

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"It's good to consider all aspects of each course when you're working out your program, but do you really think the price of required textbooks should be the major factor in selecting courses?"

Governor's Race A Texas Circus

"Step right up ladies and gentlemen. Step right up and get your ticket for the biggest show on earth. The Texas political circus has begun.

"Our present owner, John Connally, will soon step down and out of circus life, but the show must go on."

The Barker is heralding the beginning of the 1968 gubernatorial race in Texas, and the bandwagon is loaded.

The Democrats have at least nine candidates, and the Republicans at least three at last count.

After Senator Ralph Yarborough announced that he had decided not to run for the post, the stage door swung open for entries from every arena.

Billed top act for the Democrats is a battle shaping up between liberal and conservative forces.

Houston Lawyer Don Yarborough, a liberal who entered the race last Saturday, should inherit votes which would have gone to that other Yarborough.

But Lt. Gov. Preston Smith must be considered the present front-runner. He announced for the office before Gov. Connally ever announced that he would not seek another term, and this has given Smith a head start on his opponents.

Other Democratic gubernatorial candidates include Dolph Briscoe, 44, a Uvalde rancher and former state representative; Gordon McLendon, 46, Dallas radio-television executive; and Eugene Locke, 49, Dallas lawyer and favorite of both President Johnson and Gov. Connally.

Also include Waggoner Carr, 49, former attorney general; Pat O'Daniel, 49, son of former Gov. W. Lee O'Daniel; John L. Hill, 44, who resigned as Connally's secretary of state to run for governor; and Edward L. Wittenburg, 39, millionaire Houston banker and businessman.

The Republicans have not entered the race as heavily. Their support lies behind Wichita Fall lawyer Paul Eggers, 48, who has never made a political race before.

Other Republican hopefuls include John Trice, 35, Dallas lawyer, and comptroller John Bennett of San Antonio, a retired Air Force general and now banker-rancher.

Texas voters will be exposed to the virtues of all the candidates through hundreds of political advertisements and pamphlets between now and November.

Lacking any dominate candidate on either side, voters will have an even tougher choice to make.

Yet from those running a choice must be made, and will be. Some will vote on appearance, others on war records, some on promises and many will flip a coin, yet "the show must go on."

Down To The Nitty Gritty

We're going to get down to the nitty gritty on the Vietnam situation in general and draft protests in particular.

Last December, in response to an inquiry from the "Student Presidents' and Editors' Statement on Vietnam," urging us to join a crusade against the war, we issued an admittedly hasty and somewhat catty editorial in rebuttal. Last week we received another dunning letter from the Movement, which has either missed our "Open Letter" or refused to consider it as being for real.

The latter may be justified; that open letter did leave something to be desired, as policy statements go. Maybe if we send them a copy of this they'll understand.

"DEAR COLLEAGUE," their recent letter begins. "You will be interested to know that over 400 student presidents and editors have already signed the attached statement opposing the Vietnam war. More signatures come in every day, and we hope that soon the statement will have been signed by the student president and/or editor of every major college and university in the United States." An impressive list of the signers is attached.

NOW, COME ON, SPAESOV. We learned about the "Bandwagon" propaganda technique back in Journalism 102. If your cause is so all-fired just and sincere, why do you treat this survey as though you're gunning for a 100 per cent attendance prize? You send us an enclosed envelope and a brief coupon that would take maybe two minutes to fill out and return, and yet you're calling for judgment on an issue whose pros and cons are being debated in growing volumes of research. Isn't that a bit crass? Isn't it, furthermore, an insult to the intelligence of whoever is supposed to be influenced by the results?

Granted, many of the signers probably are sincerely motivated. But included in that list are the names of almost 80 female editors and presidents, who, with admirable if somewhat ludicrous fervor, have certified their belief that they "should not be forced to fight in the Vietnam War because it is unjust and immoral." That's an insult even to our humble intelligence, SPAESOV.

ERIC SEVAREID of CBS News complained recently that "it is disgusting to hear protesters chant 'Hey, Hey, LBJ, How many kids did you kill today?'" He

went on to suggest there is a tendency in many college students to join anti-war demonstrations as a gratification of the basic mob instinct. His thesis was that protest has been cheapened by the kind of spirit embodied in "bandwagon" techniques like the one we've been describing.

We respect the opinions of people who sincerely oppose the war and the draft. We do not respect those physical cowards who would avoid the draft even in a war that had the unfaltering support of the American people, and we feel that many such persons are using the peace movements to pass off cowardice as conviction.

AT THE same time, it should be noted that some of the student signers of that famous pro-war telegram from A&M to President Johnson a couple of years back were probably the same sort of people who sign any petition offered to them, in gratification of the mob instinct mentioned above. A far more commendable attitude was recently shown here and at other schools where students cast their lot by giving blood for American soldiers in Vietnam.

What makes this attitude commendable is not simply the obvious contrast to the "bleed-ins" held at some U. S. schools for the benefit of the Viet Cong; it is the idea that American students made a tangible sacrifice for American soldiers who, incidentally, generally seem to feel they are fighting for a just cause. It is certainly more convincing of conviction than the frenzied cries of "Hell, no, we won't go" emanating from the pep-rally-like demonstrations to the east and west of here.

THE BATTALION favors the Administration's side in this battle for men's minds. This policy is not, as some undoubtedly suspect, a manifestation of the blind non-intellectual "make-war-

not-love" philosophy that some cadets seem to consider intrinsic to military life. It simply reflects the acknowledgment that we are not in a position to pass judgment on such a highly involved topic as the Vietnam conflict. The Thirteenth Student Conference on National Affairs showed fairly conclusively, to those students who were interested enough to attend, that there is a great deal to be said for both sides—so much, in fact, that the idea of college students (including few, if any, recognized authorities on the war) taking on the United States Government in a moral, intellectual and legalistic debate, begins to take on all the dramatic impact of the first Liston-Patterson bout.

THIS IS not such a fawning submission to Big Brother as it may seem at first glance, SPAESOV. We're well aware that the war is killing a lot of women and children, just as did World War II and several hundred other bloody, disgusting, immoral clashes in history. But we're a little harder than some people to convince that American soldiers are killing them for the sheer joy of it. And we're particularly appalled by the growing number of instances of the term "genocide" (as in the February issue of Ramparts Magazine) in diatribes against the government's policy in Vietnam. We think the sincerely motivated dissent mentioned earlier approaches fanaticism when its spokesmen anoint themselves as the quixotically embattled foes of an approaching fourth Reich.

If you want to take this as a cop-out, SPAESOV, go ahead. At any rate, we've decided that you deserve more than our answer of Dec. 14, and that we deserve more than being written off as too apathetic to answer your questionnaire. Sorry if this spoils your chances for that 100 per cent prize.

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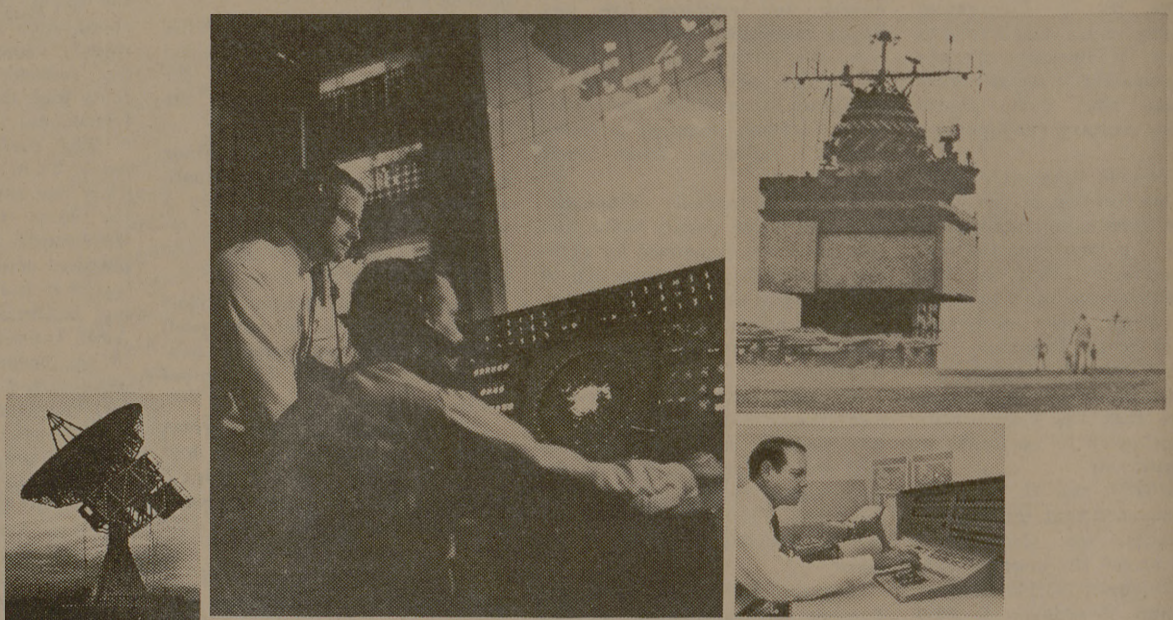
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PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz

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