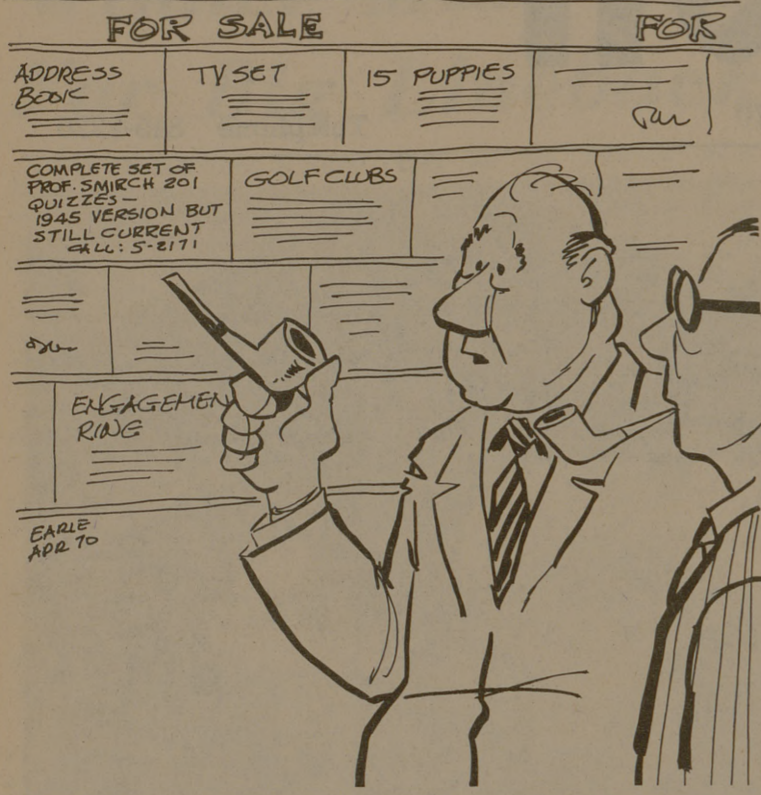


CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"That does it! It's time to make new tests!"

A Senator Speaks Student: Nigger?

By Jim Stephenson

The American student is a "Nigger"! Ridiculous? I would like to discuss how valid this statement really is. Except for the race minorities, the student is discriminated against as much as any minority in the United States.

By calling the student "Nigger," I am attempting to point out the servile role that the majority of students assume. It is a very similar role to that which many Blacks in the past have assumed. I would attribute both of these to the system and our society. The educational system in the United States is an inflexible and archaic one. It is built to act upon the student, but not to be acted upon by him.

My comments in this article, while directed at the educational system as a whole, will specifically deal with the university. The assumption under which most universities operate is that the university is an extension of parental authority, or in legal terms "in loco parentis." From this assumption university administrators reach the conclusion that it is their obligation to control and discipline the lives of their students in an autocratic manner.

Many administrators will tell you that students, as such, have no inherent rights. They only have those which are delegated to them by the all-powerful administration. The part that is sad about this is that for all practical purposes these administrators are entirely correct. Our educational system has reached the conclusion that college students are incapable of exercising self-discipline or contributing to the functioning of a university even though the average age of college students is about 24. A vast majority are eligible to vote. A large percentage are married and have families. Many are veterans of our Armed Forces. It puzzles me that an individual who,

according to the standards of our society, is considered an adult, legally and any other way, upon entering this or any other university becomes suddenly incapable of controlling or directing his life.

There is one feature of our educational system above all others that perpetuates this system. That feature is, that for the most part the university does not require students to think. Not to think in the sense of being able to recall all those important facts that pour forth from a professor's lips, but to think in the sense of being able to take in information, consider it in an objective and rational manner, and reach sound, concise conclusions. However, by not requiring students to think, the system has found that it is able to keep students apathetically happy. It is so very similar to that old proverbial "Nigger" on the cotton plantation in the "old South." Students are quite content with their place in life because they know of nothing better.

Finally I think that one could attribute the name "Nigger" to today's student because of the way he is treated in the day to day activities. He is told what to read and what to write in order to be "educated." This in itself is not totally undesirable. However, when one is instructed that he must write with a ballpoint, or fold his paper a certain way, or even that he must have certain margins on his typewriter, it becomes apparent that the student is no more than the end result of a training process rather than an educated man. As you have read this last paragraph I am sure that you are caught with the amusement of it; however, I would ask each of you to ask yourselves whether it is not true and to stop and think if it is not these small things that force the vast majority of students to assume a servile role.

Listen Up the batt forum

Editor:

I read with great interest Carroll Punte's letter in the April 14 issue of The Battalion. Mr. Punte charged that the student group known as "The Fifth Wheel Committee" is filled with unqualified candidates who are brainwashing the student body with "pretty signs and advertisements." Mr. Punte also called "The Fifth Wheel Committee" a potential wedge which will drive corps and civilian factions further apart.

The same night, I met several "Fifth Wheel" candidates, who were campaigning in my dorm. I was surprised to find these students wholly unlike the impression I received from Mr. Punte's letter. Not only did these students present a formidable array of qualifications, but could also be recognized as those students who have tried to do much for the betterment of A&M, by working for the students, and with the administration. I am in no way affiliated with "The Fifth Wheel" but only a student who sees no "potential wedge", no "pitifully unqualified candidates," nor any massive "brainwashing."

I see only a group of highly qualified individuals, representing many student factions, whose deeds speak far better than any campaign that could be put together.

William D. O'Connor
Class of '71

★ ★ ★

Editor:

For the past year in my position of student senate president I have worked very closely with Kent Caperton. As vice-president of the senate, Kent has demonstrated through his diligent work his desire and ability to serve the students of Texas A&M.

He has contributed countless hours of work both on the senate and in the MSC. His record is indicative of his concern for and interest in the students, the student government and the institutions of Texas A&M. He has approached the issues with fairness and determination to see that the student's voice is heard and listened to. He has, without a doubt, been one of the key leaders this year, not only in the senate, but in many other areas as well.

I have talked with Kent concerning his aims and objectives for the coming year, and judging on my past experience with him, I hereby endorse Kent Caperton for student senate president, and encourage you to vote for him next Thursday.

Gerald Geistweidt
★ ★ ★

Editor:

I would like to reply to Mr. Bill Fisher's letter which was printed in last Friday's issue of The Battalion. As you may recall, Mr. Fisher urged students of Texas A&M to participate in a Peace Fast on April 15 by giving contributions (in the amount of the price of meals) to the American Friends Service, a Quaker organization. He also comments on the Student Senate for refusing to sanction the proposed fast.

I first heard of the American Friends Service about a year or two ago. At that time, they were attempting to send a shipload of medical supplies to North Viet-

nam. The U.S. government said that the action was illegal and that it would give aid and comfort to the enemy. I don't remember if the ship ever reached North Vietnam or if anyone was arrested. However, I do remember that these people were trying to give aid to the enemy and, in all probability, still are.

Mr. Fisher said that the contributions given on April 15 will be used to feed "orphans and widows," not soldiers. However, I believe that the North Vietnamese government will seize the supplies, once they reach North Vietnam, and give them to the enemy soldiers who desperately need them.

I am not a warmonger—I want this war to end as soon as possible. I am a graduating senior and my II-S deferment runs out in June. Since I'll be attending graduate school without a deferment this year, the draft and the war represent real threats to me in the near future. However, I don't want this war prolonged by anyone sending food and supplies to the enemy—those people might be shooting at me someday.

James Westbrook '70
★ ★ ★

Editor:

Recently the Young Americans for Freedom benefitted the patrons of lovely Cafe Sbsa with an anti-draft tract. One of the fallacies used to support their argument was that Americans have always been willing to volunteer for the Army when faced with a threat from abroad.

During the Civil War a draft was used to pull men away from the vastly more profitable factory bench, where the first "military-industrial complex" was enjoying the feeling of bloated war profits. Both sides, despite the high and holy purposes for which they were fighting, were forced to resort to the draft by the second year of the war.

During World War I, the draft was passed by Congress in May of 1917 — the first troops in the European theatre did not arrive until that summer, most of them being National Guard and other

weekend warriors. The standing army and called up reservists were barely enough for the non-coms needed for the size of an army big enough to defeat Germany, yet the nation had three years from the start of hostilities to volunteer as the YAF would have us do.

During World War II, the draft was made law in September of 1940, more than a year before Pearl Harbor. There and

in the Korean War, the draft was necessary to assure enough troops to wage effective war.

In none of these wars did enough Americans volunteer to defend their country so that the government did not have to go out and drag its fighting men from the streets of these United States.

James E. Zeman, Jr.

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PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz