

A&M Officials Accused Of Student Injustice

Editor:
Several questions regarding law enforcement and the administration of justice on the campus of Texas A&M have recently arisen in the minds of the majority of the student body. A sampling of these questions follow.

Question: Do the laws of the State of Texas apply to the students of A&M on the campus of the university?

Question: Is wanton destruction of private property in the amount of several hundred dollars not a felony offense in the State of Texas?

Question: Has the Administration of Texas A&M not, of recent, seen fit not only to condone the commission of a felony offense, but has it not also sought to, in essence, "cover up" that offense?

Question: Has not the Administration of A&M condoned student violence on campus and has it not set a precedent for failure to punish offenders and failure to see that offenders are brought to justice by proper authorities?

Question: Do not democracy and the United States Constitution demand equity under the law?

Question: Would any student of A&M be allowed to commit a felony offense on campus with only token punishment?

Question: Which is more important to the administration of A&M: a winning football team or the upholding of democracy?

It is the honest opinion of the writer of this letter that an obvious injustice has been committed. It is also his opinion that said injustice should not go unheeded by the citizens of the State of Texas, the students of Tex. A&M University, or by any loyal American.

If the writer is wrong in his opinion, he sincerely apologizes. If he is right, maintenance of law and order and distribution of equitable justice in the Tex A&M University System is indeed in danger.

Dale Hancock
★ ★ ★

Editor:
It was disheartening to read in *The Battalion* of three freshmen athletes with nothing better to do with their time than jump on parked cars and put dents in them. Such irresponsible action by anyone in the student body of Texas A&M is damaging to the university; particularly those who represent the school publicly in sports competition hurt more deeply the school's reputation, of course.

But what was more shocking to many I talked with was the way in which the local papers touched the story with "padded gloves"—especially *The Battalion!*
The light tone of the article

as it appeared in your paper was most upsetting. I realize a journalist should be subjective as possible—but handling a story in such a loose manner projects a subjectivity of its own.

The article appeared to take defense by pointing out the boys were only responsible for four damaged cars, not all! Then came a reassuring quote that the athletes would continue to play football for the university. This is not to say that either one of the above facts should have been omitted by any means. It was those and other components of the story were presented that this reader found upsetting.

Jim Tom Smith '73
★ ★ ★

Editor:
The article about the damage to private property allegedly done by the three freshmen causes me to wonder what, if any, action regarding discipline will be taken and what, if it is not being played down altogether, we will hear about it.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"A million dollar computer and hours of programming and all it can say is 'heads, they win and tails, we win!'"

I also wonder what would have happened to the men had they not been football players; a free trip to Huntsville, perhaps?

And how about the owners of the cars? Will they be compensated for damages incurred? Will the men involved in any shape, fashion, form or way apologize? Or will the haunting suspicion that there are two sets of rules for student conduct, i.e., one set for athletes and another for the rest of the students, be confirmed?

Jack Crawford '74
We guarantee the football players are sorry and so will Coach Emory Bellard. The boys are having to pay for damages out of their own pockets. No letters are censored from print and are judged only on the merits which can be gained from running them. They do not necessarily express opinions of the Battalion staff.
—Ed.

★ ★ ★

Editor:
The idea of female yell lead-

ers completely abhors me. If females are allowed to run for yell leader, one of A&M's oldest traditions will be broken. The male yell leaders are one of the unique features of our university.

After a winning football game, the freshmen capture the yell leaders and throw them into the fish pond. Just imagine a girl being treated in this manner. The tradition of the fable would probably be eliminated, because one could not be told effectively by a female.

Now, visualize five girls and five boys standing on the football field dressed in maroon and white uniforms leading Farmers Fight. One thing is certain, they would not be yell leaders but cheerleaders.

Women students have come to A&M, and I am very proud to be one. I respect such traditions as: Silver Taps, the Ross Volunteers, the Aggie Band, the Corps, the senior bootline and the yell leaders. I hope that none of these traditions will be changed because of our presence at A&M.
Cindy McLain '74
★ ★ ★

Editor:
As of late on this campus, and more close to home, in this paper, there has been an astounding turnout of "concerned" students speaking out on such topics as bicycle registration, university ticket policies, and liquor on cam-

pus.
I most naturally assumed that a forum which enabled these same people to publicly question the chief of the A&M police and later speak to him on a one-to-one basis on any topic that pertained to his duties would institute an immense crowd.

Unfortunately, this did not seem to be the case. On Wednesday night, at eight o'clock, just such an informal session took place, with dismal results on the student's part.

Out of all of those "concerned" students who took time to scream and yell about their opinions, making sure that everyone on campus heard what they had to say, only 26 had the initiative to hear the views of the other side.

I hesitate to use the word "apathy," because that is one of the most overused words in present discussions. Perhaps "insensitivity" would more adequately express the feeling. These people want to get into and cause controversies such as these, but they are insensitive to the issue at stake.

I do not promote discontinuance of controversy. In fact, I would grieve at the thought of such a loss. I just want to know when the people are going to quit playing at these things like children and really try to accomplish something.

Larry Walker

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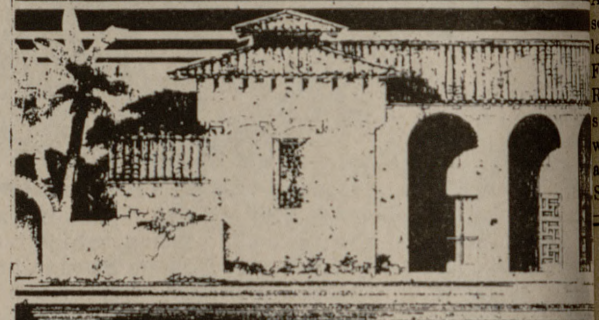
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The Battalion

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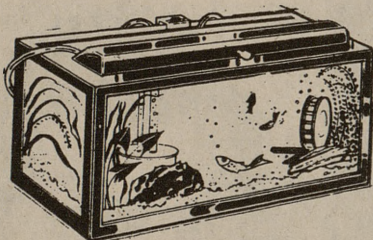
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