

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I'm not really going anywhere; occasionally I pack up just because it lifts my morale!"

Listen Up—

## Unfair Publicity Charged

Editor:

I refer in this letter to your Friday, Feb. 23 edition in which two candidates for the office of Student Government president were pictured filing for office.

It seems to me that the photograph and caption in question give quite an unfair advantage to the two candidates who were lucky enough to get in the free publicity. Campus-wide recognition has been given to two of three candidates running for office in this election which is strictly limited in expenditure of time and money.

I realize that little, if anything, can be done at this time. I do, however, feel that it has been a mistake on your part and should not be repeated.

Doc Shroff, candidate for Student Government President

We regret that the candidates and our photographer could not get together at another time. However, you had not filed for the position when the picture was taken. The picture merely showed the first two candidates and was

not intended to give any unfair advantage to anyone—Ed.

★ ★ ★

Editor:

Well, now that the Board of Directors has decided to make Dunn Hall all male it will be interesting to watch and see what develops. A few things we might watch are:

1) Will enough men want to live in Dunn at the higher price now that it will be all male? (Perhaps some of the 100 extra dollars was for benefits other than those derived from the physical being of the dorm)

2) Will Texas A&M ever progress (Back) to a co-ed dorm? (It might take another 100 years!)

3) Will "they" move the washing machines out?

4) Will the housing office be able to handle all the administrative details with the present staff? (Maybe the Board of Directors could help.)

5) Will the women presently occupying Dunn Hall have a protest demonstration? (Other universities have anti-war marches and anti-military marches.)

Brad Bryant

## Bulletin Board

THURSDAY

MSC Radio Committee will make plans to move the station and repeater at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC.

El Paso Hometown Club will meet in Room 2D of the MSC at 7:30 p.m.

Association of Students from Mexico will have its picture taken

for the Aggeland in Room 3C of the MSC at 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Aggie Con IV Science Fiction Convention will be on the second and third floors of the MSC through Sunday.

SUNDAY

A&M Lacrosse Association will play Dallas at the Drill Field at 2 p.m. This is its opening match.

## Viewpoint

# 'Citizens Vs. Government' At Stake In Ellsburg Trial

By LARRY MARSHALL

In the latest round of the citizens vs. the government or as it is better known, the Ellsburg-Russo Pentagon Papers trial, the defense has won acquittal on two counts after its first day of testimony.

The defense team, which reads like a Who's Who among radical cause lawyers, is centering its case on the premise that the defendants, Daniel Ellsburg and Anthony Russo, did not actually commit a crime in releasing the top-secret papers to the news media. The defense claims the statutes under which they are charged do not cover these specific acts.

The defendants are charged with 15 counts of espionage, theft and conspiracy, all stemming from actions taken between March and September of 1969. At that time they photocopied the study of the "American history of involvement in the Vietnam War," which Ellsburg co-authored and leaked it to the New York Times and Washington Post.

Superficially, this case seems to be just a simple violation of accepted legal statutes. Yet, upon closer examination, it boils down to one of either constitutionality or morality.

Under the Espionage Act, the

defendants are charged with "unlawful dissemination of classified government studies." This charge hinges on the proof by the government that Ellsburg and Russo "intended" to damage the interests of the U. S. Based on the defendants actions and statements on the matter, it appears they felt they had a moral obligation to the people to release this material.

At issue constitutionally is the question of legal classification of government information. The defense claims the material was illegally classified, which does not make them guilty of a crime. Congress has not passed any legislation giving the executive power to classify information, but in the past the President has been able to do this by "Executive Order." At question is does this carry the force of law.

The theft charges are also on shaky ground, the defense claims, for nothing was physically taken. The papers were photocopied by Ellsburg; his daughter, Mary; his son, Robert; Lynda Sinay Resnick and Vu Van Thai, a former South Vietnamese ambassador to the U. S.

And then there's the question of how can a person steal something he himself wrote? To counter this the prosecution has charged the defendants with "theft of the arrangement of the words on the pages," and the "ideas conveyed by that arrangement."

All through the trial, the government has tried to show that

the publication of the papers endangered national security. But, in light of the developments, or should I say non-developments in the more than a year since publication, this is hard to prove.

The court, located in Los Angeles, is headed by U.S. District Court Judge William Matthew Byrne Jr., a newly appointed magistrate who is taking an activist role in the proceedings. The jury consists of 10 women and two men.

Defending Ellsburg is Leonard Boudin, late of the Berrigan case. Representing Russo is Leonard Weinglass of Chicago Seven fame. Supporting these two is a cast of attorneys and New York's dovish former Sen. Charles Goodell.

As the trial moves on, it has become clear that the government is trying to keep the context of the trial as narrow as possible. It has moved to have all courtroom references to the "public's right to know" stricken, while the defense has tried to broaden the context. It wants to have the final four volumes of the papers, dealing with peace overtures, released.

But, it is looking more and more like the case will turn on the government's right to enforce and punish violations of its security, a right commonly held necessary in these days and times. And it seems that in the long run the most notable thing about the papers will be not what they contain, but the legal and ethical issues they have brought to light.

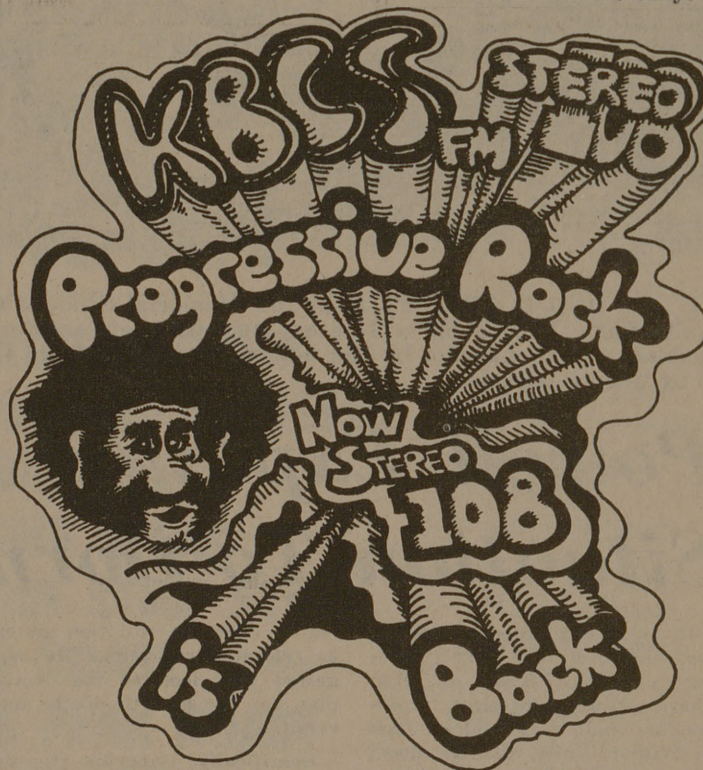
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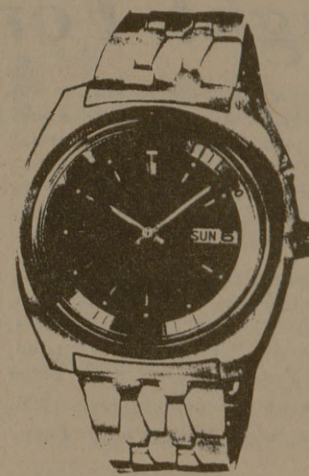
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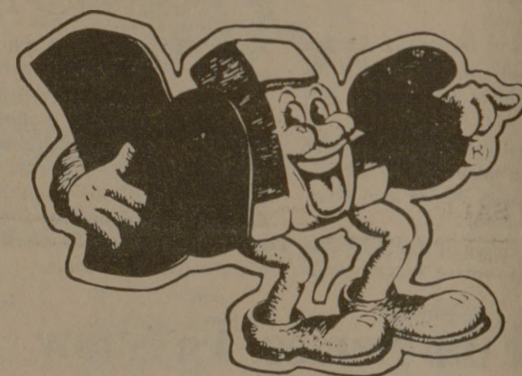
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