

8-Part History Of Coeducation Begins Today

grab bag

By Glenn Dromgoole

Student unrest: Part 1.

Perhaps the most accurate prophecy of 1965 was recorded last Sept. 17 by the Kiplinger Washington Letter.

"Student unrest on campuses will bring demonstrations this fall . . . Big universities and small colleges — both kinds are seething."

Sure enough, as if the letter had provided them with the idea, students around the country demonstrated en masse slightly more than a month later.

The particular cause was the war in Viet Nam and the concurring uproar about unfair conscription laws — or any conscription at all.

And while the aftermath brought unjust condemnation on the entire college and university set, the protests were significant. Thousands of students rallied around a common belief — a common philosophy that the war in Viet Nam was wrong.

A counter-protest was begun on other campuses, with blood drives, telegrams, petitions and magazines collections indicating other students' support of the war.

The whole thing only further emphasized what nearly everyone already knew: that the present college-age generation is alive.

"They're full of spit and vinegar," people would have said in earlier years. Now they term it "student unrest."

Student unrest: That's an all-conclusive phrase.

It ranges from protests of war to demands for more academic freedom to disgust over out-moded rules and regulations to desired correction of obvious campus wrongs to stimulation for campus improvement to development of mind.

It also reflects on their superiors, influence, ability to teach and character.

It is not unique — as some claim — to this particular generation of college student. It seems to be an integral part of the maturity process.

Neither is all student unrest bad. Some of it may be harmful per se, but not usually in the long run. It is normally disagreeable with the status quo.

Student unrest and protest includes far more than the long-haired, unshaven stereotyped college demonstrator so often portrayed by national media.

While these are the most outspoken, the most beligerent, the most noticeable, they are by far the minority of student protestors.

What we shall examine in these articles are both the outward and inward student demonstrator — seeking understanding both of society and himself.

Reynold's Rap

By Mike Reynolds

Are you a desirable? Or are you a member of some organization, ethnic group or church that makes you undesirable? The courts in Iowa have set themselves up a judge concerning what type of private activities in which their defendants engage. This has been done before in the case of judging homes fit for adoption of infants and children, but this time, they have really gone off the deep end.

The Iowa Supreme Court has just recently handed down a decision that prevents a seven year old from living with his father and step-mother because their way of life is "bohemian." They awarded custody of the child to his maternal grandparents because theirs is a "stable" "middle-class," "mid-western" atmosphere. Testimony before the court revealed the father as an agnostic or atheist. It frowned upon his occupation as a photographer for a Job Corps training center. It belittled his ambition to be a free-lance writer.

The father also engaged in some activity at the University of Washington supporting the American Civil Liberties Union. The administration didn't like it and let him know about it. The Iowa Supreme Court doesn't like political activists, evidently, because they sited this activity as another reason for taking the child to "better" surroundings.

Okay, so maybe his house has paintings hanging in it that the investigators don't understand. Maybe his wife plays the guitar. Maybe he didn't vote Democratic in the last election.

Maybe he doesn't use Crest Toothpaste or drink Pepsi-Cola, either. Sure a court has to check the monetary status of a situation. Sure they have to make certain the bread-winner is sober enough during the week to make an honest living. It looks like somebody overstepped their bounds, though. It will be a sad day for individualists if the U. S. Supreme Court backs up this decision. I can see the day when the census taker may ask more than just figures. If you don't fit the religious or political beliefs of the local government, there go the kids.

Personally, I wish that this had started a long time ago. I didn't have the opportunities in my family that I could have had in others. Why didn't the courts award me to a millionaire's household? There are many, many people in the U. S. that think to be a Southerner is the lowest thing on earth. Why didn't a court give me a good "mid-western" background? My mother doesn't play the guitar, but she does play the piano and made me take lessons. Why didn't some court take me away from that constant banging and useless creativity? The grass always needed cutting and the garbage always had to be taken out on Mondays and Thursdays. That just isn't the type of climate to subject a youth.

A boy or girl should be allowed to hide in the womb until they are at least of voting age.

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Gummer New MSC Council President

Steven V. Gummer, junior accounting major from San Antonio, was elected president Tuesday night for the 1966-67 Memorial Student Center Council and Directorate. He will succeed John Rodgers in April.

"I appreciate this honor very much," Gummer told the council.

"Working on the council and directorate has been one of my most enjoyable experiences at A&M. I am looking forward to working with the 17th council and directorate."

Gummer has an overall grade point ratio of 2.488 and posted a 2.83 during the fall semester.

Other council and directorate officers will be elected at a later date, Rodgers said.

"The only reason we elected Steve at this time is to get him more acquainted with the setup," Rodgers explained.

In other business, the council:

Announced that four scholarships for travel abroad had been awarded to Stephen S. Thurman, Pedro Garza, John Allen Kearney and Kenneth Neal Wegenhaft. The students will use the scholarship for travel this summer.



GUMMER

Ags Send Telegram To Team Victory Over Tech Urged By Students

By DAN PRESSWOOD
Battalion News Editor

Sealed with 533 Aggie signatures, a telegram was sent to Lubbock Monday night urging A&M's conference-leading basketball team to victory over the Texas Tech Red Raiders tonight.

Co-sponsored by KORA's Aggie Hour and The Battalion, the telegram read, "We, the undersigned, plus all the Aggie listening on the radio will be pulling for you Tuesday night. Just give it your best. That's all we can ask. Beat the everliving h--- outta Texas Tech."

The signatures, headed by that of P. L. (Pinkie) Downs, were obtained Monday afternoon at a desk between the post office and the fountain room in the Memorial Student Center. Aggies paid a dime to sign their names.

Conceived and organized by senior Jerry Cooper and his Aggie Hour cohort, Tom Morgan, the telegram idea had no advance publicity.

"I was real impressed with the turnout since the guys had to come here to sign," Cooper noted. "We didn't start signing until one o'clock and that didn't give us very much time."

Cooper said the telegram would be delivered to Coach Shelby Metcalf Tuesday morning with the intention of letting him present it to the team at his discretion.

Upset by Texas Saturday, the Aggies will attempt to rebound against the Raiders.

Filing Opens For Senate

Filing opened Monday in the Student Programs Office of the Memorial Student Center for six Student Senate positions left vacant from the fall semester.

Deadline for filing is Feb. 21. Senate members Ronald Fletcher, senior, engineering representative; Carlos Silliman, junior, engineering; Robert Houze, junior, geosciences; Richard Kuklinski, geosciences; James H. Kelly, third year, vet medicine, and Mike Reynolds, chairman of the Issues Committee have resigned, leaving their positions open.

Lack of grade points and excessive absences at Senate meetings accounted for the vacancies. The election will be held March 1.

Mortimer's Notes

IT HAS FINALLY happened! . . . Texas A&M, with its limited coeducational status, has reached the height or depth (if you prefer) of a full-fledged university . . .

The word is out that young men from other universities are coming to A&M to date the Maggies . . .

You know how rumors are . . . But, anyway, a quite reliable source reports that at least one Rice University male student has a long standing date with a Maggie for the A&M-Rice basketball game here Feb. 25 . . .

THE FORMER STUDENTS Council is looking into reserved seat option arrangements for the enlarged Kyle Field seating area, scheduled for completion by the fall of 1967 . . .

The study was undertaken by the council at its meeting here Saturday . . .

THEY'RE AMENDING regulations for Ross Volunteer membership right and left now . . .

Back in the fall, RV leaders and the Trigon brass warned both junior and senior members of the elite military unit that failure to post a 1.0 GPR for the first semester would mean dismissal . . .

Time and again this rule was drilled into the members' head . . . But, lo, when mid-term grades were announced and several members were under the 1.0 minimum, new rules began to flow from the Trigon . . .

In fear of losing several top ranking seniors and not a few juniors, a new order went something like this: "If you didn't have a 1.0 last semester, but have a 1.25 overall, then we'll let you stay in" . . .

Had the change not been made, the Ross Volunteers would have been something less than a strong organization . . . But by lowering — or rather, amending — the rules, the term "elite" might have lost some of its impact . . .

CERTAIN CORPS STAFF members seem to be rather upset from a rash of parking tickets applied to their cars in the Trigon parking lot . . .

The staffers had not yet received their special permits when the tickets were passed out at 3:30 a.m. Monday . . .

Campus Security had failed to issue the special permits, but proceeded to ticket the staffers' cars anyway . . . At 3:30 a.m. Monday . . . See Ya 'Round — Mortimer.



CANADIAN FOLK ENSEMBLE PERFORMS TONIGHT

Les Feux Follets, Canadian national dance ensemble, will perform at 8 p. m. tonight in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Sponsored by the Town Hall Committee of the Memorial Student Center, the troupe's 65 dancers, singers and musicians will depict portions of the development from Canada through the eyes of her people.

History Of Coeducation—1

Early Coeducation Tries Failed To Materialize

By TOMMY DeFRANK

Coeducation and controversy have been bred into an inseparable combination throughout the long and turbulent history of Texas A&M.

The various attempts to effect complete coeducation, both in the Legislature and in the courts, have been accompanied by drama and crisis unique among institutions of higher learning in this state.

Indeed, the dominant ingredients in the stormy development of Texas A&M in the twentieth century have been the oft-resumed and always bitter battles over admission of women to the traditionally all-male institute.

The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas was created by act of the Texas Legislature April 17, 1871. It was founded on provisions of the Morrill Act of 1862, which donated public lands in each state to be sold at auction, with proceeds to be set aside in a perpetual fund.

INTEREST FROM the fund was to be used to support "a technological college whose objective must be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach branches of learning pertaining to agricultural and mechanical arts in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the various pursuits and professions of life."

These same words were borrowed by early Texas statesmen, who established operating procedures for the college in the Constitution of 1876.

In neither the Constitution nor any of the legislative statutes were there then recorded any references or stipulations pertaining to the sex of students enrolled at A&M.

But the college came close to becoming coeducational even before classes ever began.

The Senate commissioned a committee to study the facilities of the still unopened college in early 1876, and after an inspection tour the committee reported back to the Senate — and proposed that coeducation be implemented.

"The committee are of the opinion that the college should be open to both sexes," the recommendation reads in the Senate Journal of June 13, 1876. "The endowment was intended for all."

The legislators apparently believed the language of the Morrill Act made no stipulations to the sex of persons to be enrolled in the land grant colleges.

THE SENATE FAILED to approve the proposal, however, and the Agricultural and Mechanical College opened its doors in October, 1876.

For the first 23 years the college remained an all-male institution.

As far as can be determined, no females applied for admission during that period.

However, in early 1901 there was considerable speculation that the state Legislature might establish an industrial school for girls, and citizens of Bryan began exploring possibilities to incorporate such a school into the A&M College at nearby College Station.

W. R. Cavitt wrote the Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson, Feb. 6, 1901, regarding the question of industrial schools for both sexes. Wilson, formerly head of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Iowa, a sister land-grant school to its Texas counterpart, returned a prestigious endorsement to coeducation.

He first noted that nearly all agricultural schools in existence at the time provided courses of instruction for women, and at many of these colleges a considerable number of women were attending classes.

WILSON THEN pointed out that aside from the agricultural colleges other state and church colleges — "even such conservative institutions as Harvard and Columbia" — had adopted coeducation with great success.

"Coeducation may now be said to be the prevailing custom in American institutions for higher education," Wilson wrote.

"In its intellectual and moral aspect coeducation has been found beneficial for both sexes," he continued, "and as an economical arrangement by which the same grounds, building apparatus and faculty may be employed, it has very much in its favor."

Apparently encouraged by the Secretary's reply, Cavitt and six other townspeople published later that year a four-page pamphlet, "Reasons For Locating the Girls' Industrial School at the A&M College", to convince the Legislature the school for girls should be established at A&M.

The group boasted that A&M "is now and has been for 25 years the center of industrial education in Texas," and thus was the logical choice for instruction of girls in industrial arts.

They also argued a point of law that would be later used in subsequent court fights against the all-male enrollment policy.

"Girls are admitted on equal terms with boys to nearly every one of the 42 agricultural colleges in the United States, there being no limitation as to sex in the law under which these colleges were established, and it is a question worthy of consideration as to whether girls are not now entitled, as a matter of right, to admission to the A&M College of Texas," the pamphlet read.

COEDUCATION backers also touched briefly on physical attributes of the college, boasting

that "an extensive open prairie surrounds the college on all sides and there is free circulation of the air — generally a steady breeze."

It was also emphasized that the area was free of causes for disease and also possessed excellent railway, telegraph and express facilities.

But the strongest arguments for coeducation were from the scholastic and economical standpoints.

At the time there were four courses of study at A&M: agriculture, horticulture, mechanical engineering and civil engineering. Industrial courses were also offered, including various courses in mathematics, English grammar and composition, history and the natural sciences.

The pamphlet argued these industrial courses would provide the backbone of instruction at the proposed girls' school.

"The present courses of study are admirably suited to the needs of girls seeking an industrial training," it said, but studies in household economy, sewing, cooking and music were also suggested to offer a curriculum fully adapted to the needs of women.

FINANCES WERE a second important consideration. It would reportedly cost only \$40,000 initial outlay plus \$5,000 yearly to build a girls' dormitory, separate classroom building for subjects suited only for girls and hire teachers for these subjects at A&M.

But the Bryan group claimed it would cost \$500,000 to establish the school elsewhere and \$75,000 annually to maintain it.

"The things that should decide the location are costs of location, economy of operation, health of the students, accessibility by rail and probabilities of success. We believe that for each and all of these reasons the school should be made a part of the A&M College. Its success would be assured the day the bill became a law," the pamphlet contended.

The group tacked on a moral clincher: "The moral and refining influence of the young ladies over the male students at the College would be great and appreciated by every parent who has a son at this institution."

BUT THE LEGISLATURE paid little attention to the enthusiastic pamphlet, and that same year created the college of Industrial Arts (now Texas Woman's University) at Denton to provide industrial training for the girls of the state.

The first attempt at coeducation, while probably more of a civic venture than a crusade for women, nevertheless ended in failure.

Unlimited coeducation was stymied, but the all-male status had already been punctured.

(Next: the early coeds.)