

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"One thing for sure, some of those guys in the class of '72 will make it big as house painters!"

Liquor by the Drink: A Texas Melodrama

The Associated Press report (page 3) on yesterday's liquor-by-the-drink hearings in Austin referred to the action as "an annual performance." Maybe the term "melodrama" would be more accurate, because all the major elements are there for a legislative production of "The Perils of Pearl Prewater, or Lips that Touch Strong Drink Will Never Touch Mine."

The scene opens with the heroine in a compromised position: the voters of Texas, acting as the Fickle Finger of Fate, have opted for liquor-by-the-drink, thus leaving Pearl's homestead vulnerable to foreclosure. Enter The Villain (hiss, boo), Wicked Willie Wet.

"Aha!" cries Wicked Willie, twirling his handlebar mustache. "At last you are in my power!" He brandishes the results of last spring's vote on the issue and cackles lewdly.

The heroine puts her fist to her forehead in anguish and wails something vague about honor and virtue. This is the cue for (fanfare) the entrance of The Hero (cheers and huzzahs), Dashing Danny Dry.

"Have no fear, Pearl," he intones. "Although 42 of the 50 states have been foreclosed upon by Wicked Willie's liquor-by-the-drink laws, Texas shall remain pure! Even if it doesn't want to."

"Curses! Foiled again!" is, of course, the expected reply from you-know-who.

The trouble is, this turn-of-the-century morality play is being staged before a national audience and financed by tax dollars. Dashing Danny is, of course, the personification of witnesses before the House Constitutional Amendments Committee, among whom yesterday was a Houston grandmother credited by AP with the following remarks: "Liquor by the drink has the history ever since the Civil War of defiling everything it touches, and I hate to see my state defiled. . . . The more you are exposed to temptation, the more likely you are to succumb to it. . . . No state has the right to enrich itself by the degradation of its citizens."

The AP also noted, however, that the measure was referred to a subcommittee with a "wet" majority. Wicked Willie and the voters of Texas may yet change the script.

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.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced, and must be no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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

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TELEPHONE

(Continued from page 1)

agement services director. "Phones are a private contract between the person and the company. The university has no part in it at all."

"THE LOCATION policy was adopted by us," Erwin said. "We were trying to get a standard location so the phones would be easier to install. If, however, someone wants a different model or location, we will be happy to do it if he will call 18 and let us know."

Many people commented on difficulties encountered when trying to reach the operator. M. C. Hairgrove, an English professor, complained that he sometimes had to wait three to five minutes for the operator to answer.

"WE RAN A traffic check," Erwin said, "and found that between 12 midnight and 2 a.m. we had a fairly large volume of traffic. We have since changed the shift schedules to allow for this and make sure we have enough operators on duty."

"We have had some supervisor changes in the last year or so," he continued, "and we run an Automatic Time Record (ATR) to see how long it takes to get a call answered. Last month, for instance, we had an index of 7.3. This means that 82.7 per cent of the calls were answered within ten seconds."

"We also have encouraged our operators to 'overlap' calls, or take information on one and then answer another call before putting the first one through. It has improved our service somewhat."

ROBERT McKenzie wanted to know why an AT&T credit card could not be used unless a student signed the long distance agreement with the phone company. Frank Bergen had the same question concerning collect calls.

"When a student signs the release on his phone," Edwin explained, "we allow that student access to the Bryan operator. We have no way of knowing whether or not he will make only collect calls, or whether or not someone else might use his phone. We

have to require the release for our own protection."

Some students complained about the length of time required to change long distance service from one room to another. They were also worried about calls being made on their old phone.

"A STUDENT'S responsibility ends when he notifies us to disconnect," Erwin emphasized. "The changeover is basically paperwork. The actual changeover at the central office is relatively easy."

A number of people also complained of loud volume in the phones, poor connection on long distance calls, and a lack of dial tone when the handset is picked up.

"As far as the volume is concerned," Erwin said, "the current in the lines is of a standard value. If a student feels the bell volume is too loud, he can call repair service and have it changed."

"IF SOMEONE experiences a poor connection," he continued, "he should flash the operator and tell her of his trouble. A lack of dial tone is simply because many circuits are in use, and the line finder is taking a little longer to find an open line."

The final big complaint of students was incorrect billing. Many reported bills every month for calls not placed.

"If a student feels he did not make a call," Erwin explained, "he should call the business office, 823-0911, and tell them he did not make that call. We will check with the other party, and if they cannot remember receiving the call, the student is not billed."

"We have to send a credit voucher to San Angelo, and sometimes it doesn't get there until after the bills have been sent out."

"A STUDENT will not have to pay for a call he did not make."

"We can only do something about trouble experienced when we know about it," Erwin concluded. "As soon as we know, we try to get right on it. If people will remember to dial 18 when they have trouble we will be able to serve them better."

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT

Psychology Club will meet at 8 p.m. in room 6 of Nagle Hall. Pat McGraw from neurophysiology will be guest speaker.

Hillel Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Hillel Building. Friday night services will be held at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Grayson County Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 3-C of the Memorial Student Center. This is a reactivation meeting and all Grayson County residents are urged to attend. For further information contact Tom Bonn, 845-6004, or Jack Roy, 50 Mitchell Hall.

DeWitt-Lavaca County Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m.

in room 203 of the Academic Building. Spring party will be planned.

Texas A&M Chapter of DPMA will meet at 7 p.m. in room 104 of the Teague Building. The charter meeting of the organization will be discussed. All members and prospective members should attend.

Panhandle Area Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. in room 3-B of the MSC.

Bell County Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC lobby. Picture will be taken. Sweetheart will be chosen; bring pictures of candidates. Class "A" Winter or midnights, coat and tie for civilians.

Texas A&M Gavel Club will meet at 7 p.m. in the YMCA basement.

LISTEN UP the batt forum

Editor, The Battalion:

After having been recently relocated from a College View apartments (scheduled to be replaced by a new unit) to another apartment in the complex, I was somewhat annoyed to discover that the local telephone company was telling me my telephone would be placed in the bedroom and I could no longer have a wall phone installed in my apartment. (Which is quite convenient, considering I have a two-year-old daughter who likes to play with telephones within reach.) I was told only table phones would be allowed. However, upon inquiring further, I was informed this decision was made by the "University." Supposedly, installation of a wall phone defaces the walls, since subsequent occupants will probably request that their phones be placed in a different location. If I remember correctly, very little damage is done to a wall during installation or removal of a wall phone.

Consequently, the purpose of this letter is twofold:

• To clarify to fellow students in College View that the decision to require phones to be placed in the bedroom did not originate either at the local telephone company or at the Student Apartment Office, but at the "University,"

according to telephone company personnel.

• To ask why all phones, regardless of type (table or wall) must be placed in the bedroom? Is the "University" that concerned with the condition of walls in College View apartments? (If so, we will be led to believe that nails, etc. will henceforth not be used to hang pictures, etc.)

I, and I am sure many other College View residents, would appreciate an explanation. Aren't we paying rates equal to other community residents and shouldn't we be given the prerogative to decide the most convenient location for our phones? If it is necessary to standardize location (which I doubt seriously), wouldn't a more central location be more convenient? Again, some clarification from the person(s) responsible for the decision would be appreciated.

Nelson L. Jacob

Howard Vestal, management services director, emphasized yesterday that the university has issued no such directive. Bill Erwin, division manager for General Telephone in Bryan, admitted that the policy was set up by the phone company for standardization, but that anyone desiring a change can request and obtain it.

For all your insurance needs See U. M. Alexander, Jr. '40 221 S. Main, Bryan 823-3616 State Farm Insurance Companies - Home Offices: Bloomington, Ill.

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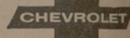
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ATTENTION! All New Freshmen Have your picture made for the 1969 AGGIELAND at University Studio NORTH GATE Between Feb. 3-15 Only