

Jan Moulden

# Defendants To Be Helped By Change In Bail System

The House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee in Austin is studying a bill which would allow a person accused of a crime to make bail by posting 10 per cent of bond. The bill, introduced by Rep. Ray Lemmon of Houston, calls for the money to

be held in escrow by the county and returned if the defendant is declared innocent.

As things now stand, all but the most affluent people are forced to use the services of a bail bondsman to escape jail pending trial. The bail bonds-

man's fee is 10 per cent of bond — 10 per cent which the accused will never see again, regardless of final disposition in his case.

"Persons charged now are effectively fined whether guilty or innocent," Lemmon said.

LEMMON'S BILL has merit. Although often abused, our system of jurisprudence still maintains a defendant's innocence until guilt is proven in court. Persons accused of crime should not be forced to pay a "fine" just to gain pre-trial freedom.

One change is needed in the bill, however. The bail money should be returned to the defendant after appearance at court, regardless of whether the verdict is innocent or guilty. The escrow should not become an added income for the county.

UNFORTUNATELY, with demands for crime control at least partially tied to the bond issue, this bill is not likely to receive widespread approval. In testimony against the bill, Houston attorney Joe Edwin Naron, representing the Texas Association of Professional Sureties, Inc., told the committee that 93 per cent of people accused of crime in Harris County are eventually proved guilty.

"Eventually" is right. With the heavy case loads now facing our courts, many persons are forced to spend long periods in jail prior to trial date. Meanwhile, nobody mentions that other seven per cent.

A MAJOR point against the bill was raised in opposition testimony by Houston attorney and bail bondsman Ray Stevens. That is the fear that repeat offenders would have an easy route for escape. Of course, this view seems to take the line that if a person was guilty of some crime before, he is bound to be guilty of the present one.

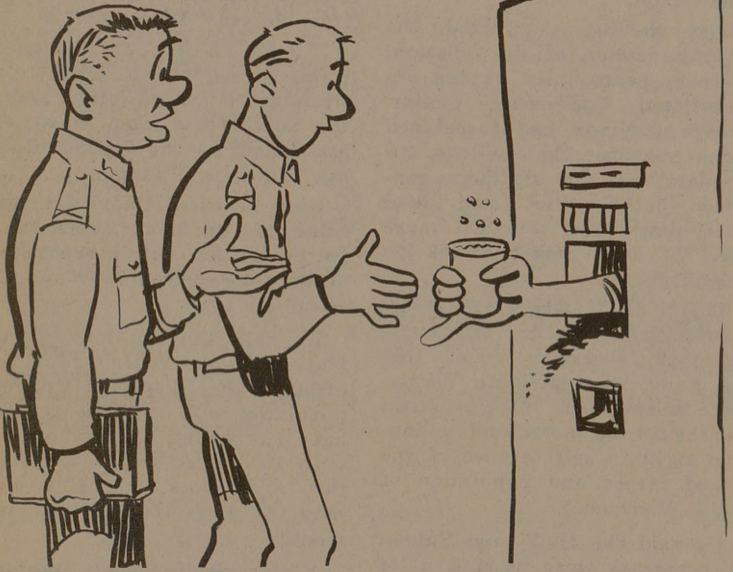
Stevens told the committee that the bill would put 200 Texas bail bondsmen out of business. "We'd hate to be wiped out because some do-gooder says the guilty should be cared for."

What Stevens is overlooking is that "do-gooders" are saying nothing about the "guilty." They are only making some effort at allowing persons not yet proved guilty to get out of jail without financial punishment.

If the bail bondsman is put out of business, that's too bad. But if a major consideration is to be whether some men should make a profit from criminal accusations, the answer is no.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"I guess they got tired of having their machines kicked!"

# Arts and the Image

Because Texas A&M doesn't have an extensive curriculum in the field of the arts, and because College Station is not exactly one of Texas's cultural centers, most students at A&M really don't have a chance to absorb firsthand knowledge of what's happening in the contemporary scene of art, music, drama and literature.

Although this area of study and participation is stressed at other colleges and universities, inside the classroom and out, it is not emphasized at A&M. Because of this lack, Aggies receive a somewhat limited arts education.

Operating on the idea that the people of this area should realize that there are other forms of communication besides the voice, the Contemporary Arts Committee exists to serve Texas A&M.

"We want to diminish the false image of the Aggie whose only interests are beer and football," explained Tom Ellis, CAC chairman.

The Committee works to bring creators and creations to A&M in such fields as writing, dancing, painting and film. Anyone interested in working toward this end should contact Tom Ellis, Box 5191, College Station or fill out an application at the Student Programs Office in the MSC.

This way you can help not only your school but yourself. After all, there is more to art than Cadet Slouch and movies at the Campus.

(Guest Editorial by Fran Haugen)

# 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.

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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.

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# SOPHS & JUNIORS ATTENTION

Pictures for The Aggieland are being made for Jrs. & Soph's K-N this week, March 3-7. Your cooperation is necessary for picture to appear in the yearbook.

# Bulletin Board

TONIGHT

Association of Students from Mexico will meet at 6:45 p.m. in room 123 of the Academic Building. Pan American Week will be discussed.

The A&M Parachute Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 112 of the Plant Sciences Building.

Dallas Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in rooms 3-B and 3-C of the MSC. Members will elect club sweetheart and plan Easter party.

Chemistry Wives Club will meet at 8 p.m. in Bryan Building and Loan. Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio will present a demonstration on the use and application of facial cosmetics.

Architectural Wives Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Bryan Building and Loan. Professor Richard Vrooman of the Architecture Department will show slides and speak on Pakistan. Refreshments will be served.

Rio Grande Valley Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 202 of Francis Hall. Club Sweetheart and Cotton Pageant Duchess will be elected. Bring 3x5 picture of entrant.

Texas A&M Sports Car Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 107 of the Military Science Building.

MONDAY

The Aggie Wives Council will hold its regular monthly business meeting in the Texas Room, north entrance to Bryan Building and Loan, at 7:30 p.m.

# At The Movies

by Mike Plake

## "The Night They Raided Minsky's"

was the dawn of the death of burlesque.

Or so one is led to believe, if one can believe that generation which is old enough to remember or forget it.

This film lucidly explains things burlesque, before burlesque was modified to accommodate the strip.

It tells the ugly, it tells the sweet. Not so much because of its script, which was only fair, or because of its acting, which was comparable. It shows burlesque with its dirty, harsh-lit stage, and the ruby, fatty lips of those who danced on it. It gives grainy glimpses, by means of caricatured news reels and stills, of patrons who ate tomatoes bought from the crowded corner market just before show time.

THIS IS one case of the whole being better than any particular of its parts. Britt Ekland, playing the daughter of a single-minded Amish father, is a beautiful girl. But she was also a beautiful girl in "The Bobo" with husband Peter Sellers. Probably, in her next role she will play, among other things, a beautiful girl.

Or Jason Robards Jr., who plays the chrome-plated, super-charged straight of the straight-man-and-comic team for Mr.

Minsky. He looks like he just changed suits from "Any Wednesday," another filmy flick in which he preyed on sweet young things. In this film he is the kind-hearted villain who leads innocent Miss Ekland away from her straight and narrow father.

AWAY FROM the particular parts, watching this film is like taking a trip through the streets of New York via the 1920's. You hear the loud flushing of imperfect toilets. You see the speak-easy and the easy life it followed. You feel the sting and the warmth from crowding millions of people with low and lower incomes into smaller spaces. Reels you see of the boys home from the war, of babies being taught Americanism at the age of a few months — are impressive.

It's like reading Carl Sandburg's poem of "the greatest city, the greatest nation—" nothing like it ever was.

For the most part, the plot is

a gigantic put-on. Miss Ekland is a 1920-ish Candy whose aim is to see electric light and life with shaven faces, of which she missed as an adolescent.

HARRY ANDREWS plays father, superbly astonished the abounding sins in New York wanting to withdraw his daughter from the scene.

His attempts to take his daughter back result in turning her from clumsily executed dances to a bang-up strip. Probably as much fun as old newsreels and the actors on the stage are the spectacular editing and spontaneous appearing reaction from the audience provides hilarious entertainment.

William Friedkin, director, well-spent his time in New York where the entire film was made. For "The Night They Raided Minsky's," he and his team deserve applause for making a funny, warm, human experience.

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HOWEVER, AT THE RISK OF OFFENDING YOU...

MISS OTHMAR NEVER DID IT THAT WAY!