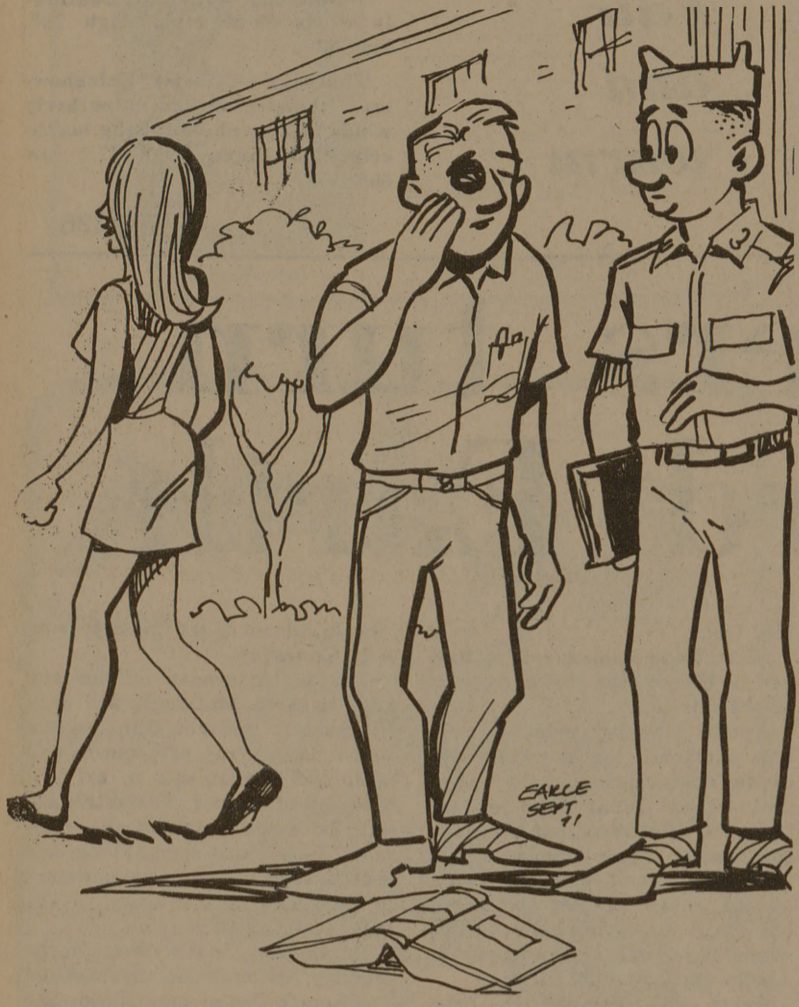


FDA files show preservative laws ignored, student claims



"I liked it better when we got 'Dear Johns' in th' mail rather than in person!"

Activism

Student activism. It is a term that carries several different meanings. No doubt it keeps J. Edgar Hoover very uptight, warms the political heart of Hubert Humphrey, and sends various college administrators into various states of anxiety, fear, etc. But here at dear old TAMU it means nothing. It's something that happens, very vaguely, at other places. TAMU, perpetually caught in the year of the gas, lets all of it pass by. It is a sad thing that it does. Student activism means students doing things. Not hippie, commie, long-hairs subverting the rest of the U.S. of A., not Yaffies protesting the latest retreat of the South Vietnamese, but students doing things. All kinds of things. Except, if the student being referred to is an Aggie. In that case at the beginning of the year, he arrived, sat on his apathy, and stayed that way. Not that it is wrong to do so. It gives old Ags something to brag about. They can say "See, nothing like all those riots ever goes on at A&M." They could save their breath and say, "See, nothing goes on at A&M." Now we're not talking about social events. That is assumed. We're talking about the university student being responsive to the rest of the world. The university we now attend is one of the most responsive to the needs of the people. It helps with agriculture, makes the highways safer, spends quite a bit of time in learning about the oceans and thousands of other things. But the students here—no such luck. You can let the extension services do all that stuff. The student is here to sporadically tend classes and spend most of his time in or near the rack. At TAMU, the term is student passivism. We can get together once a year and build that bonfire and then forget about the pile of ashes it leaves until the university hauls them away. That, as a student body, is the Aggies great accomplishment. Smoke and hot air. But do you see the student body out doing something about the general ecology in the area? Not only no, but hell no! Do they spend time trying to help with the community they are part of? A few do—to give credit to the CDO. Not much else is done. It would seem that 14,000 people could get out and accomplish something. A few have, the Community Development Organization, the people who have worked on the clean-ups held, and so forth. Probably about one-fiftieth of the student body has participated. So why doesn't the rest of the group get up off of its apathy and do something for somebody? You've got all summer to think about it.

Oh, wow

Saturday night's performance by Rare Earth would have been hilarious if the pathetic fact that so many Ags were duped didn't exist. When a band shows up about two hours late with the flimsiest of excuses for their lateness, it can be assumed that the audience is going to be hacked. And they were, to the extent that Rare Earth was booed when they came on stage. So what does a band do when it is initially booed? It doesn't stop between songs for one. That way they don't let the audience have time to start booing again. Then they make sure that the music is loud. Loud sounds do a lot to sooth the mad crowd. They can't think unkind thoughts when even the sound hurts. Next step is to provoke the audience, you know, get them on their side. They do this by edging them on, jumping down into the audience. That kind of thing. It's known as fooling a crowd. That way the performance can be terrible, not on time, and poorly managed and still come out smelling sweet. Sound familiar?

The Battalion

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WASHINGTON (AP) — A Stanford University researcher said Monday that secret food-safety files opened by his lawsuit show the Food and Drug Administration "has consistently and routinely countenanced violations of the law which have endangered the public health." "Both scientifically and legally, bureaucratic secrecy has made actions possible which could never stand the light of public review," said Dale B. Hattis, a graduate student in genetics. FDA officials were not immediately available for comment. Hattis's 78-page report lists a series of actions culminating, he said, in smoked-fish processors being allowed to add sodium nitrite, a preservative, after the FDA learned many firms were ignoring federal regulations and using additive illegally. The FDA's safety data on nitrite were opened for public inspection after Hattis and the Environmental Defense Fund filed a federal court suit under the Freedom of Information Act. Nitrite has been shown to combine with secondary amines in the stomach to produce nitrosamine, a potent cancer-causing substance which has produced tumors in a wide variety of laboratory animals. "It is highly unlikely that man will prove to be the only species resistant to their action," Hattis said. Sodium nitrite is used to preserve color and extend the shelf-life of a wide range of foods including smoked fish, cured ham, bacon, frankfurters, luncheon meats and some sausage. The FDA long has classified the chemical as a "poisonous and deleterious substance" banned by federal law as a food additive, Hattis said. Following the deaths from botulism poisoning of at least nine persons who consumed Great Lakes smoked fish in the early 1960s the FDA adopted emergency measures in October 1963 advising destruction of all smoked-fish products from the region that had not been heated to at least 180 degrees fahrenheit for at least 30 minutes. Two years later, Hattis said, the National Fisheries Institute sought permission to use nitrite because, according to an FDA memo, it would provide an additional margin of safety against botulism "when the FDA-recommended processing time and temperature are not followed . . . Many firms are already using the chemical on fish without permission and . . . nearly all of the smoking and curing firms are not treating Great Lakes fish" according to FDA guidelines. The FDA by that time had already granted petitions by four firms to use nitrite, including three "which had been using ni-

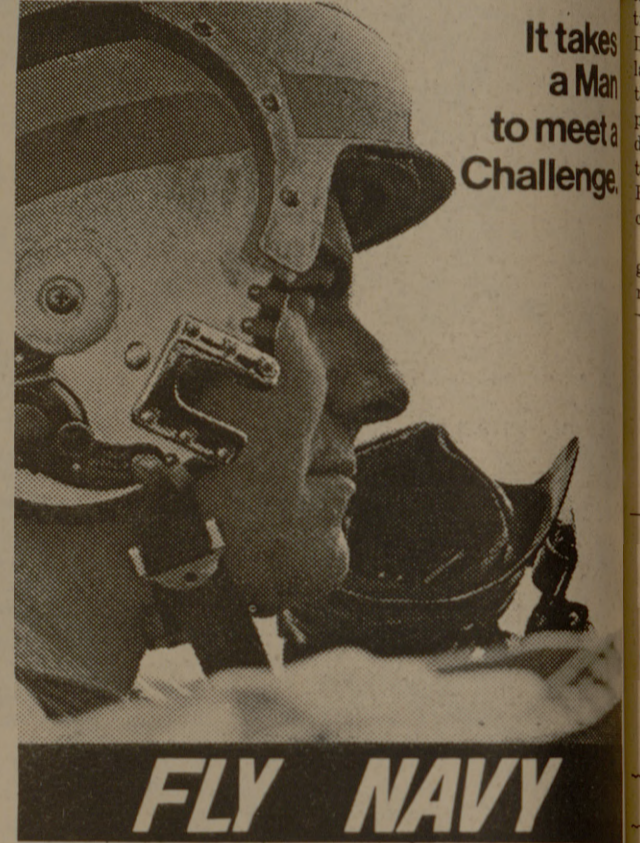
trite illegally in their products," Hattis said. "None of these petitions contains any original scientific research by the firms into the question of whether the proposed uses are safe," he said. "In two of the four, the petitions simply expressed their belief that nitrite is safe." After approved use of nitrite was expanded, Hattis said, "It is clear that the choice made by the FDA in allowing this new use of nitrite was not . . . between nitrite and botulism. It was between, nitrite, botulism, and enforcing reasonable sanitation and good manufacturing practice in the industry."

War protests (Continued from page 1) airmen have been killed in Vietnam action in the past three weeks, sat down in a circle and blocked traffic going in into the Strategic Air Command Base. Police gave them two minutes to disperse, then moved in to make the arrests. Seven seamen jumped overboard from the ammunition ship USS Nitro Monday as it put out to sea past a flotilla of antiwar demonstrators trying to block its departure from the U.S. Navy's Earle Ammunition Depot at Leonardo, N.J. Coast guard ships plucked the men from the water as about 45 demonstrators in canoes cheered, applauded and flashed the peace sign.

War protests

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It takes a Man to meet a Challenge. See Lieutenant's Gene Marek and Bob Webster from the Officer Information Team at the Memorial Student Center today thru March 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ol' Army Lou Says . . .

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THANK YOU SENIORS!

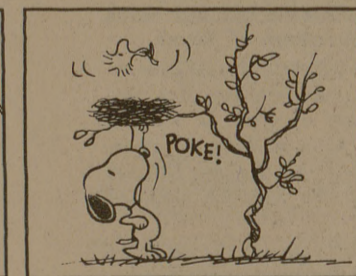
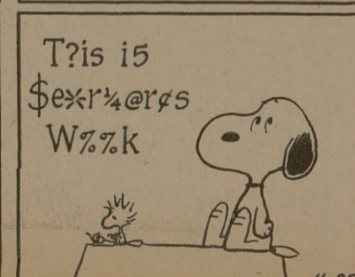
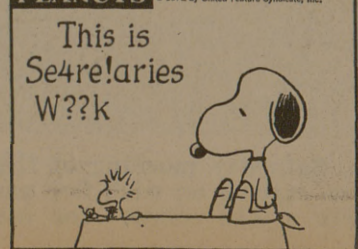
P.S. Lou would consider it a privilege if you would drop by before you leave and have a free cup!

PEANUTS

PEANUTS



PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz