

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SLOUCH 1953-1971



"After 18 years and 2,500 cartoons, I deserve today off!"

Black awareness

This issue and the last three issues of The Battalion have carried articles dealing with blacks on campus.

We have seen that A&M still remains an almost totally white university. Despite recruitment by the Black Awareness Committee and the university's open and fairly equal policy, we still have less than a one per cent black student population. This is in a state with 12.7 per cent black population.

We have seen that while we are a university for the State of Texas, we have attending this university six times as many foreign students as blacks.

We have also seen a strange difference between the administration's views of blacks and views of the blacks themselves. We have seen that Dean Hannigan says the policy is wide open toward blacks while the Black Awareness Committee's newspaper—Liberator—says that Dean Hannigan was a reason the blacks had such a hard time getting an on-campus organization. We have seen that the Corps has a "color blind" policy while a black junior in the Corps considers it "99 per cent white-oriented."

To put it mildly, there seem to be some inconsistencies present. There seems to be, at the very least, a communications breakdown between the blacks and the administration.

It is a stated goal of the Black Awareness Committee to create an awareness of blacks among the administration and this we are convinced they are trying to do. There is only one place left to point the finger.

We do not mean to say that the administration is intentionally disregarding the blacks. Such a policy would be folly for any college today. We do say that the administration needs to study the inconsistencies—there is a problem, and it must be resolved.

See here

Two skin flicks-and Hoffman

By D. P. FONTANA

Umm, Umph, Umm! There's quite a dilemma in reporting the flicks which will be showing in B-CS this weekend. So, I'll just call 'em like I see 'em, and the devil can take the hindmost — which is what you see plenty of at the Palace theatre this weekend. There one can see two really big-budget, dreadful flicks which will probably be great audience pleasers for the soft-core porno-for-lunch bunch. Beyond the Valley of the Dolls and The Seven Minutes — both Russ Meyer flicks — will probably appeal to anyone who reads Playboy and believes it. The former film, now several years old, has not mellowed with aging.

The only thing grosser than this footage was Meyer's new release The Seven Minutes. It's just too bad that while Mr. Meyer was casting for faces, breasts and other anatomical considerations, he couldn't have tried to throw in a little T-A-L-E-N-T. (Or maybe a decent scriptwriter) What you have is a rather boring montage of soft-porno.

There is also an unbelievable amount of presumptuous sermonizing on "freedom of speech," sexual reality, and other topics which would be dear and near to the heart of any ex-porno producer turned respectable (only through the size of budgets he now commands).

So, essentially you have a scantily clad skin-flick with prettier bodies and faces than one is usually want to see and elaborate sets which make California look as though every room in the state had been done by an interior decorator who usually specializes in royal cathouses. (California looks good, but not like this!)

Beyond the Valley of the Dolls is the story of a poor little, all-girl band which goes to California where one of the chicks just happens to inherit (?) about half a million dollars. This movie also has some scenes of the most "plastic" super-parties of all time. If vagueness is the one thing you can't stand, this is the show for you; and it deserves a

Listen up

Bonfire is defended, Sbisa gets comment

Editor:

This letter is in response to the many letters to do away with Bonfire. Perhaps I should first state that I am a "non-reg" as this seems so important to the long hairs and hippies who set up housekeeping around the trees.

Every year the cutting area is set up in an area where the trees need to be cleared and would be regardless of the Bonfire.

The Bonfire has been a part of A&M for many years and expresses our desire to beat the Hell out of t.u. and our undying love of Texas A&M. It is certainly clear that these people who demand change and student rights may go to school here but are certainly Aggies.

Changes are necessary and progress is a must for A&M but we can't allow a regression into

an atrophied t.u. complete with freaks and "peaceful?" rioters. The Aggies want the Bonfire to stay and we'll do what is necessary to keep it.

Kenneth Curtis '72 ★ ★ ★

Editor:

I am writing in response to Jerome Hansmann's letter in the Tuesday Battalion. If Mr. Hansmann were truly interested in the Bonfire and the controversy about it, he would know the cutting area will soon be covered by a lake. I refer to a first page story in the same edition of the Battalion which says:

"The cutting area this year is located 15 miles from the campus on Sandy Point Road, the proposed site of the new Bryan Lake."

I ask Mr. Hansmann this: How would you like to be boating

around the new lake and have your fishing line snagged by a tree that could have gone on the bonfire? The only thing that a tree could do on the bottom of the lake is rot.

Brian Ehni '74 ★ ★ ★

Editor:

I, like many others, am losing a considerable amount of money each semester due to the university's policy of requiring students to pay for meals which they may or may not eat.

I am not really complaining about the situation, but rather am asking for a choice. I propose that the university make available meal tickets or cards so the student is given the option of selecting his meal schedule.

For example, give the student a choice of buying, say, five breakfast tickets (or ten lunch,

or thirty supper, etc.). These tickets could be made non-transferable simply by having the purchaser endorse each and present the ticket along with the I.D. card each time the ticket is used. The tickets could be used at any time during the semester that they are purchased, and the student would be paying for only what he actually used. I realize that this method would have many imperfections, but at least it provides a choice.

Steven Oualline '74 ★ ★ ★

Editor:

Today at lunch I sat across from a young man who took one bite out of his vegetables, his cherry pie, his lemon pudding, left one and one-half glasses of tang, and left forty percent of his meat and potatoes. I watched another person go back and get

seconds on meat and potatoes... leave his two desserts untouched... Ever since I have been at Texas A&M University I have been bothered by this senseless waste of food. I don't expect everyone to clean their plates but the least one can do is think how much you can eat before taking two deserts, four glasses of milk, and three slices of bread. The fact that one pays for his meals does not give him the right to waste thirty percent of each meal he eats. If one cannot see the moral aspect of this ludicrous request, then think of it this way: Since has a budget and the cost of the food which is wasted shrinks the budget. If the shrinkage was reduced to maybe one-half of what it is now, Sbisa would have more money to spend on tender beef and quality steaks.

Vance Driscoll

Steve Hayes

The cost of federal predator control

Since 1940 the cost of the predator control program has increased by more than 800 per cent, while at the same time the number of animals taken in control programs has decreased. In Colorado, for example, the kill number dropped 20 percent from 1967 to 1970, while the budget rose \$30,000.

In addition to this, the economic losses attributed to predators have frequently been less than the cost of the programs to prevent these depredations. In Montana the loss reports by wool growers is annually between 4000 to 5000 sheep, which is equal to about \$120,000 annually, but the yearly cost of the predator control program is over \$300,000. In Utah, the total cost of livestock and poultry loss in 1970 was put at \$74,830, but predator control costs were \$187,937. California and Nevada are two other states showing excessively large cost deficits of this nature.

The funding of control has apparently extended beyond existing need in many instances. Perhaps cost-benefit analyses by impartial agencies should be made in each state to search for statistical trends in depredations, and to limit unnecessary disruption of the environment.

The technological development of predator control has produced sophisticated methods for facilitating the destruction of millions of wild animals. With the development of extremely lethal toxicants and with new means of dis-

tribution, the airplane, snowmobile, and trail bike have brought all remote wilderness areas within the reach of federal control. Unless indiscriminate poisoning is restrained, these programs will decimate all species of wild animals that cannot quickly retreat from or adapt to man's onslaught.

The Division of Wildlife Services has responded to criticism by stating that only the most selective, effective and humane toxicants are used. However, if the federal program employs methods that have little effect on the environment, it seems unusual that the DWS is one of the few agencies that has not filed an environmental impact statement in compliance with Section 102 of the National Policy Act of 1969.

The major methods used by the DWS to control predators are shooting, denning, trapping and poisoning. Shooting is a selective method of removing troublesome individuals without persecuting an entire species, but few states have given "game" status to predators. Trapping, denning (the

gassing of animals and their young in dens), and poisoning are the non-selective methods of control which unnecessarily persecute entire species, predators and non-predators.

The four poisons primarily used are strychnine, thallium, cyanide, and sodium monofluoroacetate (1080).

Over six million tablets of strychnine have been sown over the last 10 years. Strychnine is completely non-selective and will kill almost any animal that eats the bait, or the poisoned carcass of an earlier victim. A scented wick acts as a trigger that releases the poison by spring-propelled force into the animal's mouth, when the wick is bitten or pulled upon.

Compound 1080 in water solution is injected into an animal carcass as a bait for wild canines. It too can cause secondary poisoning. It is highly toxic to all animals, including birds.

Although thallium is so dangerous that its use was discontinued

in control programs in 1967, and it is banned from interstate shipping, the eagle kills in Wyoming in May, 1971, were caused by thallium illegally purchased in Colorado.

There are several alternatives to the present program. In Kansas and Missouri, where no federal predator control programs are allowed, farmers are instructed individually in controlling predators without non-selective poisons. Damage in Kansas was reduced by \$16,000, and at one-nineteenth the cost of the federal program in adjoining Oklahoma. In Missouri losses were reduced by more than 80 per cent, and it was done without poisons. These programs are effective because they are aimed at individual predators causing damage. Unfortunately efficiency and economy have seldom been synonymous with government-political programs.

In summation, grazing of domestic sheep on our federally owned public land is the principal reason for the widespread effort to kill

coyotes, and killing coyotes is the principal reason for the continued existence of the Federal Predator Mammal Control Program.

The idea of a public trusteeship for our wild lands and animals rests upon three related principles: 1) Certain resources are of such importance to the people of the United States as a whole that it would be unwise to place them under private ownership. 2) They entail so much of the bounty of nature that they should be available, freely, to all people regardless of financial status. 3) It is the primary function of the government to promote the general welfare of the public rather than to redistribute public goods from broad public uses to restricted private benefit. By American tradition, supported with legal precedent, our wildlife is public possession.

It is questionable, indeed, whether the poisoning of public domain and the subsequent destruction of remote habitats are justified by vested interest such as the wool growers.

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