

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"Last week I was afraid to say 'Wait until next year' and now I'm saying wait until next weekend!"

Bonfire

Last year at the Bonfire I turned and started to leave following the yell practice. As I walked away two freshmen in the Corps passed me. One turned to the other and said, "Is that all it is?" His companion replied, "It doesn't seem worth it."

It hurts, after working on two Bonfires, to hear something like that. It hurts because it is the truth.

Every year we build a Bonfire. Every year we stack logs, operate chain saws and walk around in a semi-stupor brought on by exhaustion. Every year we create a monster.

There is no reason to keep building the immense object we have in the past. Fifty feet could be lopped off the top of our Bonfire and we'd still have the world's biggest. It could be a third as large and it would still convey the spirit and the "burning desire to beat the hell out of t.u."

In the past we have had what is called the "superlative disease" by our ecology columnist Steve Hayes. In the past we have continued, without rhyme or reason, to force it ever higher. In the past we have had people injured and almost killed because of its immensity.

It is time that we look to the now rather than to the past. It is time that we took a long hard look at the Bonfire tradition, not with the idea of tearing it down, but with idea of making it more relevant and more meaningful.

If we did cut down on the size of the Bonfire it would mean more people would be released to do other things. What have been called "alternatives" in the past could become a meaningful and useful part of the Bonfire tradition. It could also bring in those who oppose Bonfire on ecology or other issues.

It is hard to imagine what would be the result of having several thousand students working on something like the Burton Creek clean-up held last year, or working to build a park in an under-privileged area. The capacity for doing something really meaningful in this community, not just providing it with a burning smell in the wind and a traffic jam, would be tremendous.

We call for the student organizations on this campus, and the students themselves, to review their participation in the Bonfire and in the community. We think that they will, for the most part, find their participation in one to be ridiculously high, while the other is ridiculously low. They will find that the good they do is relatively small in comparison to their selfish actions in building the Bonfire. We hope that they will react to this view by finding meaningful, worthwhile objectives and not go about creating monsters.

Bulletin Board

- Tonight Fellowship of Christian Athletes meets in the Lettermen's Lounge at 9.
- Orange County Hometown Club meets in the lobby of the MSC at 7:30.
- Host and Fashion will meet in the Memorial Student Center art room at 7:30 to hear Dean Schriber speak.
- Chess Committee will meet at 7:30 in room 3B of the Memorial Student Center.
- Thursday Student Senate meets in the Library conference room at 7:30.
- Model Airplane Club will meet at Hobby World, 305 University, at 8:15.
- San Angelo-West Texas Area HTC will meet in room 3-C of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30.
- Eagle Pass Hometown Club will meet in room 2-B of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30.
- DeWitt-Lavaca Hometown Club will meet in room 203 of the Academic building at 7:30.
- Monday Scale Modeling Club will meet in the Social Room of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30.
- Junior Class Council will meet in room 304 of the Physics building at 7:30.

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 must 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.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsay, chairman; H. F. Eilers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Asa B. Childers, Jr., College of Veterinary Medicine; Dr. W. E. Tedrick, College of Agriculture; and Layne Kruse, student.

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Listen up

Administration accused of violating rights

Editor: On Tuesday, October 28, Mr. Wendler, Executive Director of Texas Intercollegiate Student Association, gave a talk on student civil rights. I expected the MSC ballroom to be filled, but this was not the case. Evidently many students do not take their civil rights too seriously. Nevertheless, I would like to summarize on a few of Mr. Wendler's statements.

a) The University cannot require students to live on campus except under unusual circumstances. Payment of building mortgages is not an unusual circumstance. Many students do not realize that A&M cannot require you to live on campus. Upper courts have already decided in favor of the student. Why does A&M persist in total disregard of our constitutional rights as American citizens?

b) While the University has the right to inspect rooms for damages to walls, blinds, sinks, etc., it does not have the right to search your personal belongings. Yet, two summers ago, my roommate and I were awakened at 11:30 PM and commanded to open our footlockers and drawers for inspection. Doesn't the administration realize that this is unlawful search? Yet A&M persists in such policies.

c) Freedom of the press shall not be infringed upon. It is your right as an American citizen to distribute literature on public property. For some of us this brings to mind a paper published a few years ago known as Evolution. "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech . . ." Contrast this with the A&M Blue Book Section 51, as pertains to censorship of political speakers.

These and many other violations are happening now. People—WAKE UP! It is the students who must initiate these changes. We must do it now because it will take years to accomplish completely.

As for the administration—I ACCUSE. I accuse the administration of flagrantly violating the civil rights of every student here. I invite—no, I challenge you to answer these accusations. And if you dare to try, let me first admonish you that you cannot contract away your constitutional rights. That little card every student is required to sign when he enrolls, by which he agrees to abide by the Blue Book rules, cannot contract away his constitutional rights. THIS IS THE LAW. E. R. Elsbury '72

The problem with the speech Ed Wendler made was that while he told the truth, he didn't quite tell the whole truth. A Supreme Court ruling of April 5, 1971 upheld the right of a state-supported institution to require students to live and eat in campus facilities.

The Supreme Court has also upheld the right of a university to search rooms if it has "reasonable cause to believe" a criminal law is being violated or other evil is present. To quote from the opinion of Moore v. Student Affairs Committee of Troy State University, "the regulation authorizing search of dormitories thus does not depend on whether a student 'waives' his right to Fourth Amendment protection or whether he has 'contracted' it away; rather, its validity is determined by whether the regulation is a reasonable exercise of the colleges supervisory duty."

As for Evolution, Dean James P. Hannigan says that they may sell their magazine on campus but that they haven't been able to publish this year. That is the reason you haven't seen Evolution.

As for the speakers policy, Hannigan said policy has been changed and he "knows of no speaker that has been refused permission" to speak on campus.

Hannigan also said that A&M has a legal adviser who looks over all policies to make sure

there are no violations of students civil rights.—Ed.

Editor: As an Aggie I am very proud of our school, but I am not blind to its faults. There are many problems that deserve immediate attention. One of these is the fence that has been constructed in front of the Academic Building. I believe that the proposed mall could be built in sections—not all at once—and thereby not disrupt the flow of students. Traffic flow on campus is getting worse, cars should be prohibited on campus during class hours, and new, separate pathways should be provided for bicycles. This would cost money, but it would relieve congestion and hopefully satisfy both pedestrians and bicycle owners. Another problem is parking. I propose that a bus service for day students would go a long way towards solving this. Such a system would drastically reduce the need for day student parking areas. These areas could then be used for dormitory students.

There are other problems, however, that are related to the basic ideas of this university. I feel that we should be guaranteed the same freedoms as other citizens. Specifically, our rooms should not be subject to searches without a warrant. This is asking no more than is guaranteed in the Constitution. I believe that students should not be forced to live on

campus, eat Sbsa food, or pay for the laundry service unless he wants to do so.

I am running for the Student Senate. The only qualifications I offer are a willingness to listen to the student body and a concern for the betterment of Texas A&M University.

Randy Stephens '75

The fence in front of the Academic building is there to keep people from falling in a trench that is soon to be there. The mall is being built in sections, and has since it was started last year, but there is a limit to how small the sections can be.

Most of your other transportation suggestions are already being implemented and researched by the university.—Ed.

Editor: I believe that I have a matter that needs the concern of the entire university, particularly the freshman class. It concerns the upcoming class of '75 elections. Let me emphasize that I am not a candidate nor am I writing this letter in support of any certain individuals. I merely want to make known to many civilians what goes on here in the Corps area.

Over this past weekend, campaign signs for the elections began appearing on campus. Living in Dorm 10 as a civilian, I noticed that many signs were placed in front of Duncan Hall.

These supported male candidates with no distinction as to Corps or civilian, and also several signs for various female candidates.

Tuesday morning as I left for an early class, I saw a pile of charred wood and cardboard on the sidewalk outside Duncan. When I looked at the campaign signs, it was easy to see that at least five signs were missing and these were the signs of our young women candidates. One sign that was burned was made out of sheet metal and I previously noticed it as belonging to a female.

I have no doubts whatever that certain individuals in the Corps of Cadets are behind this inci-

dent. I have heard cries in the son of "Beat the hell out of the regs and maggies!" while sitting in Duncan. Clearly the Corps is out for the Corps and no one else.

As times change, this university is no longer the military school it once was. I feel that a non-compulsory Corps and the addition of FEMALE AGGIES, not maggies, leads to a confidence of opinion. Everyone has the right to participate in student government. No one is entitled to demonstrate his authority for destroying property not belonging to him just because he longs for the days when everyone was O' Army.

Paul E. Klein '75

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By Charles M. Schultz