

"But There's Only Three Streets!"

Listen Up-

RV's Present Answer To Provoking Taps Letter

The Ross Volunteers would like to present their views on Silver Taps. These can best be illustrated by the following letter, extracted from a newspaper article a few short years ago:

COLLEGE STATION, Tex. (Special)—In late October (some years ago) a freshman cadet from Corpus Christi, Don Coward, attended Silver Taps. The ceremony was held for John B. Tower, a pre-med student who died of a brain hemorrhage while playing water polo.

Young Coward was deeply moved, and in his next letter to his parents, he wrote of his feel-

"Dear Mom and Dad,

Right now it's 11 a. m. and Call to Quarters is over. I should be in bed, but there's something I have to tell you both first. I'm sitting here at my desk with tears in my eyes and thinking more about life itself than I ever have before."

"I'm not crying because of what I'm going through—but rather because I've experienced tonight what A&M is all about. Mother and Dad, we're one big family here and now I know what it means to be an Aggie. Tonight was Silver Taps.

"In case you don't know what that is, I'm going to tell you and you've got to listen. Any time a student here loses his life-no matter how-on an assigned date

soon afterwards we have what is called Silver Taps. Everyone gathers in front of the Academic Building, in front of which is a flag pole on which Silver Taps notice is posted. "No one says a word from the

time we leave the dorms until next morning. All is quiet and all the lights on campus are turned off. Even lights on the coke machines in the dorms are covered.

"At 10:30, when everyone is in place in front of the Academic Building, a firing team fires a 21 gun salute in honor of those who died. Then buglers play Silver Taps and its over. "Tonight I experienced one of

the most solemn feelings I've ever had and feel so good inside. Mom, Dad, it was just like God, Himself was there with us I guess you're wishing I would grow up and quit carrying on like this over Silver Taps-but it was so, I can't ever tell you how it was—there's nothing else like it. "Be careful and I love you place yet," said Mack.

'D. C.'

Three weeks later, Silver Taps again rolled into the chill darkness from the dome of the Academic Building. This time it was for three A&M students killed in a car-truck accident near Roanoke in Denton County, November 9.

One of them was Don Coward. The Ross Volunteer Company '73

Doing Your Own Thing, Or

The Point and the proportion of the Point and the proportion of the Point and the proportion of the Point and the

Crusoe In The Melting Pot

By SAM BAYS

Good ideas apparently have a way of getting lost in the shuffle. At one time or another, most all of us dream of getting away to some sparsely inhabited stretch of land where we could live without the frustrating impositions of

Though we have experienced only the comfortable, artificial world of urban suburbia, we imagine that being close to nature would more than adequately compensate for all the clever Pax Americana conveniences we would leave behind. We dream of complete individual freedom, of really doing our own thing.

In moderation, such pipedreams are necessary and healthy they help us keep our heads

"ISA has seen, touched and

felt the sights and sounds of 67

different countries. There is

hardly a city in the world that

ISA hasn't seen and visited.

There is no major language ISA

does not speak; no major custom

With these words, Friedrich

Mack, chairman of the local Inter-

national Student Association

from Munich, Germany, summed up the national organization of

The group will hold its first

meeting Thursday night at 8

o'clock in the Assembly Room of

the Memorial Student Center. Ac-

cording to Mack, the number of

international students on campus

reaches 690. Both foreign and

American students are encouraged

"The purpose of ISA," said

Mack, "is to encourage, foster

and organize international living

on campus. This involves a wide

range of activities, including con-

lems of the international student

in his situations on campus to the

organization of fun and games."

Currently, ISA is involved in

a housing issue, an effort to house

international students in dorms

other than Hotard and Schu-

"It's good to live with other

foreign students, but this doesn't

give international students a

chance to mix and live with

ISA is also trying to establish

an international meeting room in

the MSC or any other building.

'We don't have a central meeting

Besides helping the internation-

al student adjust to American

campus life, ISA also organizes

sporting events and intramural

games. The group, in its second

year on campus, also holds social

and cultural activities, ranging

from parties and dances to films,

"One of our main projects,"

said Mack, "is the International

lectures and debates.

Festival in the Spring."

Americans," said Mack.

cern and involvement in the prob-

By DEBBIE HOLZEM

ISA does not know."

to attend, he said.

macher Halls.

ISA Touches 67 Countries

Wants International Aggies

cut the umbilical cord of the community and go primitive on a permanent basis, as long as we remain enmeshed in the social web, we must be ever mindful that our individual freedom and rights are tempered by social responsibilities and values. And while these societal norms vary widely with time and circumstances, they do exist and cannot be realistically ignored.

The idea of individual freedom can easily become a distortedrationalization for those who would seek to enjoy the benefits of social life without bearing the burden of the social contract upon which those benefits rest.

How often do we say that we only want "to do our own thing"

The International Student As-

sociation is organized similar to

the organization of the United

Nations. The main body is the

General Assembly. "Each country

represented on campus, including

the United States, elects one del-

egate to the General Assembly,"

said Mack. "The assembly then

elects the Executive Committee,

the official head of the interna-

Other officers of the group in-

clude Luis Juarez, Vice-chairman

from Cuba; Carlos Candia, vicechairman of programs from Boli-

via; Heike Rode, treasurer, Aus-

tria; and Shayed Hasan, secre-

Interested students with ques-

tional student body."

tary, Bangladesh.

straight. Yet until we actually when we really mean that we only want "to do as we damn well please and to hell with everybody else?" To what extent do we ignore the feelings and sensitivities of other folks simply because we don't make the effort to care? And when we are called to task for walking roughshod over the rights of someone else, how loudly do we howl that our freedoms are being abridged, ignored, or op-

So long as we think about the extent and limitations of our individual freedom only in abstract terms, we can keep the issue at an impersonal, comfortable distance. But consider a couple of real everyday situations.

Do those of us who own western hats rightly have the freedom to wear them in class and in the dining halls and violate social convention simply because we want to create a certain image? Or do those of us who participate in intramural sports have the freedom to impose the sweat and dirt of the athletic field upon others in crowded public places just because the shower is not convenient?

How we deal with seemingly unimportant situations, how wisely we exercise our rights and acknowledge our responsibilities on a day to day basis provides an indication of how well we understand what 'doing our own thing" is all about.

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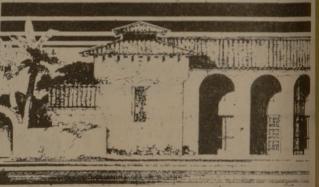
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