

Extreme Caution Urged On Splash Day Weekend

The annual frolic known as Splash Day will begin this weekend on the beaches of Galveston, Freeport, and other Gulf cities. The day usually runs every weekend for a month, and is infamous for under-age drinking, indecent exposure and a large number of arrests.

Although this event was once officially sponsored by Galveston, the sanction was withdrawn after the 1961 edition resulted in near-riots and hundreds of arrests.

That year, 40 Aggies, including Student Senators and a class president, were arrested. This year, a substantial number of Ags will doubtless make the trek to the coast, where they will be greeted by Texas Rangers, auxiliary police, regular officers, sheriffs, Liquor Control Board officials and, if needed, dogs and men from the Houston Police Department.

These officers will not be lenient, by any means, and that is quite understandable when they will have to control thousands of high school and college students swarming the beaches around the clock, running something like a 50-50 mixture of alcohol and blood in their veins.

With somewhere between 20,000 and 35,000 students expected, these officers will not be able to handle each offender, or suspect, with the courtesy of a Campus Security Officer writing out a parking ticket. They are not going to attack innocent bathers, as some would have the public believe. They are simply going to try, under the worst possible circumstances, to enforce the law; the same law that so many of the students, mostly minors, are making the trip to break.

What then, should the Aggie beach-lover do? Stay on campus, or at least away from the "golden strand"? Very few Aggies would take such advice if it were given by Gene Stallings on All-College Night,

and The Battalion would not deprive anyone of their fun.

Caution, then, should be the word. Extreme caution.

Highways will be crowded with cars bearing alcohol-laden students to the beaches, and the sand will be thick with these same scholars-on-a-holiday. It might be wise for anyone planning the big trip to stay as sober as possible on the beaches, and not stay there too late into the evening. It's gonna be heavily patrolled, so Aggies with their dates will be too-often disturbed to enjoy them, and those with too-empty bottles and too-full veins will likely be taken to the Galveston jail.

It is possible to have a great time Splash Day. Its even possible for 35,000 students to have a great time, for all of them to return to Monday's classes in one piece, and for one of them to land in the pokey.

But it's not very likely.

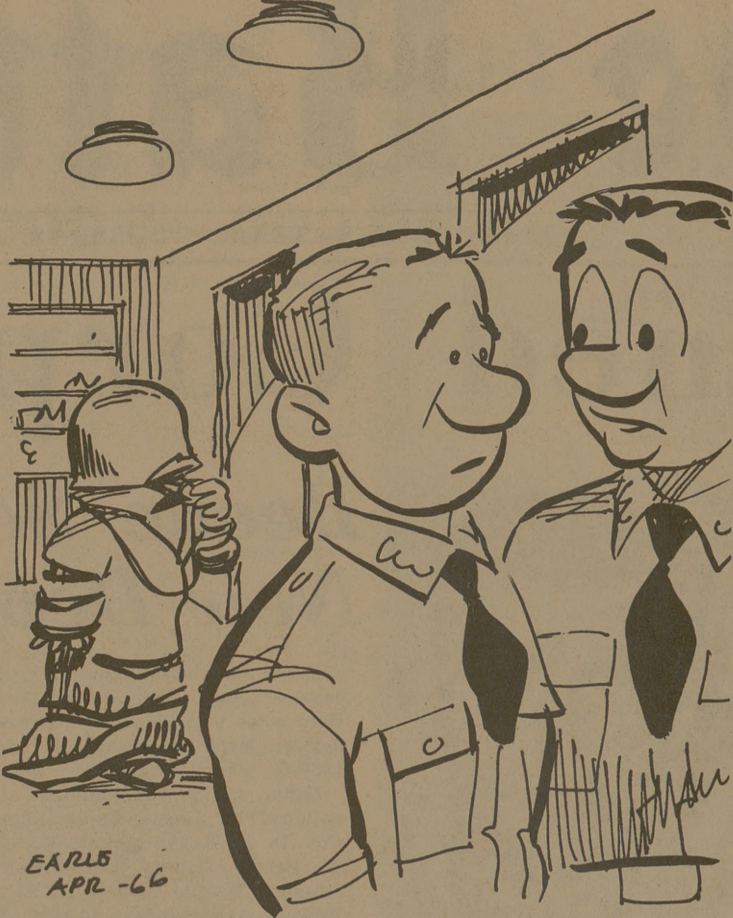
A bunch of these pleasure-seekers will have miserable times, because they will be there for the purpose of breaking the law and will get caught. Some will return to classes with broken bones, or not return at all. And more than one will land in the jail.

Irate parents will call the police, demanding apologies, and explaining that "my Johnny" is a good boy.

"Yes, ma'am, I'm sure he is, it's just that he was too drunk to walk and hit a policeman when the officer tried to pick him up out of the mud."

This will probably be answered with charges of "police brutality." Funny, no one ever thinks of their little boy as the one who is breaking the laws he should have been taught to respect.

Splash Day can be fun. But you have to work at it!



"We've gotta do something—Ever since we made him whistle jock he's been practicing all day long!"

Firemen School Board Meets Saturday
The Texas Firemen's Training School Advisory Board will meet Saturday to review the program for the 1966 school. Chief Henry D. Smith of TFTS said firemen from approximately 30 states and seven foreign countries will participate in schools scheduled July 17-22 and July 29-31.

Reynolds' Rap

By Mike Reynolds

About two and a half weeks ago, I picked up a copy of this paper and was attracted by an article on its front page announcing the speaker for commencement. Now since I am a hopeful graduating senior, I decided to read the article and find out just who the person is we will listen to Saturday morning before getting the sheepskins.

I was immediately taken aback when I noticed the speaker would not be a public official. He is not in the limelight. I don't even know him.

This afternoon, I bumped into Norris Cano, the senior class head honcho, and asked him just who had the authority to choose the commencement speaker. He looked at the ground and mumbled something about students don't have a thing to do with it. It is up to a faculty-administration committee.

My only complaint is the students do not have a voice in their only commencement exercises program.

Maybe I am mistaken, but I always had the idea the school existed for the students and without them, there wouldn't be any need for the institution. Therefore, since the students

participate in commencement with the sole purpose of being graduated from A&M, why can't they have something to say about the ceremony?

Maybe the school just exists for research programs and grants. (Some of my fellow students in California have gotten quite heated up about just that. Maybe the school exists for faculty members so that they will have a place to draw security and a salary. Maybe the school exists for numbers, dollars, new buildings, academic excellence, or whatever you. If it exists for any of the above reasons, its time for a change. The school should exist for the students.

Just once, somebody ought to ask a student for an opinion and then take some stock in it. Dick Franklin, Student Life Chairman of the Student Senate, demonstrated great ability in finding a decent, inspiring speaker for Muster. I doubt that students would do any worse for commencement.

I repeat, my only gripe is that students don't have a say in who speaks to them.

It's not that I have one thing against Campbell's Soup.
— Huncan Dines —

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By Charles M. Schulz

PEANUTS

WE HAD A GOOD TIME AT SCHOOL TODAY.

OUR TEACHER TOOK US ON A FIELD TRIP...WE WENT OUT, AND WE SAW THIS GREAT BIG FIELD

IT WAS A REAL FIELD AND WE SAW IT! WE STOOD RIGHT THERE, AND WE SAW THAT FIELD!

DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE GOING ON ANY MORE FIELD TRIPS?

I DOUBT IT. WHEN YOU'VE SEEN ONE FIELD, YOU'VE SEEN THEM ALL.