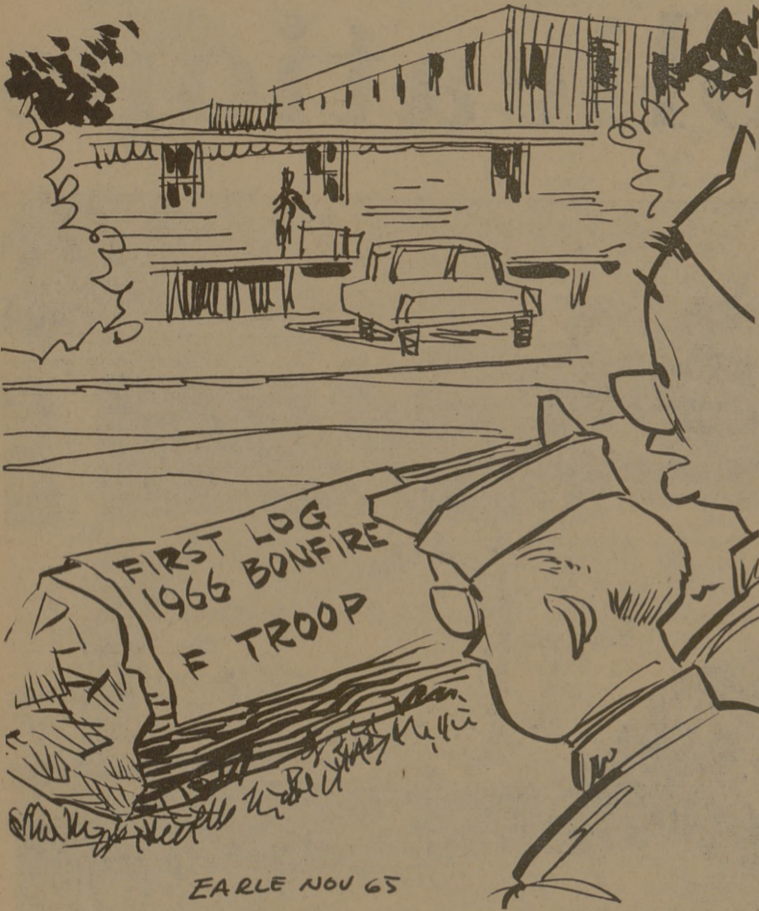


Tommy DeFrank

Bonfire: Tradition Or Tedium?

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



EARLE NOV 65

"Some guys never get enough."

Monkeyshines

Everyone has seen the three little monkeys. They sit on their hind legs and cover their eyes, ears or mouth with their hands. Their names are "See No Evil", "Hear No Evil" and "Speak No Evil."

They are presently unemployed. It is their own fault. They could be professional jurymen.

In the recent trial concerning the registration of the Communist party in the United States, qualifications for the jury were agreed upon that matched the attributes of the monkeys.

Time Magazine listed a juror's qualifications as follows:

... swear that they 1) did not regard the Communist Party as "subversive" or a threat to themselves or their families; 2) felt no hostility toward the party; 3) had "not read, seen or heard anything derogatory about the party," and 4) would not doubt the truthfulness of any officer or the party itself.

"The jurors also swore that neither they nor their families had ever worked for the U. S. Government or belonged to the John Birch Society, Ku Klux Klan, American Legion, American Nazi Party, Young Americans for Freedom, Americans for Constitutional Action, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Daughters of the American Revolution, Conservative Society of America, Liberty Lobby, Americans for National Security, Christian Anti-Communist Crusade, Christian Crusade, American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, Labor Youth League, Civil Rights Congress, Communist Party, Jefferson School of Social Science, New York School of Marxist Studies, Young Communist League, American Peace Crusade, National Council of American-Soviet Peace Crusade, Nation of Islam, International Workers Order, Washington Bookshop Association, Fair Play for Cuba Committee, or the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

"None of the jurors had ever read books by Elizabeth Bentley, Whittaker Chambers, Louis Budenz, J. B. Matthews, Herbert Philbrick, William F. Buckley Jr., Gerald L. Smith, L. K. Smith, Westbrook Pegler, Dan Smoot, Robert Welch, Dr. Fred Schwarz or Dr. George Benson, or listened to radio programs conducted by Fulton Lewis Jr., John T. Flynn, Life Line, Facts Forum or the 20th Century Reformation Hour."

Despite these qualifications, or lack of them, the jury was filled in just two hours.

See No Evil, Hear No Evil and Speak No Evil. When you set a monkey to do a man's job, you get a monkey's results, monkey-shines.

It says somewhere that the Bonfire is one of the most hallowed of all Aggie traditions. The Bonfire is supposed to symbolize the love Aggies have for their school, and also their burning desire to beat the hell out of the University in Austin.

But about all it symbolized this year for many Aggies was their burning desire to enjoy a three-day weekend.

The traditional off-Monday before Thanksgiving, which the university allows each year to permit students to devote more time to the Bonfire, merely meant an extra day of sleep for more Aggies than we would like to think.

This let-the-freshmen-work-on-the-thing attitude is nothing new, however; it happens every year. But what was more alarming this year was the number of "leaders" who felt it below their station to work on the Bonfire.

True, many Aggies worked round-the-clock to insure a successful Bonfire.

And they ranged from freshmen to graduate students. And one of the hardest working units was F Troop, the civilian outfit that stacked logs nearly 24 hours straight and were still at the cutting area when many Corps units had gone home.

But while many Aggies who scream the loudest about their spirit were enjoying their extended weekend passes, most students were slaving on the Bonfire.

Notable exceptions were the members of Corps Staff. Now, Corps Staff is supposed to provide leadership for the Corps. So where was Corps Staff while other Aggies worked? With the girl back home. With the girl in Denton. Playing football. In the rack.

It doesn't really matter where they were; they just weren't where they should have been. The Corps Staff seniors set the example by not showing up, except for one or two.

And four of the six staff juniors felt it below their stature to expend effort on such a project.

One of the four, who has already complained that his position on a staff merits more respect than other junior "peons" (his words), explained that he went home because the Bonfire was for "gung-ho" Aggies.

At first Corps Staff juniors were scheduled for road guard duty, like all other staff members. But the Corps Commander reportedly succeeded in saving them from such a distasteful duty.

But the four who laid low finally repented on the last day, Wednesday.

"We caught so much flak about not working on the Bonfire we decided we'd better get out there," one explained.

So all six were working on the final day, when there was little left to do, save for stacking logs.

But not everyone was pleased that they showed up.

"I tried to throw them out every time I happened to see one of them," a stacking area boss said. "They wanted us to reserve a special section for them."

Each year's Bonfire belongs to the freshman class, but it's still the Aggie Bonfire.

The Bonfire would never have

blazed without the dedicated effort of Aggies, Corps and civilian from all classes who gave up a three-day weekend to participate in one of our hallowed traditions.

Let us hope that the miserable attitude of some, who feel their positions of "prominence" exempt them from service, is not contagious.

Or else some day Texas A&M will be a school without tradition—only "leaders."

Mortimer's Notes

FOR THE RECORD: Word has been received that "wild-cattin'" in the mess halls will be prohibited by an upcoming order from the Trigon

The latest change in cadet dining habits is intended to add dignity to mealtime and provide a more refined atmosphere

A Corps junior commented: "If refinement is what they want, why don't they put white linen tablecloths and candles on the tables and serve us huge steaks every night?"

Next thing to go, some disgruntled cadets predict, are outfit jodie calls

Well, why not? After all, some of them aren't quite in keeping with our "good, clean, Christian atmosphere."

Another phrase that could develop into a Texas A&M cliché cropped up Tuesday night when Board Chairman H. C. Heldenfels told an Associated Press reporter: "I don't know why so many people have been calling me about this."

Of course, coeducation is such a minor issue and he is only chairman of the group in whose hands lay the final authority to determine whether or not girls will attend A&M.

Pretty soon someone will write a book entitled "1,001 Aggie Cliches."

It would probably include: "Best I've seen since I've been at A&M" — Hank Foldberg; "Good, clean, Christian atmosphere" — Dean Hannigan; "Goodness gracious" and "Make something happen" — Gene Stallings; "Academic Excellence" — President Rudder; "The Corps has gone to hell" — Corps Member; "Gig 'em Aggies" — Pinkie Downs; and "Groady Non-Regs" — Anonymous

Of course, there's nothing wrong with clichés as long as they're not overused . . . See Ya 'Round — Mortimer.

Short Snorts

Atty. Gen. Waggoner Carr ruled that the Rio Grande Independent Rehabilitation District is part of the public school program of Texas and is eligible for financial assistance under Title III of the National Defense Act of 1958.

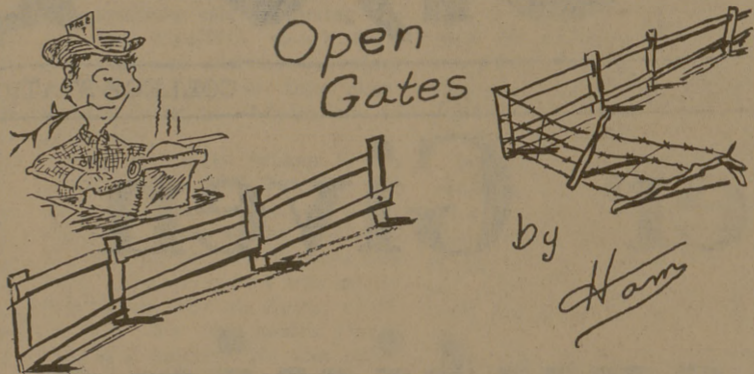
Truckers and insurance underwriters representing them have until mid-December to file briefs to back protests against the State Board of Insurance's proposed truck rule amendment relative to statistical data, policy limits and equipment.

Governor Connally has approved these seven Neighborhood Youth Corps Projects: Wellington, \$28,900; Houston, \$257,760; Cooper, \$41,430; San Antonio, \$102,480; Kingsville, \$81,410; Sulphur Springs, \$79,320; and Mission, \$14,600.

U. S. Soil Conservation Service has been authorized to assist local conservation organizations in Hill, Johnson, Hood, and Parker Counties, based on applications approved by the Texas State Soil Conservation Board.

State Supreme Court declined to review a Houston church's appeal for tax exemption on house used as residence for its "educational minister," leaving in effect Court of Civil Appeals ruling that tax exemption applies only to church and minister's dwelling.

By Charles M. Schulz



At least eight signers of the Declaration of Independence, including John Hancock, were Ulstermen.

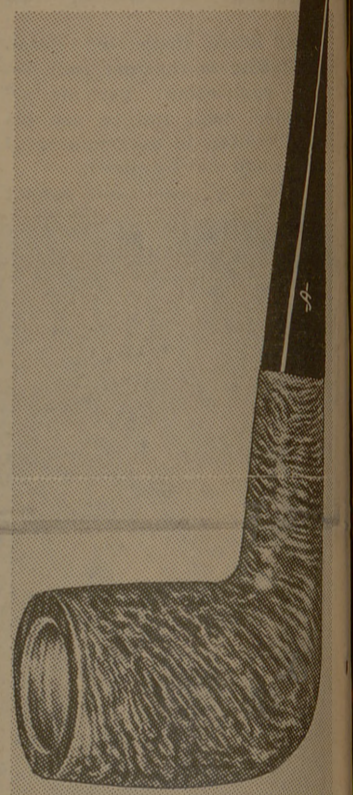
ATTENTION!!!
ALL CLUBS
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Pictures for the club sections of the AggieLand are now being scheduled at the Student Publications Office, Y.M.C.A. Bldg.

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