

SCOPE raps the Bonfire

Editor:
What if they gave a bonfire and no one came? This is the only solution left open to those of us who are opposed to the bonfire and wish to display that opposition at this late date. We of SCOPE (Student Council on Pollution & Environment) realize that we can not attack this 30 minutes of pre-town hall activity on its environmental impact because the trees have already been cut and are lying dead at the future sites of cooling lakes for power plants. But SCOPE wishes to interject our stand on resource use. We believe that the resource should be put to the use which produces the greatest benefits. SCOPE feels that the dead logs could be cut into cords and distributed throughout north Bryan. There are families living in Bryan whose main source of fuel for heating and cooking is wood. Distributing cords of firewood to these people would be a constructive action rather than the destructive waste of logs on Nov. 24, and all the manpower could be put to a better end. This constructive activity could promote as much, if not more, unity as the building of the bonfire. What's more, the burning firewood in the homes in north Bryan could demonstrate A&M's continuous desire to beat TU.

SCOPE would like to ask the student body, as Dr. Davenport asked them in a letter last year, Where are you putting your emphasis? We are given a day off to build a manstrosity which will go up in a cloud of wasted smoke. Couldn't our efforts be better spent? If you think so, then don't support this wasteful act with your presence either at the cutting area or at the building area.

A tradition can change for the better and only the student body can affect this change. You have the power, demonstrate it!

The officers of SCOPE,
Steve Esmond
Melissa Seminars
John Bane
Fletcher Kelley
Alana Foster
Andy Beck
★ ★ ★

Editor:
Isn't anyone alarmed when a professor announces that he's going to curve test grades? And doubly alarmed by the cheer that goes up from the class? It seems to me that these are symptoms of a decline in our educational standards that we should seek to reverse.

I'm an older dude, as undergraduates go. Nearly 30, if you must know. Coming here was a dream come true for me: At last a full-time college student with my degree in sight. But a college degree has taken on a new meaning for me. I hope to be able to have pride and respect for my own education, but I shall never again have automatic admiration and esteem for college grads.

A major exam I recently took illustrates my point. I wasn't well prepared for it and was frankly concerned about how well I would do. I pulled an 80, which was an accurate indication of how well I knew the material. Well darned if it wasn't the highest mark in the class (of about 120 students) and the curve made a real hero out of me.

At first blush I felt pretty smug. But it now occurs to me that this system cheats the student, the university and the outside world, including employers, who look at transcripts with the impression that A = excellent, B = good and C = average.

It isn't awfully ridiculous to suggest that we present the university with a lump-sum check

for eight semesters of school expenses and receive our degrees then and there — thereby saving everyone four years of grief. Maybe that's where academic evolution is taking us anyway.

I'd like to see curves replaced by honest, reasonable and fair evaluations of how hard a student tries and how much he has learned from a course. The measuring stick should be what the professor expects us to know, not how much we know in relationship to the rest of the class.

My concern isn't for the university, or for other students, or for employers. I am afraid for myself, that I might be infected by this system which corrupts ambition and promotes mediocrity. I want my education to mean something, and it's hard-damned hard—to shoot for a 100 when an 80 will get you an A.

L. J. Lawrence '73

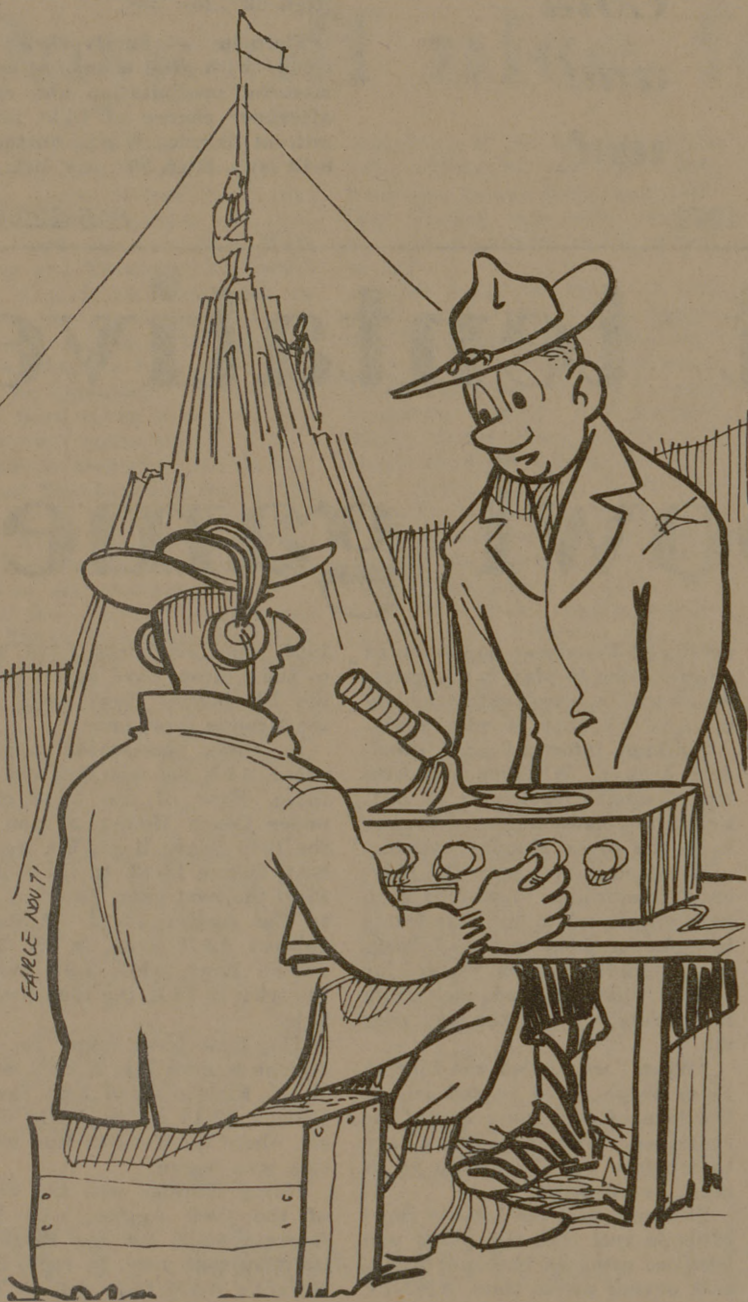
'C' Thanksgiving schedule released

Memorial Student Center services will be provided Thursday for patrons of the A&M-Texas football game, then close the remainder of the Thanksgiving holiday.

However, most MSC services will continue through Thursday, according to Carmon F. Tax, facility schedules manager. Only the post office windows, barber shop and general offices will close Thanksgiving Day.

Facilities remaining open until normal closing hours Thursday include the Association of Former Students office, cafeteria, fountain room, gift shop, guest rooms, browsing library and director's office.

The entire center will close Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



"We just got a call from Navasota asking that we turn down the volume."

Steve Hayes

The international ecology

When I was employed in Geneva, Switzerland, I was fortunate enough to be a member of the United National Planning Committee for the first World Youth Assembly, which was eventually held in the United Nations in New York during the month of July, 1970. Five young persons from each country in the world were invited to attend, and participate in the Assembly. The Assembly was divided into four commissions, one of which was the Environment Commission, and to my knowledge, this was the first time a world body had even discussed the environment of the world in any depth. In a way, it was unfortunate that it was the young persons of the world who finally brought the matter to the attention of the General Assembly, for our degradation of the environment needed discussing long ago on the world level, and especially by the generation most responsible for the despoliation.

As a participant in the Assembly, I was equally fortunate to serve as chairman of the Subcommittee on Conservation of Natural Resources, and, perhaps, receive, for myself, a better understanding of world youth sentiment in regard to environment issues. I would like to use the rest of this column to share with you some of the happenings and impressions of the Assembly, especially the Commission on Environment.

There were two primary themes in the area of the environment: one was environment in a technological society, and the second, environment and the developing countries. The latter was particularly concerned with the exploitation of their natural resources by more technologically advanced countries. It was, as a delegate of Nigeria noted, "difficult to consider the problems of any use of natural resources, let alone conservation, when our resources are not being as misused by our own country, as they are being removed by foreign coun-

tries." His statement is borne out by the fact that the United States alone uses from 30 to 50 per cent of the world's natural resources, yet numbers less than six per cent of the world's people. Much of Europe and the Soviet Union adds further credence to his statement. A young Philippine woman noted also that a vast majority of all businesses in her country were American owned, and that 90 per cent of her country's wealth was controlled by less than five per cent of the country's population. Thus, it was often difficult for developing nations to appreciate, in the same manner, the concern for the environment of those from more developed nations. Nevertheless, the Commission was able to generate some very positive proposals which were eventually sent to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Commission on Environment called for the nations of the world to "pursue the transfer of resources spent on armaments to the needs of development and international assistance." It also noted that "... since the continuation of the testing of nuclear weapons, and the stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons constitute an immediate and serious threat both to the environment and to the whole mankind," an attempt be made to "attain immediate cessation of all forms of nuclear weapon tests."

The Commission, and ultimately the World Youth Assembly called "a review of harmful chemical substances, radio-active materials,

other noxious agents and waste which may dangerously affect man's health and his economic and cultural activities in the marine environment and coastal areas."

Members of the Commission were very well prepared to discuss present agricultural practices, and called for an ecologist to be included in agricultural aid programs to avoid practices detrimental to the environment. I found it particularly comforting that although most of the delegates came from, what are often called, developing countries, they nevertheless placed a high value on environment, and spoke with exceptional foresight into the value of such an environment.

Too, the Assembly called for world family planning and research to be undertaken immediately, to determine the concept of ultimate population. The world body also called on the Pope to review his encyclical, and "thus permit the unfettered exercise of the consciences of individual Catholics with regard to use of contraceptives." It was also recommended "that in planning development programs besides concentrating on the political expediency and economic necessity for development projects, adequate consideration be given to their social and ecological implications.

The idealism and altruistic behavior of the world's future leaders are desperately needed to add a freshness to the pragmatism of today's organizational man.

Beat tu

This year Batt editorials have been distinguished by the fact that you don't have to look far to find someone who disagrees with one. Realizing this, the Batt editor has taken it upon himself to write an editorial that almost everyone will agree with.

We hope that the Fightin' Texas Aggie football team beats the everlivin', everlovin', compound, complex, Class of '73 (the editor is a junior) hell outta tu Thanksgiving Day.

The Battalion

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Thanksgiving Service

ALL FAITHS CHAPEL

Nov. 23
8:30 pm

Rev. Larry Grubbs
New Tradition Singers

EVERYONE'S WELCOME

By Charles M. Schulz

PEANUTS

HERE, I MADE US SOME HOT CHOCOLATE

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

WELL, IF I WERE TRAPPED BEHIND ENEMY LINES AND THE TEMPERATURE WAS THIRTY-BELOW-ZERO I MIGHT SAY IT TASTED PRETTY GOOD...

I DON'T SUPPOSE THAT'S REALLY MUCH OF A COMPLIMENT

HELLO, SCHROEDER? I JUST HEARD A SONG ON THE RADIO, AND IT REMINDED ME OF YOU...

MAYBE SOMEDAY IF WE GET MARRIED, I'LL CALL YOU LIKE THIS WHEN YOU'RE AT WORK, AND I'LL TELL YOU HOW I'M THINKING ABOUT YOU... WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?

I'M SORRY, YOUR CALL DID NOT GO THROUGH... PLEASE HANG UP, AND DO NOT DIAL AGAIN!

SIGH