

Law West Of Trigon An Injustice

In examining injustices in the Corps judicial and discipline system, a likely and worthy object of investigation is the haphazard manner in which Cadets are notified of their charges and punishments.

Minor infractions, and some major ones, of the Articles of the Cadet Corps are punished by demerits, and, when enough demerits are accumulated, the cadet is further punished by being required to "sign-in" at the guard room during weekends.

The fault lies, not with the theory of the system, but in its administration, and the fault here can only lie with those who are charged with making the system work.

In more than one case, a cadet has signed in one or more weekends without ever knowing the charges against him, much less having an opportunity to defend himself.

In the past, when a superior "rammed" a subordinate, it was customary for him to inform the defendant at the time of the alleged act what the charge was and what action was to be taken. Under too many circumstances now, the person doing the "ramming" doesn't tell the accused anything about the demerits or charge.

Another fault is the speed in which demerits are processed. While there seems to be little delay in putting a cadet's name on the punishment list, weeks often go by before he receives his copy of demerits. When this situation occurs together with the one described above, it is easy to see how a cadet may, though no fault of his own, completely miss a sign-in period and find himself even deeper in trouble.

This past weekend a cadet who had received no demerits found out Friday evening that he was to sign-in Saturday and Sunday. He had not been told by anyone of the cases against him, yet he was to serve punishment.

What perversion of justice forces an accused to serve punishment before he is even informed of the charge? Under what legal system did those administering Corps discipline uncover this atrocity?

Equally a sham is the appeals system of the Articles — again, not in theory, but in practice. Few cadets appeal demerits under this system, and for good reason. It is common knowledge that to appeal a charge, no matter how well-founded the defense, is merely a hollow act that usually results in a reprimand from the authorities, or at best deaf ears. And this is usually after the punishment has been served!

In more than one case, officers and cadet officers have admitted the appellant was right, but would not erase the demerits. In one case the cadet officer who signed the demerits hung up on the accused while he was discussing the case!

Finally comes one of the most outlandish wrappings of the Aggie chain of command ever conceived: subordinates punishing their superiors!

Only a couple of years ago the only time one senior rammed a "senior buddy" was under the direst of circumstances, and the junior who may have tried to ram a senior was nothing more than a harmless joke. Yet today, juniors are ramming seniors, and with apparent Trigon blessing.

Of course these juniors do not sign the demerits themselves, and certainly do not inform those they ram. They are staff juniors, and have been instructed by their commanders to issue demerits to seniors

and the commander will sign them.

If it is said the commander is the issuing agent, then he is ramming cadets on hearsay, and this procedure should never be condoned. Hearsay evidence is not permitted in any court, yet these commanders sign demerits and officers in the Trigon back them up.

If, on the other hand, it is said juniors are the issuing agents, then this whole practice shows through as the sham it really is. It takes no explanation to anyone with common sense why subordinates should not be permitted to discipline their superiors. What this leads to is more than apparent, but if it is going to be condoned, why not let fish ram sophomores and so on?

The popular phrase among Corps Staff Juniors now is: "The only thing higher than a Corps Staff Junior is a Corps Staff Senior." The trouble with this is, under the present warped system, it is too true. There is no excuse for it.

These "men" are still juniors in a system that reserves the top spots for seniors. They are also NCO's in a rank system that says they are subordinate to officers. So, how does this situation exist?

Through the wishes of the commanders who encourage it. Without their support, perversion of the rank system could not be tolerated.

Jack Williams Faces Educational Challenges

One of the most difficult positions in the state, that of commissioner of higher education, has at last been filled.

Dr. Jack Kenny Williams, now dean of Clemson University, South Carolina, will assume his new duties August 1 and will immediately be faced with some of the most controversial decisions in Texas concerning higher education in Texas.

The post pays \$15,000 more than the governor's salary — \$40,000 — and includes an official residence, but nothing less than this salary would be fair for a man of such responsibilities.

The committee searched the nation for six months, and can be commended for a job well done in picking Williams. He is both dean and vice-president for academic affairs of Clemson, holds master's and doctor's degrees in history from Emory University and has taught at both Emory and Clemson.

As an out-of-stater he will bring fresh ideas with him and will have no previous attachments to any of the schools for which he will be responsible.

"I believe in coordination of higher education more than any single thing about higher education," he said. "We either must coordinate or we will enter a realm of chaos."

Only by appointing a man of Williams' character, determination and experience can Texas make the strides in education it so diligently seeks. It is a job well done on the part of the selection committee, and we sincerely beseech every Texan to give his wholehearted support to this man as he strives to lead The Lone Star State away from any "realm of chaos."

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"One of th' highlights of th' civilian weekend is the baseball game! We're instigating a new tradition! After every Aggie run we're let's just keep it a surprise for now!"

Dabbs Authors New Text

Dr. Jack A. Dabbs has authored a newly-published textbook, "Spoken Bengali: Standard, East Bengal."

Material for the book was prepared by the modern language professor in East Pakistan under

A&M International Programs and Ford Foundation sponsorship.

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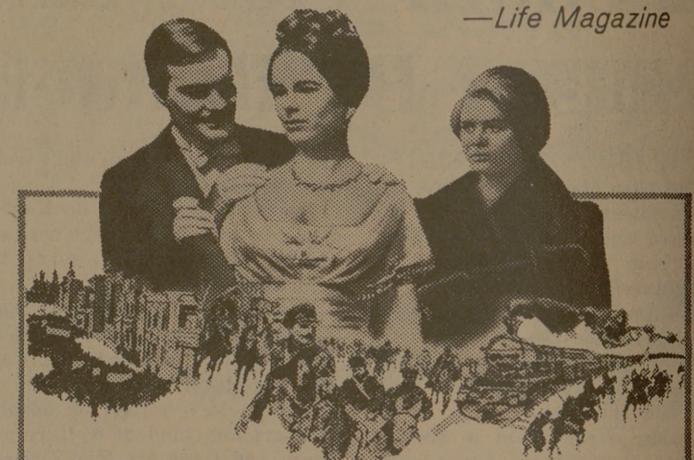
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