

# On Free Speech, Peaceable Assembly

Within this current school year, members of the university community have witnessed—at least unofficially—two on-campus demonstrations concerning the Vietnam War.

On Oct. 15 an estimated 300 students gathered, apparently spontaneously, on the lawn in front of the Academic Building. Grouping in small clusters and joined by a sprinkling of high school students, they discussed and debated the war throughout the afternoon.

They did this in spite of previous warnings by the Executive Committee that "unauthorized public speakers, meetings and other unauthorized functions on campus" were prohibited and could result in suspensions for those involved.

And, although University Police officers were conspicuous, the university chose to ignore its own stated policy and allowed the "shade tree" debates to continue.

There were no arrests made and no punishments meted out.

Exactly six months later, on April 15, about the same number of students gathered around a platform at the edge of the parade grounds to hear a self-proclaimed write-in candidate for the Student Senate and three or four others speak on the war.

They did this in spite of a warning by the Dean of Students the same day that "promotion and/or support of, or participation in, or attendance at, any on-campus function or activity not specifically

authorized by the Dean of Students is prohibited." This time the university chose to enforce its stated policy and University Police moved in to break up the "rally."

A man from Austin was arrested as he spoke and five A&M students were taken to the dean's office. The dean has said that those students found to be involved in the rally "very definitely" would be punished.

Although it is open to conjecture as to why the university decided not to enforce regulations in one instance and then chose to do so in another—there was no violence at either demonstration—one thing is certain: On Oct. 15 students could exercise their rights to assemble peaceably and speak publicly; on April 15, they could not.

We believe these rights should not have been abridged April 15, regardless of any arguments for sanctity of rules and protection of image, or against length of hair or appropriateness of subject. Rally participants caused neither violence nor disruption, the criteria which define the limits of free actions. We urge the university to repeal those rules and regulations which conflict with the rights of free speech and peaceful assembly on campus.

In a society that is truly free, the freedoms of speech and assembly are indeed rights—and not privileges to be granted or withdrawn by regulation or rule.

## CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I'm trying to become better known so more people will know I'm not a candidate!"

## tonight on the tube

TONIGHT		MONDAY	
5:00	3 (5) General Hospital	5:00	3 (5) General Hospital
5:30	3 (5) CBS Evening News	5:30	3 (5) CBS Evening News
6:00	3 (5) News	6:00	3 (5) News
6:30	3 (5) Around the World with Five Men and a Girl	6:30	3 (5) Gunsmoke
7:30	3 (5) Hogan's Heroes	7:30	3 (5) Here's Lucy
8:00	3 (5) Glenn Miller Story	8:00	3 (5) Mayberry RFD
10:00	3 (5) News	8:30	3 (5) Doris Day
10:30	3 (5) Projected Man	9:00	3 (5) Carol Burnett
		10:00	3 (5) News
		10:30	3 (5) FBI
		11:30	3 (5) The Law and Mr. Jones

## Bulletin Board

**FRIDAY**  
The Chess Committee of the Memorial Student Center will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 3B of the MSC.

**SATURDAY**  
The Business Administration Wives Club will sponsor a special showing of "In Search of the Castaways" at 9:30 a.m. at the Campus Theater. Admissions are children, 50 cents, and adults, 75 cents. A drawing will be held. Geology Wives Club will have a picnic at 4:30 p.m. in Williamson Park. Sailing Club will hold a boat show from noon til 6 p.m. at Bryan Municipal Lake. Free sailing lessons will be given and drinks are free.

**SUNDAY**  
Alpha Phi Omega pledges will meet at 7 p.m. in the Art Room of the Memorial Student Center. There will be a general meeting at 8:00 p.m. in Room 3D of the MSC. Arrangements for the May 9 spring banquet, activities for the scout camporee and possible activities for Earth Day will be discussed.

**MONDAY**  
Engineering Technology Wives Club will meet at 8 p.m. in the Physics lecture room. Dr. Ralph Vernon will speak on "The Engineering Technologist Role in Safety."

## Listen Up the batt forum

**Editor:**  
I want to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for Student Senate Vice President.

I am asking for your support. But I am not asking it as a favor. I am willing to make this office my number one concern the coming year.

My fellow Senators will tell you that I do not shun responsibility. I realize the magnitude of the position, and the problems that face the Student Government of a rapidly changing Student Body. Those problems

will not be solved by a group of "yes" boys. It will require independent, sound minded leadership to achieve goals worthy of this campus. I hope to help this Student Body grow and progress without allowing it to lose the standards that have made the word "Aggie" synonymous with "Pride" for many years.

I am open-minded to new ideas from all areas of our campus. I realize the rift in the past between the civilians and the Corps. I believe we can remain a great University by molding these two groups together. I will work

untiringly with all my ability to see this goal accomplished in the coming year.

I sincerely want to see a balanced and representative Student Government. I ask for the challenge and opportunity to represent all Aggies with sincerity and dedication. I hope to meet you in coming days.

David Moore '72  
Candidate or Vice-President  
★ ★ ★

**Editor:**  
Mr. Caperton, according to your April 7 letter, you say, "There are basic principles to which all of the Fifth Wheel Committee adheres. Foremost among these is that student government must move away from the control of a small group of elitists."

Yet as I look around the campus, the only small group I see trying to control student government for next year is the Fifth Wheel.

Does this mean the purpose of the Fifth Wheel is to inform the students whom not to vote for, by isolating and advertising these elitists F.W.C candidates?

Rudy delaGrazia

**Students Slow Down Census on Campus**  
Census taking is encountering difficulty here.

The 1970 canvass of students began last Wednesday but has bogged down, Associate Dean of Students Don Stafford said.

"A number of students have not completed forms and returned them to the residence hall advisor or company commander," he noted. "All students are urged to cooperate with the Census Bureau, fill out the forms and return them as soon as possible."

The Individual Census Report (ICR) forms are needed by the end of the week, Stafford emphasized. The regional office in Lufkin wants to complete the study by Monday, he added.

## Civilian Week

(Continued from page 1)  
day, students will be encouraged to vote in the general elections for Student Senate, CSC, Election Commission and class officers. Mud football, tug of war, push ball and horseshoe contests will continue on the intramural field and spade, chess and pool tournaments will continue in the MSC and Aggie Den.

Friday will be Date Arrival Day. At 5 p.m., mud football will be played at West Gate. At 8 p.m., a dance will be held in the KC Hall featuring the Z-Z Top. Tickets are \$2.50 if purchased in advance at the Student Co-Op located behind the Campus Theater and \$3 at the door. MSC Basement Coffee House shows and individual hall activities will round out the day.

Saturday is Race Day. Beginning at 9 a.m., mud football, tug of war and push ball finals will be held at West Gate. From 10 a.m.-3 p.m., a Model Airplanes National Competition will be held on the drill field and East of Kyle Field. At noon, a soccer game will be held on the soccer field. The civilian barbecue will be held in the Grove beginning at 12:30 p.m. Students may obtain one ticket to the barbecue

on the basis of their spring dorm activity card, if they have one, or pay \$1.50. Date tickets are \$1.50. Tickets must be obtained from hall counselors by Monday.

At 2 p.m., the "Grand Prix" go-cart race will be held in the Law Hall parking lot. Entrants from the different halls will be competing. The A&M Rugby team will play the University of Texas at Austin on the drill field at 3 p.m.

Town Hall will present "Smith" and "Tony Joe White" at 7 p.m. as a regular attraction. Students can attend on their activity cards, and date tickets are \$2.

The presentation dance will begin at 9 p.m. in the Sbsia Annex. During the dance the Civilian Sweetheart for the coming year will be selected. Students with fall dorm activity cards may obtain a dance ticket from their hall counselors, and students without the cards may purchase tickets for \$3.50 per couple. Tickets may be picked up by Monday.

A special church service will be held Sunday in All Faiths Chapel. Civilian Student Chaplain Ed Donnell will preside.

## The Battalion

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### 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.

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By Charles M. Schulz

I SWELL A WET PILOT!