

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"... th' guys tell me that you didn't miss a single game on TV!"

Draft Revision: Fairness Needed

Escalation of the war in Viet Nam and its subsequent criticisms from a minority of college youth have brought a highly controversial topic to the national limelight once again: The Universal Military Training and Service Act.

Student critics have publicly burned draft cards, openly protested the military draft and unintentionally aroused support for the United States activity in Southeast Asia.

They have also encouraged many responsible citizens to question the inequalities of present conscription procedures.

Ever since Irish Democrats in New York opposed President Lincoln's compulsory military service measures prior to the Civil War, critics of the draft have been with us.

Basically, they are in two camps: One that favors abolishment of any military conscription, the other advocating a truly compulsory system without exception.

Both groups decry the inequalities of our present setup that requires induction of less than 60 per cent of the eligible male youth under age 26.

Proponents of a strictly voluntary armed forces claim: 1. The draft is militarily ineffective because 97 per cent of the draftees leave after their hitch is up.

2. Adequate training cannot be provided during the time allotted for draftees.

3. Today's modern warfare requires fewer and more specialized soldiers.

4. A more professional and adept military force could be maintained by voluntary personnel, attracted by higher salaries and fringe benefits.

5. The draft removes useful youth from the general employment market.

Ross Wilhelm, associate professor of business administration at the University of Michigan and strong advocate of the voluntary system, has suggested a \$300 monthly across-the-board pay hike for all military personnel—a program which he says would cost the federal government an extra \$9 billion annually. Reduction of government expenditures in other areas would finance the raise, he claims.

Recruits are presently paid \$78 a month, as compared with West Germany's \$110 and Canada's \$112 for enlistees.

Opponents of the voluntary plan, however, say costs of the program would be excessive and question the feasibility of having professionals shoulder the sacrifices and responsibilities for the entire nation.

The second plan—strictly compulsory conscription—calls for an actual universal draft which would eliminate the deferments and rejections that have made the present program quite unfair.

According to figures in U. S. News and World Report, less than 60 per cent of American males age 26 are serving or have served their military obligation. About 30 per cent are rejected for physical, mental or moral reasons and the other 10 per cent are deferred because of parenthood or other cause.

A recent Gallup Poll indicated that 83 per cent of the people interviewed favored some form of compulsory duty for rejected draft-eligible males. A special program for these youth would, proponents claim, cut unemployment, reduce juvenile delinquency and encourage reenlistments.

Also, the compulsory program would distribute responsibility for national defense more evenly.

Both plans have merit—something the present system is sadly lacking. If the inequalities of our present draft laws are to be eliminated, either military careers must be made more attractive or universal conscription enforced.

The pseudo-universal program will continue to be attacked and will lack necessary support as long as it remains unfair.

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Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the student writers only. The Battalion is a non tax-supported non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students at a university and community newspaper.

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Coeds, Corps Rated Top Issues '65 Campus News Review

By GLENN DROMGOOLE
Battalion Editor

Coeducation and non-compulsory military training — Texas A&M's age-old hot topics — reigned as the top campus news stories of 1965, Battalion editors voted Monday night.

The developments in the coeducation question made it the number one event of the year, just slightly ahead of the Board of Directors decision to revert A&M to the voluntary Corps it knew for four years during the 1950's.

The top 10 also included:
3. Randy Matson's accomplishments with the shot put and his decision this fall to play basketball.

4. Reorganization of the Texas A&M University System that resulted in the A&M-Arlington State feud last spring and climaxed with the Arlington school's divorce from the A&M network.

5. Gene Stallings' first year as head football coach and his accomplishments in student sportsmanship, recruitment, and state press accolades.

6. The Johnny Cash Bonfire Night performance at Town Hall that was canceled by the A&M administration after Cash was arrested in El Paso on a narcotics charge.

7. Southwest Conference action against A&M for alleged violations of spring practice and scholarship rules which resulted in one-year probation and a severe reprimand for the Aggies and Stallings.

8. Three-way tie for places 8, 9 and 10. Ranger's death after he had been considered in some quarters to replace Reveille when she retired as Aggie mascot; the telegram to President Johnson endorsed by more than 2,000 Aggies supporting the United States involvement in Viet Nam after student protests had rocked the nation this fall; Rodney Dockery's expulsion from the Corps of Cadets last spring for alleged abusive language in the presence of two married coeds.

Participating in the balloting were Glenn Dromgoole, editor; Gerald Garcia, managing editor; Tommy DeFrank, news editor; Larry Jerden, sports editor; Lani Presswood, summer editor and present amusements editor, and Mike Reynolds, Battalion columnist and editor of The Review.

Other campus stories receiving votes were the Baylor and Rice painting incidents, acquisition of the James Connally Technical Institute in Waco, campus construction projects, the political clubs controversy and Corps-civilian relations.

Also mentioned were the eleventh Student Conference on National Affairs, last May's overflow of the Brazos River, local highway construction and selection of the 1965-66 Aggie Sweetheart, Cheri Holland.

As 1965 ended advocates of coeducation at this traditionally all-male school were confident of a victory early in 1966, although various proponents of the men-only policy still vowed to fight to the last moment.

Included in the all-male camp are about three A&M directors (according to a quite reliable

source), not the least of whom is Board President H. C. Heldenfels.

However, coeducation backers could count six directors on their side as the year closed, and the signs point to a decision one way or another before school adjourns in May. Some observers believe the vote will come at the board's February meeting, others think it may be April. Still others hope—though faintly—that it will never come.

Among the major developments in coeducation in 1965 were:

—Senator Andy Rogers' bill in the Texas Senate to prohibit the board from expanding its present limited coeducation policy. The bill finally died after Bryan Sen. Bill Moore waged an all-out campaign against it, but the legislature did pass a resolution asking the board to not tamper further with the question.

—A question of whether or not the limited coed setup violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The board asked Attorney General Waggoner Carr for a ruling, and Carr replied that the present policy is discriminatory and would be difficult to defend in court. Carr said the board could adopt either an all-male or full coeducation policy without fear of violating the federal statute.

—The board's directive (concealed from the state press) to President Rudder authorizing him to personally examine applications from any females desiring to attend A&M. This move was hailed by coed proponents as another step toward unlimited coeducation early in 1966.

The Corps of Cadets became a voluntary organization for the second time in a decade when the Board of Directors eliminated compulsory military training at its April 24 meeting.

President Earl Rudder reaffirmed his confidence in the ROTC program and the Corps two days later, and Col. Denzil Baker, Corps commandant, predicted the non-compulsory military students would either adopt the philosophy that cadets are in the Corps because they want to be, therefore subjecting them to extracurricular discipline, or would make the organization attractive to prospective students by creating an elite military unit.

Contrary to predictions of cadet opponents (particularly the faculty), Corps enrollment didn't suffer under the voluntary plan this fall. Nearly three-fourths of incoming freshmen signed up for the military program and were committed to at least one semester in the organization.

The Viet Nam war and an overall enrollment increase were credited with keeping the Corps membership intact, although its percentage of total registration dwindled.

Corps skeptics were pointing to the spring registration as 1965 ended, predicting a mass exodus by fish from the military ranks, and Corps proponents were hopefully denying any such move.

So the old year ended as it had begun—full of speculation—as 1966 is expected to be the year of decision.

Mike Reynolds

Ring Out The Old, Bring In The New...

This columnist is still trying to recover from the New Year's partying while wondering:

—Who will go down in history as the first Dean of Women at Texas A&M University? February is getting closer all the time and some people would tell you that coeducation is, also.

—Just how many people are reading the attendance figures at Texas A&M? If the school continues to boom as it has this year and if more women come, it can't help but mean more money for everyone. Several new eating establishments have opened their doors and more are on the way. Watch that new building next to Coach Norton's. Could Highway 6 turn into the "drag" of College Station?

—Is it really true or just a New Year's hangover? I am referring to the construction equipment gathered around the circle on Sulphur Springs Road. What will the married students do for amusement if they can't play Russian Roulette going home for dinner?

—Just where the Head Yell Leader will lead the procession at

next year's Midnight Yell Practice? The librarians might be very fussy about holding the doors open for the band to march through the new Temple of 1,000,000 Unread Volumes.

—By the way, what ever happened to AH-SO? For the uninformed, those letters stand for the Ad Hoc committee for Student Opinion.

—What ever happened to the molemen?

—What happened to the basketball team during Christmas?

—What happened to Michigan State, Texas Tech, Texas Christian, Arkansas and Nebraska over the holidays?

—Whatever happened to the holidays?

—If our Dean of Students is really going to start reposition overtures against the Baylor Student body's new sportsmanship trophy? That hunk of gold ought to about pay for the damage done to our campus.

—What would REALLY happen if the son of one of our board members was caught with paintbrush in hand?

—If G. Rollie White will be ready with the new air conditioning system by the time I'm ready to graduate?

—If I will be ready to graduate by the time G. Rollie White gets the new air conditioning.

—If there will be an April Fool's Edition of the Battalion printed?

—If there will ever be an Aggie-land that doesn't look like last year's?

—Who the Athletic Department thinks they are going to put in the new seats in Kyle Field? Have they looked at our attendance records lately? Could it be that we will see a day come when we will play more than three or four games at home?

—If the day will ever come when the A&M student body has more to put its seniors on the



STALLINGS REVIEWS PERFORMANCE ... Aggie coach was a top newsmaker for 1965.



GRAVE MARKS A LEGEND ... Ranger's death ended campus year on sad note.

PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz