

Listen Up the batt forum

Editor: Although I am just a freshman at A&M, I've learned quite a few interesting things in the short while I've been here. One of the most interesting is the fact that cowboy boots and a hat somehow gives one the power to openly humiliate and degrade those who don't conform to the wearer's idea of dress and style. They also provide the wearer with some miraculous knowledge of just how long all people should wear their hair, and, most amazingly of all, the right to tell those who object to having others' ideas forced on them that they should leave A&M. One of the most humorous things about all this is the zeal with which these "cowboys" defend America and democracy any time an opinion is advanced about our government. Yet they openly deny others the right to hold an opinion differing from theirs or to have hair longer than they think it should be. Our fathers fought and died to preserve this country and its government so that we could go on having the freedom to live as we wish, not as someone else thinks we should.

Tommy Thompson '73

Editor: There has been much conjecture printed in these pages over the last few days concerning the cowboy versus the hippie type. I had not paid much attention to it until I read the opinion printed in the Thursday, December 11, Battalion.

In this article our cowboys were shown as hardworking, poor boys who were here just for a good education, and certainly would not dream of using college to avoid the draft. It explained that their actions in the table stamping incident were only because of their intense pride for

A&M's image. Gentlemen, open your eyes! How anyone can swallow these ambiguous generalities which took the brains of three to conjure is quite unbelievable. However, if these three honestly believe in what they wrote, then they had better pull their heads out of the sand and try to get some of this education which they speak of in such hallowed tones. The situation is not as they would have one imagine.

The crux of the whole matter is that our heralded cowboys did not use common decency in airing their opinions. It is well and good to have opinions but not to show them in such a manner. Yes, gentlemen, Highway 6 does run both ways and its center seems to have been left void of this thing called common decency.

Frank Shellings

Editor: Many people on campus think the Political Forum is a failure. I disagree! Political Forum is succeeding in warping the minds of dozens of students and faculty. Warping to the left (total state control of life), of course.

The speech of Dr. Harvey Wheeler on Dec. 9th is an example of Political Forum's leanings. Dr. Wheeler has changed his scare tactics from the BOMB

(Fail-Safe, 1962) to biological ecology. Wheeler's mixture of fact and fiction, presented as fact, is designed to cower people, psychologically, into submitting to total government control.

Background information on Dr. Wheeler is interesting. He became a sponsor and faculty member of the New Left School in Los Angeles in 1965. Others in the New Left School included Southern California's Communist Party Chairman, Dorothy Healey, and other revolutionaries, including those from the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, Congress of Racial Equality and others.

Dr. Wheeler advocates "participatory democracy" as a replacement for our Republic. By "participatory democracy" he means planned socialism. According to political analyst Alice Widener, Dr. Wheeler's blueprint for "participatory democracy" bears a striking similarity to William Z. Foster's Toward A Soviet America.

It seems reasonable to request some pro-American, anti-communist speakers. How about it? Don't you agree?

Charles R. Douglas
Asst. Professor, Soil and Crop Sciences Dept.

2 Receive Medals For Vietnam Acts

Army officers commissioned at Texas A&M have received the Bronze Star Medal for service in Vietnam.

Capt. Bobby L. Springer, 1965 graduate of Rockwall, was cited for service in connection with operations against hostile forces while technical supply officer in the 610th Maintenance Battalion.

A mechanical engineering major and Alpha Phi Omega president at A&M, Springer is located

near Phu Loi. He has been in Vietnam 10 months.

First Lt. Lamont E. Meaux of Winnie was executive officer of an infantry company of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade when he was nominated for the decoration. The 1968 A&M graduate in industrial distribution, now at Camp Frenzell-Jones, also holds the Combat Infantryman Badge. He went to Vietnam from Fort Carson, Colo., last February.

Robinson's Crusoe

By Bob Robinson

"Very entertaining. This is the first play by the Aggie Players I've attended and I found it to be both entertaining and well produced."

"Tobacco Road" performed last night to a small, but enthusiastic audience of 149. In an effort to find out what the audience really felt about the production, the Aggie Players included small sheets in each of their programs asking for comments. Although a signature was specifically designated as optional, in almost every case the sheets that were returned were signed. The comments, in every case, were similar.

The above quotation was signed Stephen Roper.

Robert Merrill wrote, "The setting and costumes were excellent. The acting was good. The production was worth the price of the entertainment."

I've been around the campus on and off since about 1962 (The Great Registrar in the Sky may see fit to allow me to graduate in August) and for several

of the years, I worked with the Aggie Players.

This is one of the best productions I can remember seeing on the Guion Hall stage.

The idea to enclose these sheets came after only 95 persons attended the opening night performance. "Tobacco Road" is one of the best plays to be taken from a book by a twentieth century writer. Erskine Caldwell is famous in his own right, not only from "Tobacco Road," but from "God's Half Acre," another best seller.

There must be some reason for the light attendance.

I decided to see what people thought of the Aggie Player version. The following are more examples of what people thought.

John E. Williams wrote "a very good performance."

Marcus Hill wrote "A&M needs more of this kind of entertainment to broaden our field of entertainment."

John Rouse wrote "very good."

Not everyone filled out the slips of paper and I can only guess what they thought. Everyone who did fill one out wrote

generally complimentary remarks. Some had additional comments.

Dick Blair wrote "good acting, but no change of scenery."

"Acting is pretty good and seems very realistic. Props and costumes are quite effective. Script for dialogue is terrible—playwright was really trashed out," was unsigned.

Billy Swain wrote, "A very good production that is well worth the time and small cost of admission. The only room for improvement is in the coffee sold at the play."

That we can do something about.

There are only two more nights, tonight and tomorrow night, to see "Tobacco Road."

The only thing the Players need now is a larger response from the faculty and student body.

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The Battalion

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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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SCONA Roundtable Score

(Continued from page 1)
keynote speaker, C. Robert Moore, who said that the United States had achieved tangible results in its aid policy to Africa.

"We are there politically, for our own interest," Haley said, "and the U.S. is using the most sophisticated form of exploitation ever known."

Haley said that 50 per cent of the profits made by American business are taken away from the African people.

"America is aiming at governmental stability, and to accomplish this it has supported military dictatorships," Haley said.

America helps to protect African governments, the governments help protect American business, and in the process a few rich African capitalists are created and the mass of people are forgotten, according to Haley.

What is needed is a "directed instability" in which the government has to be representative of the people or it will be overthrown, he said.

My point is that getting a strong government does not necessarily help the mass of people," he added.

It is time for the United States to have a moral reawakening, according to Haley.

"When one man is in want and in need, it is essential for all Americans to realize that all men are suffering," Haley added.

One solution to African problems lies in the area of creating a community spirit among the Africans, he said.

"This unity must be directed toward the concept of human dignity and value," he said.

America can help Africa most by giving it more capital with no strings attached, he claimed, adding that it can also help by sending individuals to African nations to help them develop better agricultural techniques.

"We have to start from the bottom and come up," he said. "It won't work to build tremendous industries and let it permeate down to the peasant."

Of course problems will arise, Haley said, but as the system develops, they can be solved.

Americans can't impose their institutions on Africa; Africa must develop their own institutions starting from the bottom and working up, Haley said.

With controversial beliefs like the above, it is a wonder why more students did not attack Haley's positions.

A great number of his quoted statements did not come from the discussion itself but in an interview afterwards.

The other students who actively participated with Haley were able to make the discussion lively and informative.

"I'm afraid that besides Haley," Dr. Walters said near the end of the hour and a half session, "our thought on these matters is becoming static."

Seven students carried this particular roundtable discussion, and 12 were carried.

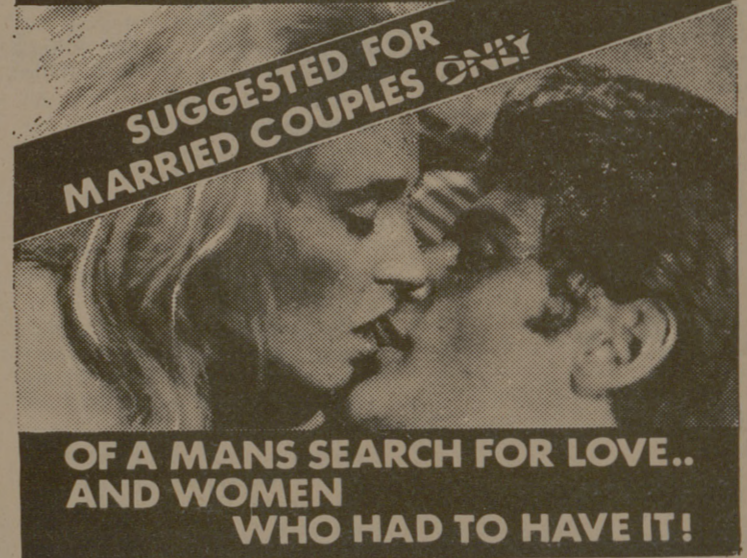
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