

Listen Up—

# Clark Talks Tradition

**Editor:**  
There has been a lot of talk lately concerning many traditions of A&M. I guess the main issue that always comes up concerns the Aggie Bonfire. Each year the rumors grow louder that there will be no Bonfire next year. As a member of the Corps and a deep believer in the traditions that made this school great, I am deeply grieved. However, looking from the other side, maybe, just maybe, the bonfire is an environmental hazard. Maybe the huge amount of trees we chop down is too expensive a price to pay for the sake of beating the hell out of t.u. The Bonfire might be replaced by an alternative project

and drop by the wayside as an outmoded tradition.

I laid out of school last semester in order to work in a Co-op program. When I returned I found an entirely new school. New buildings have sprung up everywhere. Girls were, of course, the most prominent addition to our campus. I was gratified to see the completion of the new dorm because forcing the co-eds to live off campus can only be described as unfair.

In attending the Baylor game the other night, I was sorry to witness the fact that progress had gone to our heads. I have always been particularly proud of the unique yells and wildcatting that has set us apart from the other schools. At the Baylor game I watched six Corps fish in front of me clap their way through the whole game. This new attitude seems to have gone to everyone. Sure we need to readjust our thinking once in while, as with Bonfire and the girls dorm. But let's not forsake those traditions which do have a place, and set us apart from those overgrown high schools teapigs and bears call universities. Wildcatting is a privilege for any Aggie, especially a fish in the Corps, so let's use it. Humping it with each yell is another tradition that distinguishes us. I can't understand why a non-reg would stand defiantly by while all his fellow Ags were humping it for their team, yet it

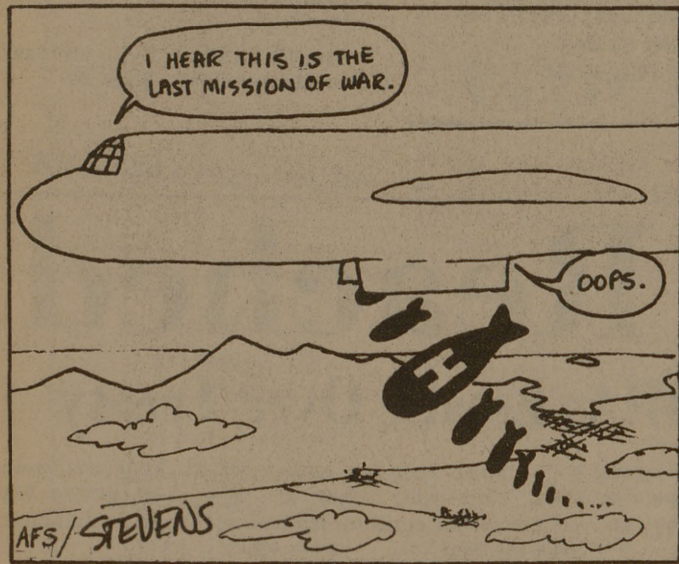
has happened. We're not asking him to cut his hair, just to respect the traditions that made this school what it is.

And another thing Ags, many a fight has started in Waco or Austin because someone started chanting "Poor Aggies" when they had us outscored. It always burned me the way that they were such poor winners. Now I see we're doing the same thing to them. Wake up man, good sportsmanship and just plain good manners are not outdated. I've always prided myself in the way Ags have taken wins and not hounded the losing team. Let's keep setting this example and not disgrace a reputation that took 100 years to build.

Bill Clark '74

Listen Up welcomes any letters from students on any subject. Letters are generally run when received when space allows. Letters do not in any way express the opinions of those working on the Battalion staff. When no letters appear it is usually because none have been received.

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Viewpoint

# Fulbright Speaks Out

**By MARK BREWER**  
(Alternative Feature Service)  
Straight talk from Senators is as rare as winter flowers. No matter what's coming down, they always seem to be telling us that everything will be all right, thanks to our superior system—a system that sends them off to plush, paneled offices and sleek Washington suburbs.

Veteran Arkansas Democrat William Fulbright, however, has been unusually frank about the impotence of a tractable Congress, and the steady drift toward an authoritarian state.

The Senator's observations on growing presidential power and the fragile nature of democracy are often tinged with resignation these days—a resignation born of 25 liberal years on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

struggling with the inexorable rise of militarism through the era of the Cold War and Vietnam.

"The Senate has deteriorated to where nobody listens to any debate," said Fulbright in a recent interview with the Pacifica Radio network. "It's dominated at the moment by the administration and the military. They win all the votes. It is the rarest thing to have a dialogue or a debate on the floor of the Senate, as we did in the old days. You see, they have a new system of setting down the vote under unanimous consent; and when the vote is set then everybody clears out and you can't find 'em, can't get 'em on the floor."

"This has developed into a system which, in my opinion, has undermined any real significance of the Senate... I think it used to play an important part in our government, but I think its part now is simply as an echo of the Pentagon and the White House."

"This has been a trend for the last 25 years, since World War II... in wartime or in crises, when you're concerned with war, you tend to delegate your power to the President. This has always happened in past wars... When the President was... in the Senate, nobody thought he was infallible. He was just another Senator. He moves 16 blocks and then you treat him as if he has this private pipeline to God... Of course, that's the way it used to be in medieval times. We're just not very far from the Divine Right of Kings of Charles the First. After all, that's in our history. There's just a very slight patina of civilization between then and now, and it's very easy to revert to it."

"Many of the press," he noted, "have acquired television stations which makes them subject to the FCC which is subject to the President, and therefore, they are in the position to be intimidated through that. I mean, some of these big papers, they don't want to lose a station that's worth 50 million dollars. So they tend to say, 'Well maybe we better not go too far, and maybe we won't give over-exposure to any criticism of the White House.'"

"... It reminds me a little of Louis the Fourteenth—the deference that everybody gives to the leader in the White House, and I think this is almost inevitable in a big country. Small countries, where there's a sense of community and people know one another, have succeeded in preserving a high degree of democracy; I mean people like Norway and Sweden and Denmark and Holland... But when you get above that, you look at China, Russia, ourselves..."

The Senator's resonant voice trails off, mulling other comparisons, thinking perhaps of Oceania, Eurasia. He seems like a tired, old dove in a hawk's sky, willing to accept what his experience tells him is probably inevitable.

"Whether we can pull it out and preserve some degree of democracy remains to be seen. I hope we can, but if we can't we'll be no worse off than other people. We'll simply develop a different system, and maybe in a hundred years we'll quit pretending we're a democracy and admit that we're an oligarchy or plutocracy, which it seems to be..."

"It'll be a long time after the change has taken place that anybody will admit it," the Senator concluded. "We always pretend that it's something else; as we do today."

## MSC Week

(Continued from page 1)  
Human Sexual Relations and English style debating will take place Wednesday from 7:30 to 9. On the same night in the MSC Ballroom will be the Collegium Musicum. The group is students from the University of Texas who play modern tunes on ancient instruments. Their performance is free and will begin at 8:00.

The Contemporary Arts Committee will present the film, "Pierrot le Fou" in the MSC Ballroom at 8 p.m. Thursday. Admission is \$1 for students and \$1.50 for non-students. Season activity tickets will be respected.

The Houston Ballet, a Town Hall special attraction, will also appear in the Bryan Civic Auditorium Thursday at 8:00.

Concluding the week will be an after-the-game dance Saturday featuring "Circus" from Houston. The free dance will be from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Ballroom.

# The Battalion

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