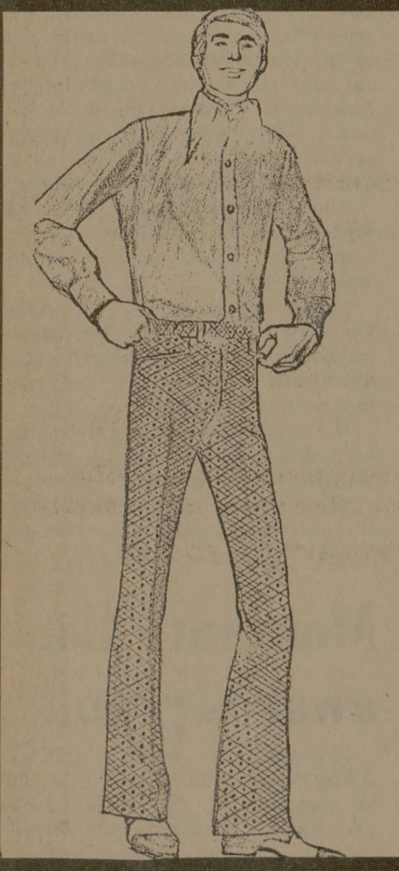




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John Curylo

Stallings' firing mishandled by administration

The aftermath of the firing of Gene Stallings makes one wonder if it will prove to be worth it to get a new man at the helm. This question arises because whatever good may be gained by the change, so much bad has resulted that the purpose is defeated.

Poor public relations, bad reputation and much ill will come about by the timing, the statement and the followup of the action taken by the Board of Directors, the Athletic Council and President Jack K. Williams.

The lack of tact and taste used by the chopping committee makes Texas A&M look awful. Whether people wanted Stallings fired or not doesn't matter. The feeling is the same about the way it was done.

Gene held his usual meeting with the press after the game, but when the 15 men involved with his dismissal finalized their decision, they wouldn't talk about it. All they did was send a 90-word statement to the Ra-

mada Inn. None of them would answer questions or make a comment.

This brings up the subject of the statement itself. The cold, abrupt declaration gave the hard facts and that was all. The time to praise a man is not when he's being fired, but the announcement could have been more gracious.

Baylor fired Bill Beall Saturday after the coach's teams had won three games of the 31 they played in his three years at the Waco university. Yet, in the statement announcing his release, Athletic Director Jack Patterson was most complimentary of Beall.

"We in the athletic department feel a debt of gratitude for the work of Coach Bill Beall and his staff," he said. "He is a very dedicated football coach who knows no limits to personal work and sacrifice. We are proud to have been associated with him and his fine young staff and

wish for all of them the very best for the future."

All that A&M officials said was that Stallings was out of a job Dec. 1.

They could have mentioned that the Aggies won the Southwest Conference championship in 1967, that they had enjoyed having Gene as their coach, that numerous improvements and innovations had been made under his direction, that A&M's image had been enhanced by his actions, that he had produced many fine young men who represented the university well, that they wished him good luck in the future, or any one of many nice things that can be said about the man.

But they didn't. Since 1929, Texas A&M has had eight head football coaches. Seven of them were fired, including the great Homer Norton, whose 1939 Aggies were national champs. The only one of these eight to resign his position was Paul "Bear" Bryant, who left

Aggieland for the University of Alabama.

Of these eight grid mentors, only two had winning seasons their first year here. In 1929, Madison Bell's team was 5-4, and in 1951, Raymond George was 5-3-2. Even Bryant failed to set the world on fire in his initial campaign, with his squad going 1-9 in 1954.

These facts make one wonder if greener pastures are in A&M's athletic future.

Stallings went out acting like the man he is. All that has been heard from him is praise for the players, love for his alma mater and best wishes for the future.

The board, the Athletic Council and the president let him go with harshness and an unwillingness to even talk about the situation. When the minutes of their deliberations become public, we will see that their decision was unanimous. But then, everything they do they make unanimous, whether it was in the first place or not.

Through the ordeal Stallings has looked good and the administration bad. It sort of makes you stop and think.

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John Wayne In
"RIO LOBO"

EAST SCREEN AT 6:35 P. M.
Faye Dunaway In
"DOE"

At 8:25 p. m.
Pearl Bailey In
"LANDLORD"

Speedway to have racing weekend

By JOHN CURYLO
Battalion Sports Editor

Sixty-two drivers from 16 states and two foreign countries have entered the Texas 500 scheduled for Sunday at the Texas World Speedway.

Sponsored by the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR), the Grand National Super Stock race will be preceded by the Permatex 200 Saturday afternoon and the Alamo 200 Saturday night.

An entire weekend of activities is scheduled at the track, originally named the Texas International Speedway. Practice and qualifying will take place Thursday and Friday, with night practice for the Alamo 200 being Friday night.

Practice and qualifying laps for the Texas 500 will be from 9 a. m. to noon Saturday. The First Texas Permatex 200 for NASCAR late-model sportsman drivers begins at 2. Following the completion of

that event, drivers in Sunday's race will practice again.

At 7:30 that night, pre-race ceremonies and entertainment will start. The First Alamo 200 road race for International Motor Sports Association GT and NASCAR Grand American drivers will begin.

Grandstand gates open at 8 Sunday morning, with a concert and other pre-race ceremonies beginning at 11:30. The start of the second Texas 500 NASCAR Winston Cup Grand National Stock Car Race is slated for 1 p. m.

Admission for Thursday and Friday's practices and qualifications is \$2. For all three races, infield tickets cost \$15. After 5 p. m. Saturday, the price is lowered to \$10, and Sunday's charge is \$6. The infield can accommodate 25,000 spectators and their vehicles.

Grandstand seats are \$5 for each of Saturday's races, while reserved seats Sunday range from \$10-25. The 30-row grandstand, 1,600 feet long, provides 26,000 permanent seats. Sunday, children under 12 will be admitted free to the infield if accompanied by adults.

Volleyball next in intramural

A faculty-staff volleyball tournament for men will take place next semester, the intramural office announced Monday.

Any office or organization wishing to field a team should contact the intramural office before Jan. 24, 1972. Play begins Jan. 31 and will take place every Monday night in DeWare Fieldhouse at 7, 8 and 9 o'clock.

Dec. 20 is the new deadline for entries in volleyball for Class A, B, C and X.

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It's all in the Texas A&M University 1971-72 Directory

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- Civilian Student Council
- University Calendar
- Faculty-Staff Listings
- Board of Directors
- Corps of Cadets Commanders
- Athletic Schedule
- Campus Map

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