

Jericho: An Evaluation

By Roger Miller

"Operation Jericho" was an attempt to tear down the walls of communication which exist between students and administration. It was an attempt to provide workable solutions to campus problems. It was an attempt to increase understanding and cooperation among leaders of student organizations.

How well did Jericho accomplish its goals? This really won't be known for several months. However, there were numerous criticisms of Jericho by the student delegates. An evaluation at this time may help future Jerichos in solving these problems.

This column is not to be taken as condemnation of Jericho. Quite the contrary, it is intended only as a constructive evaluation.

The simplest way to evaluate Jericho is to examine how well it accomplished its stated goals, keeping in mind that much will not be known for some time.

(1) To increase problem-solving and leadership abilities of the student body. The three training sessions were the main effort here. Students met in groups of five or six and pooled their efforts to solve "paper problems." The groups solved two problems each night. After each problem-solving effort a faculty observer evaluated each student on his contribution and then the group as a whole.

The first two sessions were moderately effective, but by the third session the students were tired of trying to solve paper problems, some of which were pointless and solutionless.

Although most of the faculty observers did excellent jobs, a few obviously were not prepared to perform this job.

What about the actual problem-solving efforts of the conference itself? Most of the topics, such as intra-student relationships, lent themselves more to philosophical discussions than to concrete solutions.

However, in all probability the conference did produce many concrete solutions to existing problems. It remains to be seen what happens to these solutions. Hopefully, the administration will show that its backing of Jericho was more than just show by acting on the solutions offered by the students.

(2) To stimulate intra-student relationships and combat fractionalism in the student body. No members of the Campus Committee of Concern (CCOC) or the Afro-American Society were included in the original delegate invitation list. When individuals from these two groups asked for invitations, they received them. The point is that if the conference was to combat fractionalism in the student body, the delegate selection committee picked a poor way to do it. You don't combat fractionalism or stimulate intra-student relationships by excluding segments of the student body.

If the conference did not combat fractionalism, it did bring into clear focus one of the biggest, if not the biggest, campus problem—Corps-Civilian relationship. Student Senate president Gerry Geistweidt and vice-presi-

dent Kent Caperton both addressed themselves to the problem in speeches delivered to the conference.

The topic came up in almost every discussion group regardless of composition or assigned topic. Although different solutions were given for the problem, no one denied the problem existed. All seemed to agree that "cover up" unity is not the answer.

(3) Open new channels of communication between administration and students. In this area Jericho did all it could. It presented panel discussions by top administrative officials on topics of vital interest to students. Then the officials were invited to tour the roundtable discussion groups to answer student questions. So the attainment of the third goal depended on the administration.

The administration gave extensive backing to Jericho. In fact, half of the funds for Jericho were provided by the University. However, backing is not enough. Full participation is necessary for success.

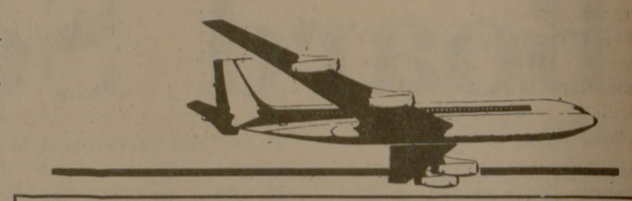
Some of the administrative officials were frank and to the point with the students; others were not. I hope that the good accomplished by the first group is not outweighed by the harm done by the second group.

If the administration does not act on at least some of the student recommendations, it will only be adding to the frustration many students already feel. Instead of opening new channels of communication, it will be closing old ones.



"I couldn't afford a box if all I used it for was mail!"

AIRLINE RESERVATIONS & TICKETS



312 EAST 25TH MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER 823-0961 846-3773

30-Day Charge On Your Personal Account Or Use Your BankAmericard

Free Delivery

Beverly Braley ...tours...travel Bonded ASTA Agent

Listen Up the batt forum

Editor:

A re-occurring issue here at A&M is the Corps-Civilian separation or rather the reasons for this fragmentation. I came to this school less than a year ago, but I came with a pre-conceived idea of what I had heard about the Aggies. I expected to see, and become a part of, Aggies striving together for common goals whether they were civilians or cadets. But instead I've found bitterness, rejection, and disrespect on the part of both sides toward each other. Feelings such as these by many, not all, are tearing apart the Aggie unification that was once the symbol of Aggieland. Many people on this campus today are being judged by what type of clothing they wear or by the length of their hair rather than as individuals.

There are several reasons why these feelings exist. One is the Corps' inability to adjust to the changing attitudes that have arisen from the change in the student body population from strictly corps to eighty per-cent civilians. The Corps is rich in heritage and tradition and through the years has given the respectability, honor, and national prestige that A&M now holds. But things have changed and the Corps is in the middle of change. In accordance with this problem is the civilians' impatience with the amount of change that has taken place so far. With the amount of school tradition that we have here it will take a little longer than most people think

for A&M to conform to a civilian-orientated campus. But certainly there must be certain measures that can be done to help lessen the separation rather than letting it grow any larger. The day A&M officially made the Corps voluntary should have been the day to start revisions. We have waited too long — let's not wait any longer. Let's start working "together" to preserve the Spirit of Aggieland.

B. Paul Quinn '71

Editor:

Dear Civilian Student Council: Being the "dumb Aggie" that I am, and not knowing exactly what to do when censured, I was wondering when I should stop breathing?

William M. Hathaway Jr. "Alleged" author of the Review Bonfire story

Editor:

Since last September, much rivalry has existed between the cadets and the civilians, and it has now touched student politics within the Student Council, the "united" assembly instituted to promote the interests of students at A&M. Both factions list innumerable grievances, and exhibit ruffled feathers accusingly. It is evident that the Council has degenerated to a power struggle, drastically limiting its effectiveness, and it appears many of our representatives prefer playing games that build their egos rather than carrying out their respon-

sibilities. If our student body is to unite, the Council must discontinue rejecting unpopular individuals for personal reasons should they find him offensive to their ever-sensitivity. So it is the Civilian Student Council, since when have the interests of the cadets run so contradictory to those of the civilians?

I suggest this campus organize as a truly united body, excluding none from their assemblies, that these grievances might be worked out and the Aggie Brotherhood be restored. In addition, it would probably be wise to extend invitations to representatives from the Administration and faculty, that better relations might be accomplished among all involved in the academic process at A&M. I applaud Operation Jericho; however, it cannot be totally effective alone, unaccompanied by effort on all sides. The time has come for power games and pseudo-politics be removed from the Council scene, and true unity come to A&M, that it might regain its peaceful unity, unique among the campuses of the nation.

Gary M. Lewis Class of '73

WEATHER

Thursday — Clear to partly cloudy. Wind East 15 to 20 m.p.h. High 59, low 37. Friday — Partly cloudy. Wind East 10 to 15 m.p.h. High 68, low 41.

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 as a university and community newspaper.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced, and 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.

1969 TPA Award Winner

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; H. P. Eilers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Asa B. Childers, Jr., College of Veterinary Medicine; and Dr. Z. L. Carpenter, College of Agriculture.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

MEMBER The Associated Press, Texas Press Association The Associated Collegiate Press

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 4% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of republication of all other matter herein are also reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

EDITOR: DAVE MAYES Managing Editor: David Middlebrooke Sports Editor: Richard Campbell Assistant Sports Editor: Mike Wright Staff Writers: Pam Troby, Payne-Harrison, Hayden Whitsett, Clifford Broyles, Bob Robinson, Tony Huddleston, Chancy Lewis, Janie Wallace, George Scott

Columnist: Roger Miller Photographer: Jim Berry Sports Photographer: Mike Wright

Shamrock Civil Engineering EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT YOU, THE '70 GRADUATE College Division North Gate 331 University Dr. 846-3737 A division of ERC "EMPLOYERS PAY FOR OUR SERVICES."

SAVE AT Brookshire Bros. THE BEST FOR LESS SPECIALS FOR THURS-FRI-SAT FEB. 26-27+28, 1970

CRISCO 49 3 lb CAN DETERGENT FAB GIANT BOX 59 WEATHER Thursday - Clear to partly cloudy. Wind East 15 to 20 m.p.h. High 59, low 37. Friday - Partly cloudy. Wind East 10 to 15 m.p.h. High 68, low 41.

PEAS 5 \$1.00 NO. 323 CANS TRELLIS EGGS Doz. 59 FLOUR 49 GOLD MEDAL 5 lb BAG APPLES lb 19 EXTRA FCY. WASHINGTON RED. DEL.

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz HERE'S THE HEAD BEAGLE RETURNING HOME AFTER HEARING CASES ALL DAY I NEVER KNEW SO MANY DOGS COULD GET INTO SO MUCH TROUBLE I'M TOO TIRED TO EAT... IS THE HEAD BEAGLE ASLEEP? THE HEAD BEAGLE HAS HAD IT!