

# Nicholas Johnson Battles Dictatorial Monster

DEBI BLACKMON  
Watch TV?—It decides what you see.  
Listen to the radio?—It decides what you hear.  
Use the telephone much?—It regulates the telephone rates.  
This vague monster that decides what we see and hear is the Federal Communication Commission (FCC).  
The FCC commissioner worked to limit violence and "junk advertising" during the children's Saturday morning shows. The FCC also helped ban cigarette commercials and actively works to establish more campus FM stations. He has fought almost single-handedly to keep AT&T under FCC control and make it responsible to citizens in providing better service and lower rates.

being 'self-seeking' and politically motivated."  
Johnson, a 36-year-old University of Texas lawyer, author of books titled, "How to Talk Back to Your Television Set" and "Test Pattern for Living," is now serving the last four months of his eight years with the FCC.  
"In the big business world," Johnson said, "broadcasting is more than a commercial. What business does, it does well. If they start messing around with people's minds, they'll do the same thing."  
"I don't want people thinking like New York City looks. I believe in a 'participatory TV' where citizens can decide what they want to see and what they need to see."  
"When business and government start deciding what you see, you are lost."  
"I just try to do my job. Many people have the I-must-keep-my-job-no-matter-what feeling. I don't. My outspoken opinions on issues concerning the FCC haven't made me the most popular kid on the block, but I guess I'm going to stick to my image. It's too late to change my stripes now."

"You see, in virtually every area where government affects business, there is a battle between consumer interests and corporate interests, and the corporate interests usually win hands down."  
Johnson was one of two commissioners on the seven-member board who fought to keep the AT&T monopoly under FCC control. Only after a public protest boiled up was the inquiry reinstated, giving the FCC authority to continue to investigate and regulate telephone rates.  
During the "AT&T caper" Johnson said, "telephone users will continue to suspect, with some reason, that they are being charged more for long-distance service than law permits."  
"In an industry whose annual income revenues are roughly two times the yearly income tax collected by all 50 states combined, a fraction of a per cent here and there may amount to millions of dollars in phone-bill savings. I think it is worth looking into more closely."  
"Now, all I've offered is a choice between monopolistic privilege with regulation and monopolistic privilege without regulation. I'm afraid I have to opt for the former."  
"Until the finance companies come to repossess the Christmas loot from AT&T, Ma Bell is going to go on believing in Santa Claus." Johnson made many proposals

to the FCC concerning public interest in mass media. They include:  
—Funding public broadcasting on a permanent basis, divorcing TV from any political influences.  
—Restricting commercial product advertising to eliminate false and misleading advertisements when any harm from a product outweighs any conceivable benefit from its Madison Ave. merchandisers.  
—Access to network prime time being shared equally by the

President with opposing parties and with the co-equal branch of the government, the Congress.  
—Breaking up media baronies that form a tight grip on the information flow to the American people.  
—Public funding of political campaigns to end the purchasing of candidates and offices, with broadcasters required to provide free time to candidates.  
—Federal government installing a WATS number that would permit any citizen to call his govern-

ment at no charge, with his call being routed to the appropriate agency.  
"These proposals are feasible. They are reasonable. In many cases they merely carry into effect existing laws and policy—or common sense," Johnson said.  
"Americans must find ways to break out of the pressure. And in the process they should help each other. We damn sure aren't getting any help from Big Business, Big Broadcasting or Big Government."

## Aggie Team Aids NASA

By JOHN MATTOX

A team of Aggies is developing freeze-dried compressed food to be used in the space shuttle program for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.  
The team is composed of Dr. E. E. Burns, professor of food science in the graduate college, and Gene Hruzek, Bruce MacPherson and Bob Longan, all graduate students.  
Longan, 31 and a 1963 graduate, said "When the space program began, the main problem was a shortage of power. It took a lot of power to lift heavy payloads into space. Now, space aboard the shuttle is the most critical problem. The goal of our team is to freeze-dry and com-

press foods to reduce space and still maintain quality.  
"My personal goal is to preserve flavor during the freeze-drying and compression process. We are working with fruits, vegetables and cereals."  
Longan said that most foods can be compressed so tightly they will be one-third to one-sixteenth of their original volume.  
"After the food is freeze-dried, it is compressed with a machine similar to a metal compressing machine. The main objection to freeze-dried foods is they lose about 80 per cent of their flavor in the freeze-drying process. My goal is to reduce flavor loss to 20 per cent or less," he said.  
Longan has been testing flavor loss in foods by using a gas chromatograph, a machine that analyzes chemicals. He freeze-dries foods at different temperatures to detect changes in flavor loss. "Foods are frozen at below zero temperatures," Longan explained, "and then a vacuum is

used to extract the water. The water vaporizes from a solid to a gas so quickly that it skips the liquid stage. The food is then compressed. All that is needed to bring the food back to its original size and shape is water."  
The team has been working on the NASA project for over a year under a contract by the University. Longan will finish his part of the project in August and will receive a Ph.D. in Food Technology. He had been working at the Uncle Ben's Company product development division in Houston before enrolling in graduate college in 1969. He is currently president of the A&M Food Science Club.  
Because of the Aggie team's efforts, astronauts aboard the space shuttle will be able to add water to a tiny package and have it expand into a complete dinner, with its original quality and flavor. The space shuttle is scheduled to begin operations around 1976.

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**Oriental Art To Be Shown Monday**  
Oriental art will go on exhibit Monday in the Architecture Building.  
The public-free exhibit of Marson Ltd., Baltimore, Md., will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., announced Graham Horsley of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.  
He noted that opening of trade relations with China has increased interest in Oriental art and culture.  
The exhibit will include works by Hiroshige, Toyokuni, Kunichika, Chikanobu and other 18th and 19th Century masters. Also on display will be etchings, wood cuts, lithographs and drawings by distinguished contemporaries.  
Marson representative William Long will be present to answer questions about the exhibit and handle sales.

**Senate**  
(Continued from page 1)  
is just to find out how students feel on the issue," continued Ross. "Their decision on the proposal will clarify whether or not they are for the bill."  
Merrill Mitchell was appointed to fill the vacancy of recorder by Layne Kruse, Student Government president. Mitchell, former corresponding secretary, is filling Sandy Eichorn's position.  
Filing for spring general elections will continue through March 5 in the Student Programs Office, according to Steve Vincent, election board chairman.  
Filing will be for Student Government offices, class officers, yell leaders, Residence Hall Association executive officers and the Graduate Student Council.

**Bulletin Board**  
**FRIDAY**  
Industrial Education Wives will host a social evening for the wives of convention delegates to the Texas Industrial Arts Association in the Social Room of the Memorial Student Center.  
**SATURDAY**  
Brazos County Stamp Club will meet at 10 a.m. in Room 1024 of the Chemistry Building.  
**TUESDAY**  
Aggie Cinema will meet in Room 3A of the MSC at 7:30 p.m. to prepare for showing "Chisum."

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