

Cadet Court Questioned

Senate Inquiry Urged

The recent controversy concerning the administration of justice through the Cadet Court has caused many to wonder about how just the whole system really is.

While no one has argued that the system itself is not a good one, there seems to be widely divergent opinions as to how fairly this system has been put into effect.

Noting that such controversies are handled on a Federal level through some sort of Congressional investigation, it may be wise to apply this precedent to the local problems at hand. While there are charges flying back and forth concerning the fairness of the court, only an impartial investigation will ever be able to clear the air once and for all.

The Student Senate could — and should — hold such an investigation.

Those directly involved with the court and in the higher echelons of the Corps would likely be too concerned with defending themselves to hold unbiased views, as would be the officers advising the Corps. A group of lower-ranking Cadets would, on

the other hand, have a tendency to be prejudiced by inherent mistrust and envy of "the powers that be."

As in national life, only a civilian body has the impartiality and manpower to handle such a task. On our campus, the student government fills this bill.

The Student Senate has, as its jurisdiction, all aspects of student life, covering both the military and civilian members of its constituency. A court which has the power to sentence a student to a year's conduct probation and severe liberty restrictions should certainly be the concern of the Student Senate.

To those who doubt the Senate's authority to hold such an investigation, we can only say that until the Senate at least tries to exercise some power, it will never have any.

We sincerely urge the Student Senate of Texas A&M to take such steps, or at least bring it to the floor for discussion. This could be a golden opportunity to test the true worth and power of that assembly, to break from its reputation as a body "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

This may also be the time to consider a civilian court system, where civilian students could be tried for charges by their student equals. Cadets accused of non-military offenses would also be subject of such a court.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"Since you didn't say what size to make the enlargement...!"

Aggie Air Force Leads In Cadets

Col. Raymond C. Lee, Professor of Aerospace Studies at A&M, has recently announced that this institution has received the largest quota of advanced Air Force contracts in the nation.

Lee reported that 132 Aggie juniors will be contracted next fall. Ohio State is the second largest AFROTC school with 120 Cadets to receive their commission agreements in the autumn of 1966.

One point was made clear by Lee: This announcement from the Air Force will have no effect on the Aggie training program.

A hearty "well-done" should go to the Air Force detachment here in Aggieland for their superb job during the last two years. They have toughened the requirements for contracts while lowering the classification needed to take the qualification test from sophomore to freshman. This lets the Cadet know a year earlier where they stand with the Air Force and gives them another chance at the test later.

At the same time, the scholastic requirements for contract have been upped and will be 1.1 next fall. This insures the Air Force that the Cadets to whom they devote their training time and money are more likely to leave A&M as officers.

"The Air Force needs only 4,500 new officers in 1966 to meet authorized strength," Lee commented. "This ceiling makes only the best qualified students eligible and will upgrade the commissioning program."

By continuing the A&M tradition of an officer-training program stiffer than that of the normal ROTC school, the Air Force detachment here will help keep the reputation of Aggie officers unblemished.

Reynolds' Rap

By Mike Reynolds

Who are those souls that wander around campus with that far away look in their eye?

Step up to one of them and ask the magic question.

"How long?"

"Well, it's about 60 days. If you don't mind round numbers. Of course I can tell you that it is 57 days, 15 hours and thirty-three minutes until the event."

This race breed of walking computer is better known as a graduating senior. He may be identified by the aforementioned glazed appearance of his eyes, a string with 57 knots in it, an admission ticket to the Graduate Record Exam or an acute fear of the Richard Coke Building.

The tension usually starts building as the young man runs into the Fiscal Office at 12:01 on March 1 and badgers the cashier into accepting his graduation fees just one minute late. The eight dollars disappears down the little bottomless hole in the vault and the applicant is handed a slip of paper that states he has paid three dollars for a diploma and five for the Graduate Record Exam.

From March 1 on, any note of summons to the Coke Building, or even more, to the Registrar's Office, brings a cold sweat to the senior's forehead. He has heard so many stories about the people that are just one hour short or they still haven't paid for a book they lost when they were a fish. They couldn't all be fabrications. They just couldn't.

Then the GRE rolls around and the men leaving school, never to return again, greet the Saturday as one day wasted. They could care less what they make and usually determine their answers by the flip of a coin. The April crowd is usually limited to this group since anyone really interested in getting into Grad school took the quiz in November. But the test must be taken and the grade recorded for all future generations to marvel at. Besides, staying on campus one weekend can help save money for the blowout after graduation.

Two weeks before dead week, the graduating seniors can be identified by the pile of books upon their backs as they struggle with the "final" that they aren't supposed to take, but most professors hate to let you get away so easily, so . . .

The graduating senior is the one that goes up to the professor every day for the next two weeks and asks, "Are you sure you turned in my grade?" No matter what the answer, he doesn't stop asking. You can never be too sure.

Then, during dead week, the senior is the bearded, bleary-eyed soul in the back of the room with his feet propped up on the chair in front and his face hidden behind a Batman comic book. Around his neck is a sign that says, "In case of emergency, take me to East Gate." He will not sleep for the entire week, and will be a reasonable critic of all the movies that happen to be playing for the duration of the waiting period. The profs ignore him, the other students hate him, his parents are proud of him, his department head is waiting.

"What happened to your basketweaving grade? You got an F."

After words such as those are delivered, the man on the floor is not a graduating senior. Do not kick him. Pity him. You may have to live with him next semester and put up with the whole thing over again.

Sound-Off

Editor,
The Battalion,

The misconceptions resulting from The Battalion's editorializing of events surrounding the case of the Corps of Cadets vs. Charles M. Martin seem to necessitate some clarification of this issue.

These misconceptions resulted first because neither The Battalion nor any of those who have voiced most of the disapproval of the handling of the case have had all the facts at their disposal. There was no Battalion reporter at the trial, although Cadet Court rules do not prohibit their attendance. None of the critics whose letters appeared in Tuesday's Battalion were at the trial and none have read the record of the trial. It would seem that persons seemingly so interested in the case would at least have attended the trial. Perhaps this indicates something about most of these criticisms — they were totally unfounded.

The Martin case was handled like every other Cadet Court case, and the Court arrived at a verdict and sentence which it considered to be just. The fact that the case was appealed should in no way be taken as a disapproval of Cadet Court procedural system, for it was this very system which some are so quick to criticize, that permitted such an appeal.

The appeal was handled fairly and a just review was given the case by Col. Baker and Maj. Walker. But this same review procedure is followed in every Cadet Court case, and was in no way unique to the Martin case. Had The Battalion never voiced an opinion about the case, the same action would, in all probability, have resulted from the appeal.

The chief effect of The Battalion's editorial was to air erroneous conclusions and half-truths to people who were not acquainted with the procedure of Cadet Court or the facts of the case. It in no way aided Cadet Martin's appeal, and if anything, prejudiced it in the minds of some who were aware of the actual procedure and facts.

It is true, as far as I am able to discern, that some court members should have disqualified themselves from hearing the case, and that some of the specifications of the charges to which Cadet Martin was found guilty were not proved beyond a reasonable doubt. But the established appellate structure provided, as it does in all cases, a proper avenue to rectify these errors.

It would seem from this point of view, that perhaps The Battalion should examine its policy regarding the coverage of any future Cadet Court cases. It is easy to draw conclusions and make accusations on the basis of some of the facts, but when all the facts are available, a greater skill in analysis and reasoning is required. Perhaps The Battalion could find an editorial writer possessing these skills. To do so would certainly be advantageous to both alleviating the reputation for irresponsible journalism which The Battalion is getting in many quarters, and to the otherwise innocent institutions and personages which are subjected to scathing attacks based on emotional and often biased interpretations of part of the facts, rather than mature evaluations of all the facts.

Simeon T. Lake III

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By Charles M. Schulz

PEANUTS

THIS IS THE ONE MOMENT OF THE YEAR I CHERISH..

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I CLIMB UP ON THAT OL' PITCHER'S MOUND.

THIS IS THE MOMENT OF MOMENTS... THE BEGINNING OF A NEW SEASON... THIS IS A MOMENT TO SAVOR THOUGHTFULLY... A MOMENT TO...

GET UP THERE AND PITCH, YOU BLOCKHEAD!

IT'S OVER!