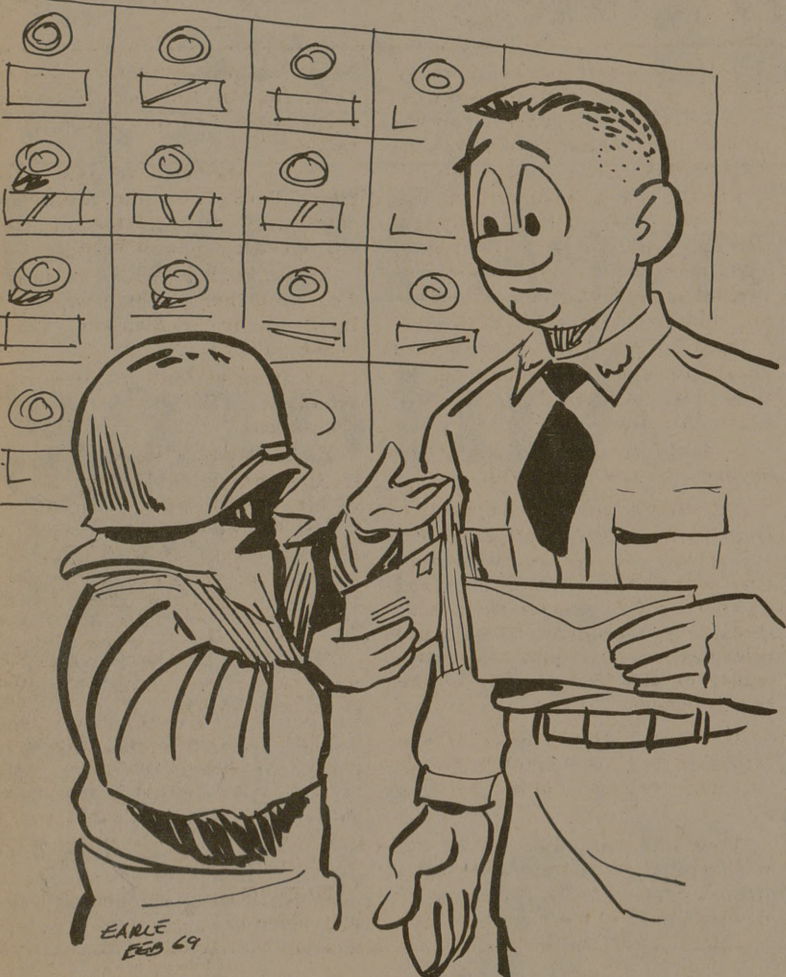


CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"We've hit a new low! We used to get 'Dear John Letters' and now we get 'Dear John postcards!'"

Questions Remain On Phone Service

The Battalion published Wednesday an article concerning complaints about local telephone service. In the story, General Telephone Company presented its point of view, along with an insight into future developments planned in this area. When these developments, such as Direct Distance Dialing, become reality, service in the Bryan-College Station area will undoubtedly be greatly improved.

During his conversation with The Battalion Tuesday, Bill Erwin, General's division manager, heard the customer's side of the story, perhaps for the first time. Some things were brought to his attention that he will almost certainly check into and possibly correct.

During the give-and-take session, though, some things were said that might seem confusing on second examination. As an example, Erwin mentioned that he felt staffing was adequate in this area. Perhaps he wasn't aware that he contradicted himself in the same statement by saying that the repair and installation men work a six-day, 10-hour-a-day work week. Adequate?

While answering questions, Erwin also said service calls were handled as quickly as possible, usually within two or three days. While the statement is no doubt true, we can only wonder why people should have to wait that long to have troubles corrected, especially in an area where a continually growing university is located. The problem couldn't, perhaps, be one of service personnel shortage?

In connection with service, Erwin mentioned that a call to 18, repair service, was all that was needed to get a problem corrected. Some of the complaints received, however, indicated that at least some customers are not getting satisfaction from repair service people. Erwin made a note of that fact at the time, and will presumably check into it as soon as he can.

In Tuesday's information exchange, both sides, the customer and the service, learned some things they probably had not known. It remains to be seen whether or not this will result in more understanding on the part of the customer and improved service locally from the phone people.

—David Middlebrooke

Listen Up

The Battalion: The 1969 Military Weekend will feature two dances, the Combat Ball on Feb. 28, and the Military Ball on March 1.

All Army cadets are encouraged to enter their dates, names in the Combat Cutie contest at the Combat Ball.

I've heard fish have the best-looking girls, but right now the class of '72 has yet to enter one name in the contest.

The classes of '71, '70 and '69 aren't heavily represented either! To make this Combat Ball the best ever, we need more interest from cadets. I sure would like to see all classes make a showing in the contest.

Applications for the Combat Cutie contest can be picked up in room 123 of dorm 2 or from each company first sergeant.

All Air Force seniors may pick up invitations and tickets to the Combat Ball in room 123 of dorm 2 beginning Monday evening. These seniors will be charged a nominal fee of one dollar.

The ball will feature "The Clique" from Houston.

Arthur Stites '69  
Military Weekend Committee

Bulletin Board

Midland Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 in the MSC.

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.

Tonight On KBTX

- 6:00 News, Weather & Sports
- 6:30 The Queen & I
- 7:00 That Girl
- 7:30 Bewitched
- 8:00 Thursday Night Movie "Dead Ringer"
- 10:00 News, Weather & Sports
- 10:30 The Avengers
- 11:30 Alfred Hitchcock

Johnson Admits Mistakes In Dealings With Youth

Those readers who are uninterested in magazine article reviews should skip this column. Those readers who are even less interested in a review of a magazine article in which Lyndon Johnson discusses his administration's failure with American Youth should turn immediately to "Bulletin Board."

In neither case, however, will the reader collect \$200.

The article will be featured in the March issue of True Magazine and while beating a dead horse is considered a useless art, the avid historian may display a half-hearted interest.

For Mr. Johnson admits a mistake.

It should be understood that this was not a big mistake, but more of a misunderstanding. For, while Johnson gives his administration a "decent grade" for effort in attempts to communicate with young people, he allows a "poor grade" for effectiveness.

JOHNSON STATED a definite belief that people in high levels of government are insulated from the thoughts of youth. He said he tried to soften this insulation by deliberately building a staff which included a large number of young people. The nine "young people" he listed had an average age of 30, which many youthful dissidents may consider closer to middle-aged.

Surprisingly, Johnson feels that his estrangement from youth did not result from policies in the Vietnam war, but from the feeling that democratic channels are inadequate for expression of this disagreement. He does not discuss the Vietnam situation further.

YET JOHNSON'S interview is more sad than bad. He feels obliged to give one-man confirmation of his accomplishments. Unfortunately he seems obligated to tie them to a dollar sign.

On the eve of his departure from the White House, he was still committed to the economic view of progress. Richer people are happier people.

On the youth movement and Negro rights Johnson said: "I shudder to think what would happen to the whole operation if two things hadn't happened: one, if I hadn't done what I did do. I took a budget of \$116 billion and turned it into a budget of \$184 billion.

"Basically, much of that — \$17 billion really — was extra for Viet Nam. But the rest of the money went into programs that greatly benefited these people."

ON EDUCATION: "Today federal grants, loans and work-study programs are helping nearly 125 million young Americans through college. Over 100,000 young men and women have completed Job Corps training; more than 1.2 million Americans have enrolled in the Neighborhood Youth Corps; over 23,000 in Upward Bound."

This economic outlook of Johnson's is partly understandable — for he spent his youth in the deprivation of the Depression. What is not understandable is that Johnson recognizes that present security has allowed youth to switch priorities from economics to social justice and political equality, yet for five years he met these new questions almost totally with money answers.

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