



“What do you make of a student making failing grades who says he’s not being challenged?”

SWC Committee Organization Poor

Gene Stallings called it a “vote of confidence for A&M and its football program.”

Howard Grubbs, executive secretary of the Southwest Athletic Conference, said the SWC reprimand of the Aggies “involved only prospective football players.”

Dr. Monroe S. Carroll of Baylor, SWC faculty committee president, said “A&M has been very co-operative. No faculty member (Dr. O. D. Butler) has ever worked more diligently to obtain the facts.”

But no matter how you look at the reprimand levied on the Texas A&M athletic program, specifically football, A&M was lucky to get off the hook as lightly as it did.

The information released to the press after the meeting was a mumble-jumble statement that, in effect, said the Aggies were guilty of wrong-doing, but not to such an extent as to warrant probation or the administration of sanctions.

Seventeen charges were placed in the hands of the Conference fathers, but only four were adjudged to be valid. Six were dismissed as non-violations while the other seven charges were “received and filed.” This means that guilt or innocence has not been determined and that no future investigation is planned by the SWC.

What it all boils down to is whether the SWC is going to enforce its rules for all members or allow one or two schools to determine the tempo of athletics in Texas and Arkansas.

The question now is not whether A&M was guilty of recruiting violations; that is an unalterable fact. What is deemed questionable is the administration and membership on as important a body as the Southwest Athletic Conference faculty committee.

Each SWC school has one faculty representative on the committee. This person, in the case of A&M, Dr. Butler, is chairman of the A&M faculty athletic committee. This committee is charged with making an effort to assure the compliance of athletic teams with SWC rules.

Such a committee, to be effective, should be free to spend as much time as necessary to assure complete compliance with the rules. Such unfortunately is not the case.

Butler was commended by Grubbs and Dr. Carroll for his hard work and complete cooperation with the investigators.

“Dr. Butler and the entire A&M organization is very interested and we have no doubt that they will take care in assuring that these requests are carried out,” Dr. Carroll explained.

This is all well and good and all Aggies should be thankful that someone is willing and interested enough in the athletic program of Texas A&M to spend extra time and assume extra duties.

But this is not the best solution to a problem that in the past has been a thorn in the side of SWC schools and promises to continue in the future as SWC schools, limited in visitation rights, fight for the best high school athletes with schools outside the Conference, unrestrained and unethical in recruiting tactics.

Either the makeup of the Southwest Faculty Athletic Committee must be altered or the present members should be trained and instructed as to how to improve adherence to the rules, become an integral part of the athletic program and be schooled in the problems facing recruiters.

The former suggestion would seem to be the most logical. In addition to the faculty representative, the inclusion of a former student or athlete from each school could only improve the situation.

As it now stands, the faculty representative cannot forget his other responsibilities to concentrate on the athletic program. Butler is head of A&M’s Animal Sciences Department and, as such, has numerous responsibilities in this capacity. He has done an admirable job under trying circumstances, as have the other schools’ faculty members, in all probability.

These men are in a difficult position and are coping with problems to the best of their ability. They deserve some help.

THE BATTALION

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the student writers only. The Battalion is a non-tax-supported non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students at a university and community newspaper.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; Dr. David Bowers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Robert S. Titus, College of Veterinary Medicine; and Hal Taylor, College of Agriculture.

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Editor, The Battalion: Class of '70 Engineers:

I, Raleigh Lane, am a candidate for the Class of '70 Student Senate Representative from the College of Engineering. I feel the student body must be united. I fully support the program proposed by Bill Carter and David Maddox, the President-elect and Vice President-elect, respectively.

But to initiate the program that the student body wishes, capable hard working Senators must be elected May 14. If elected I would accept the challenge and work as hard as possible so that Texas A&M might have a unified student government with the power to represent the student body.

Only through a united student body can we progress.

Raleigh Lane

Editor, The Battalion:

Two months ago, an organization (The Stars & Bars) was formed for the purpose of acquainting the A&M student with the various officer programs and career opportunities available to the college graduate in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve. Its membership is composed of those members of the corps, civilian, and graduate students who are interested in the naval officer programs, or are now under naval officer contracts.

This next Tuesday night (May

Senate Says Army, Marines Understrength

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate Preparedness Investigating subcommittee reports three of six Army and Marine divisions stationed in the United States have serious personnel and equipment shortages.

The panel previously said U.S.-based military units—counted on for emergency defense—were being hamstrung by the calling of their troops and equipment for Vietnam War duty.

In its heavily censored report Sunday, the committee headed by Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., indicated serious shortages were uncovered in the 1st and 2nd Armored Division at Ft. Hood, Tex., and the 5th Division mechanized of Ft. Carson, Colo.

REPORTED in a far better shape were the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N. C.; the 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, N. C.

The report said the 82nd Airborne's equipment situation “was the best ever seen by the subcommittee staff for any army division,” but said even it lacked sufficient helicopters.

The subcommittee said of the 2nd Armored Division that “heavy personnel turbulence resulting from levies for high priorities, expirations of terms of service, transfers into and out of the division, and other personnel turnovers had adversely affected training, resulted in over-all personnel shortages” and in officer shortages.

IT SAID the 2nd Armored “is also beset with significant equipment deficiencies” including helicopters, radios, radar and tracked and wheeled vehicles.

The 1st Armored Division was said to suffer from many of the same shortages. Although it would appear to have an adequate number of officers, said the report, many are newly commissioned graduates of officer candidate schools and the reserves.

Although these officers have had little experience, they're usually sent to Vietnam within six months, said the subcommittee.

7) at 7:30 p.m., The Stars & Bars Society will have a meeting in Room 2A of the Memorial Student Center for everyone who is interested in joining The Stars & Bars, or just interested in what the Navy has to offer college students. Some Navy fliers will be shown, future field trips, programs, and lectures will be discussed, and the Society's sponsor, Commander Fox, will give a brief address.

An organization like The Stars & Bars Society has been long in coming to A&M. And since its existence is now a reality, we extend an invitation to those students who are interested in joining The Stars & Bars to be present at our next meeting. We will be looking forward to your being there!

Randy Leonard, Representative, The Stars & Bars Society of A&M

Nobody Knows

When Will State Legislature Meet?

AUSTIN (AP)—The speaker of the House and the lieutenant governor of Texas—men whose power surpasses the governor's—said Monday Gov. John Connally hasn't let them in on when he will call this year's special legislature.

Connally must call the session soon to appropriate funds and vote taxes to run the state government over the fiscal year starting Sept. 1.

Lt. Gov. Preston Smith startled the Legislative Budget Board by saying, “I heard May 13, have y'all heard anything?”

Later, Smith said, the May 13 date “was just street talk in Lubbock,” his home, where he went over the weekend to vote and await election returns.

Smith and Speaker Ben Barnes

said Connally hasn't told them anything.

“One of the things we had better assume is it could be anywhere between now and the middle of June,” Barnes said.

Smith said “It would help me,” in his governor's race with Don Yarborough to have the special session before the run-off. Smith would get a lot of news coverage as lieutenant governor presiding over the Senate during the session.

The special session will be looking for taxes that will raise upwards of \$126 million during the coming fiscal year—that's the amount the Budget Board's recommended spending would require. Gov. John Connally's budget is expected to require even more.

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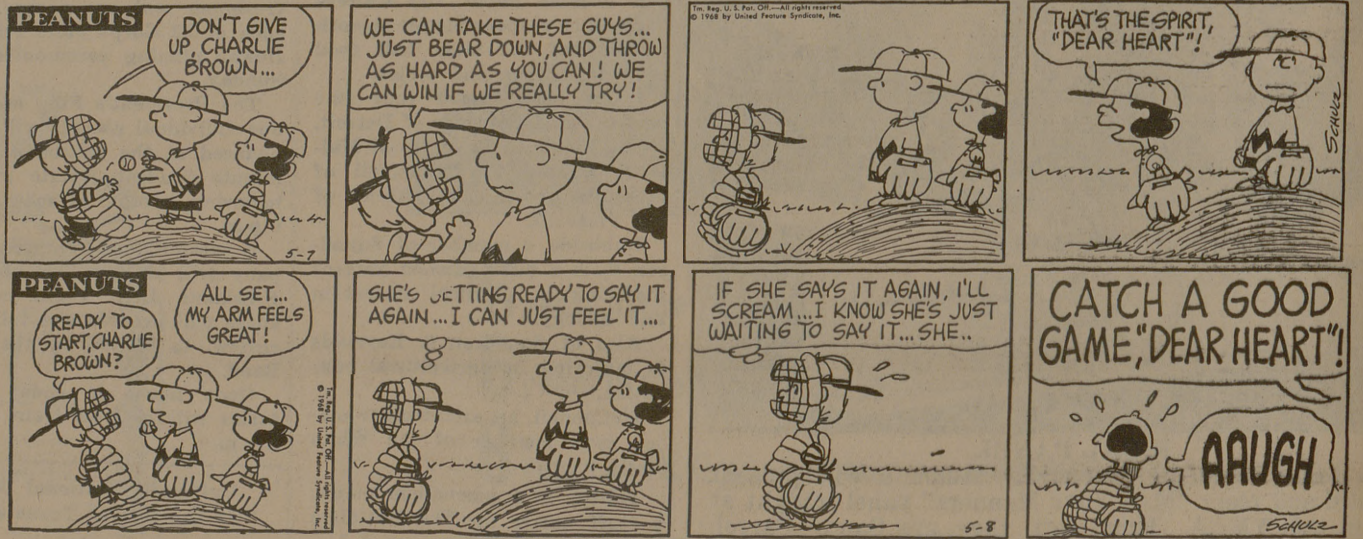
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PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz