's action, what there is of it.

The plot slowly revolves around Dick Bogarde, who completely miscast as Nicholas Whistler, a spy who doesn't know he's a spy. Bogarde is more pathetic than comic and with the skimpy script he's faced with, it's no wonder.

It seems that Nicholas, a writer living rather happily off his unemployment check, is asked by a glass manufacturer to journey from his home base of England to bring back a secret message from Prague.

Now you know and I know that it's not really industrial intrigue but international espionage that he's jumping into. But naturally Nicholas doesn't learn this until the show is two-thirds over.

In the course of his mission Nicholas stumbles his way through several escapades with the Czech state police, some fairly amusing and some not.

The only bright spot in his adventure, and it is a bright one, is meeting a luscious comrade whose movie name I won't even attempt to reproduce but whose real name you've already guessed—Sylvia Koscina. Put her name down as one of the more promising young actresses around.

Actually, the jury's still out on her acting ability but in radiance and plain old good looks she's already arrived, and in fine style.

To the picture's credit, there were also a couple of imaginative wrinkles in the action to go along with Sylvia. The one which comes quickest to mind is a scene featuring a bevy of waiters in tails advancing in unison on the British Embassy.

And more than likely there is even a dab of drama present, in a scene between Sylvia and Nicholas played in a loft above a cafe. I can't say for sure because something misfired in the

projection room at the Campus Theater just as Nick was entering the lift.

Ten minutes later the film was running again but the couple was saying tender farewells by then, thus leaving the loft scene to the audience's imagination.

The rest of the movie wasn't left to the imagination though, and the result is a shallow, witless superficiality which succeeds only in satirizing spy movie satires.

Glenn Dromgoole:

Rubber Stamp Congress?

LOS ANGELES — House minority leader Gerald Ford (R-Mich.) told students here last week that the recently-adjourned 89th Congress was "long on quantity, short on quality."

The 17-year veteran of the House of Representatives and chief spokesman for House Republicans called the legislative body "a rubber stamp Congress, hip pocket Congress."

Being quizzed by student members of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic society, at the group's national convention, Ford claimed Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) also was displeased with some Congressional action.

"It is a very bad record for Congress when the majority leader says we passed bills too hastily, with too many loopholes and oversights," Ford said.

"Too frequently Congress did exactly what the executive branch of the government demanded," Ford said. "This is contrary to our principle of separation of powers."

He cited the anti-poverty bill as an example of hasty legislation.

"It was lacking in actually solving the problem," he claimed, and had too much administrative involvement and expense."

Looking ahead to upcoming gubernatorial and congressional elections next year, Ford said the Republican Party's presidential nomination hinged on the 1966 campaigns.

"The Republican Party of 1966 has a major responsibility to right the imbalance that exists 2-1 in the Senate, 2-1 in the House, 2-1 in the number of governors."

"We have to make a good showing in 1966 or we will have a hard time finding a good candidate in 1968."

Ford said newly-elected New York mayor John Lindsay "has the most difficult political job in the United States. If he does a good job, he won't have to worry about his political future." Ford pointed out three significant meanings of Lindsay's mayoral victory over Abe Beame, the Democratic nominee:

1. Republican candidates with ideas can win even in areas with large Democratic majorities. New York voters register Democrat by a 7-2 margin.

2. Voters will oust political machines if candidates appear corrupt or ineffective.

3. President Johnson and Hubert Humphrey backed Beame in his bid for the position. Ford said this could mean the political pendulum has begun a reverse swing.

The Republican leader said the GOP will follow a "conservative, but moderate progressive" domestic program and a "broad global viewpoint" in international affairs.

Ford said fiscal responsibility and less centralization of powers are the basic aims of Republicans and will be top campaign issues in 1966. Republican support in all states will be sought

next year, the GOP Congress man said.

"The Republicans will accept members from any state if they subscribe to basic philosophies of the Republican party. We are going to get a Republican Party in every state and we are going to have people that believe in our principles," Ford asserted.

Ford also told student writers the party would not repudiate John Birch Society members only for affiliation with that organization.

"If we are called on to repudiate the John Birch Society, the Democrats should be called on to repudiate the radical left," he said.

Folk Song Fest Set Wednesday

A Folk Song Fest by the Joint Avery Lomax Folklore Society is set for 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Fallout Theater Workshop at Texas A&M.

Bill Koock, president of the society, said the presentation will feature the Wayfarers, Selma Clack, George Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Williams, Dr. and Mrs. Grant Thomas, Jon Sharon, Jim Newett and Carl "Doc" Sprague.

Clarence "Bud" Franks, vice-president of the Folklore Society, will emcee the program.

Admission is 50 cents. Koock said proceeds will be used to help purchase J. Frank Dobie's Paisano Ranch near Austin as a retreat for writers.

By Charles M. Schulz

PEANUTS



Ray Price Charged In Drug Violation

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Authorities filed complaints Monday charging Western singer Ray Price and four members of his band with illegal possession of 1,000 dangerous pills.

Police Lt. N. C. Baumann said officers seized the tablets in the musicians' bus and motel while they were here to fill an engagement Friday.

James Day, one of the band members, posted \$1,500 bond in the case earlier. Baumann said Day had been convicted on such a charge previously and the law makes a second offense a felony.

Misdemeanor charges are on file against Price and the others — Pete Burke, Robert Fritz, Francis Coleman and Charles Harris. Each went free under \$500 bond. All are from Nashville, Tenn.

Mortimer's Notes

FOR THE RECORD: The South Viet Nam flick scheduled Wednesday night should be an informative piece for persons planning to take an active interest in SCONA this year

Others will find the film interesting, too

It's the first of four World Around US series presentations and the only one this semester

Maximum security preparations have been made for Bonfire week to prohibit incidents similar to one that occurred two years ago when some TU students burned BEVO on Kyle Field grass

And remember how upset the TU folks were because the ground was muddy?

With all the grass gone, what could they expect?

Town Hall replacement for Johnny Cash is being sought, but nobody will say who

Rumor is, however, that the committee is after a country and western star or group

The Aggie Players drew about 1,400 spectators to "Death of a Salesman" during its six-night stand last week

The group is now working up a Christmas play to be staged at area churches in December

It will open Dec. 5 at Allen Academy

You country and western fans don't need to look so forlorn

Word is out that Sigma Delta Chi is planning another big Louisiana Hayride this spring

Last year's performance practically jammed G. Rollie White Coliseum as George Jones and Jerry Lee Lewis headlined the attraction

Only nine more days 'till Turkey Day See Ya 'Round—MORTIMER.

THE BATTALION

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