

Jan Moulden

Criticism Must Be Taken As Well As Accolades

Criticism is a delicate art—no one in the world is capable of originating it without receiving same.

Criticism can take many forms, some good, some bad. The worst criticism calls for perfection in less than perfect situations. The best calls for maximum effort in any situation.

But even bad criticism is better than none, and good criticism is a definite service. For whether the target is a Broadway play or a college football game, criticism

is justified. Only in degree should it differ.

No one expects an amateur playhouse production to equal one presented on the Great White Way, and any critic who would judge them on the same basis is missing the point, and apparently his calling. On the other hand, a penetrating review of activities on the same plane is not only justified, but necessary.

A CRITIC'S job is not to be right, but to question the premises upon which other people base

their conclusions. A reply to these questions can be returned in two forms: by answering the questions, or by adopting the critic's trade. The latter seems to be the most popular.

The cultural "troglodytes" (savage cavemen) who walked out of the Sam and Dave performance Friday night not only expressed criticism, but promoted it. A similar situation occurred a year ago in an Al Hirt performance.

THE POINT is that the criticism of these "troglodytes" questions their courtesy and manners while the "troglodytes" were questioning the quality of the performance. The difference lies in the fact that Sam and Dave received a small fortune for doing their thing while the "troglodytes" received nothing. They paid their money and took the only form of criticism open to them.

For some reason, people have placed themselves in the position of having to bear, if not completely accept, anything offered as "entertainment." Any form of criticism of such offerings is looked on as misconduct.

ANOTHER CONFLICT in criticism concerns the "Spirit of Aggie." Cries of "two-percenters" are heaped upon anyone who chooses not to take part in the after-game rituals at the football games. Yet this "student pride" seems based not on the university, but on some anciently formed tradition. And most of these repetitive rituals do no more for the Aggies than the wearing of raccoon coats does for present students at Harvard.

And that the devout are even able to verbally abuse the "two-percenters" and remain for 15 minutes of yells following a loss somehow casts doubt on their vocal participation during the game. It would seem that a true Aggie would be too hoarse to yell after the final gun.

A final point of criticism concerns the football fortunes here. No one really questions that the players have a greater interest in winning than anyone else, except possibly the coaches. However, to say that a player is not in line for criticism for bad play is a fallacy—as much a fallacy, in fact, as the idea that he is not in line for accolades for good play.

And no matter what Teddy Roosevelt said, a man who is willing to accept praise for a job must also be prepared to accept criticism.

Who's Unfair?

(The following guest editorial is by staff writer Tom Curl, a civilian junior who has never been a member of the Corps of Cadets. —Ed.)

It is no coincidence that members of the Corps are involved in most of the functions requiring student representation of Texas A&M. Corps members are usually escorts to contestants in the various sweetheart contests and are called on to represent A&M in outside activities. Civilians have complained loudly about the "unfairness" of this system; but perhaps it is not so unfair. The Corps does most of the work delegated to students and the civilians do most of the criticizing. Civilians are often accused of not being good Aggies, and oftentimes this criticism is well founded.

Work on the 1968 Aggie Bonfire begins full activity Saturday. Yell Leader Garry Mauro estimated Wednesday night that 1,500 civilians will show up for work the first day.

"There are 3,700 civilians living on campus and we are shooting for 50 per cent participation," Mauro said.

If past Bonfires are any indication, the number of civilians will decrease each day as sore muscles and blisters appear. Compulsory participation notwithstanding, the Corps will have virtually 100 per cent participation. If the civilians expect some of the privileges enjoyed by the Corps, perhaps they should accept some of the responsibilities.

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"... and as an incentive to cut down on bonfire accidents, every man who receives an injury will have to work a double shift!"

THE BATTALION

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EDITOR: JOHN W. FULLER
 Managing Editor: Dave Mayes
 Sports Editor: John Platzer
 City Editor: Mike Wright
 News Editor: Bob Palmer
 Staff Columnists: John McCarroll, Mike Plake, Monty Stanley, Jan Moulden, Tom Curl, Dale Foster, Tim Seanson, Steve Wick, Janie Wallace, Tony Huddleston
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Loupot's

TONIGHT Southern Louisiana Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the main lobby of the YMCA. Rides will be discussed.

Dewitt - Lavaca County Home-

Listen Up

Editor, The Battalion:

The Class Of '72 is faced with a serious decision that will deeply affect life and conditions at Texas A&M University, both now and in the future. The Unity Party is a group of Fish that are directly and actively concerned with the "split" confronting the student body. We were selected as candidates for class offices, and we feel we have the ideas and capabilities to unite our class and provide for the future of the Texas A&M student body. We know you, the Class of '72, would like to see this goal achieved, and we can and will accomplish this task if you will allow us to do so. On December 4, 1968, you will have the chance to take this step toward Unity. Step with us election day.

Gratefully, Kirby Brown, President
 Gig Newsom, Vice-President
 Skip Maxwell, Sec.-Treas.
 Joe Schriever, Social Sec. Class of '72

town Club will meet at 9 p.m. in room 203 of the Academic Building. Thanksgiving and Christmas parties will be discussed, officers will be elected.

Orange County Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 in the Academic Building.

Panhandle Area Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. in room 2-D of the MSC. Christmas party and rides home will be discussed.

Williamson County Hometown Club will meet at 7 p.m. in room 2-A of the MSC.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4692 will meet at 7:50 p.m. at the Post Home. Meeting is for members only. Prospective members are urged to contact "Spud" Adams at 846-3662 or 823-0941 or Ray Schultz at 846-3191 or 845-4311.

American Society of Civil Engineers will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Clayton's Restaurant. Dinner meeting with Brazos Branch ASCE and TSPE.

Dallas Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. in rooms 3-B and 3-C of the MSC. Thanksgiving party will be discussed.

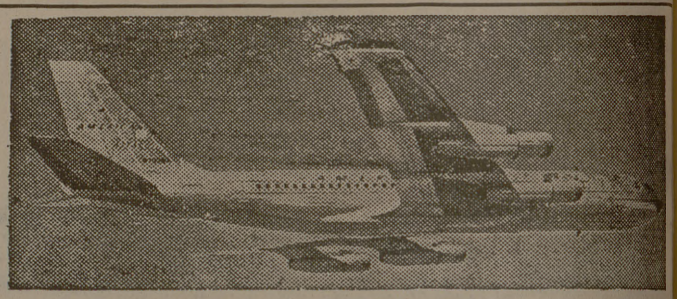
San Antonio Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 145 of the Physics Building. Thanksgiving Party will be discussed.

Texas A&M Sports Car Club will meet at 8 p.m. in the YMCA.

Business meeting will be followed by technical lecture. Abilene Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. on the second floor of the Academic Building.

Rio Grande Valley Hometown

Club will meet at 8 p.m. in the Art Room of the MSC. Christmas party will be discussed. San Angelo-West Texas Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. in room 2-C of the MSC.



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ED ROGERS

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PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz

PSYCHIATRIST: NOW, YOU LISTEN TO ME, YOU STUPID BEAGLE...
 YOU CAME TO ME FOR HELP, AND YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT!
 WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A GOOD DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP, OR I'M GOING TO SLUG YOU! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
 IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO SALUTE...
 THE DOCTOR IS IN