

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle

Listen Up

A&M Feeding World's Ills

Editor:
In reply to Suzanne Hitt . . . A&M seems to be well known for mass-producing "constructive members of society," so the school itself can be blamed only for feeding the ill that already exist in the world outside of this baby-sitting institution.

The absence of culture, warmth and sensitivity at A&M precludes most possibilities of growth, but there are people here who are still searching, trying and who really do care. The problem arises only because of the seeming impossibility of these people finding one another.

There are city ordinances and complicated legalities which make it difficult to establish co-ops for these people to meet, learn and live together. The organizations on campus are composed of egomaniacs who dream of power and of lost sheep who can only follow and are incapable of expressing thoughts or ideas because they never think. The dorms are bursting with shallow giggly girls interested in trivialities and "men" who enjoy drinking and football more than reading a book, exchanging ideas, or communicating with one another. Hope of waking up these "undead" (as opposed to the really alive) is very dim.

Large numbers of the people here are attracted to the school because it is safe, conservative and mechanical. They dilute the already small concentration of people who are searching for some satisfaction of their intellectual and aesthetic needs and desires.

I wonder if the problem implies built-in obsolescence. . . .

Most of my friends think so and are leaving to look elsewhere. Perhaps that is the only solution.

Karen Banks

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Editor:

I am forced to reply to Mr. Ben Ali's letter. He has made a grievance about the Arab refugee camps in Egypt and Jordan. I don't know what "facts" his government has told him, but here are a few he should know:

(1) Egypt refuses to let the refugees leave the camp and seek employment or settle elsewhere.
(2) Egypt has vetoed every plan to resettle the refugees in the country including those by the United States.

(3) The Arab nations do not pay a dime to help support the camps but proudly salute the refugees as "brothers."
(4) The refugees in Israeli territory have a higher and better standard of living than those in the Arab nations!

These are facts. They make it quite clear that the refugee problem exists only because the Arab leaders want it to — a complete disregard of human rights.

Also, he blames the United States for selling arms to Israel. At least Israel pays! Prior to the 1967 war, Russia had supplied Egypt and Syria alone with over Two Billion Dollars in weapons — for free!

If he really wants to see tensions ease, let's have him and the other Arabs see the communists for what they are doing. Working against peace. Let them turn down the arms or return them. It takes sabers before you can have sabers rattling.

Robert C. Bard '76

Editor:

I did not vote in this year's student elections; perhaps due to apathy, but more likely because of disgust. I voted last year for all those candidates who would "listen to the students," "do what the students wanted." A fine example is the much-talked-about-recently fee allocation bit. I am of the belief that the majority of students are not in favor of paying more money for student services. (Reminds me of the proposed telephone rate hikes without an increase in better service.) But I am particularly disturbed in that I have no voice as to how my money will be spent, or what services I would like to receive for my money. For example, I would have no ill feelings in paying the additional \$6 per year if my \$6 went to the library in order to purchase some of the many books and periodicals it is lacking. I am here primarily for an education and I would like my money to be used primarily for that purpose. I use the library much more often than either Kyle Field or G. Rollie White.

Dennis A. Cropper
Grad Student



"And after they try to figure out a good schedule, we change th' classes to meet on Friday afternoons!"

A Higher Services Fee

The Battalion has found that although the Student Senate has recommended that students pay \$18 per semester in services fees, the University administration is recommending to the Board of Directors that students pay \$19.

To quote Tom Cherry, Vice President for Business Affairs of A&M, in a letter to Dr. Jack K. Williams, "It is our opinion that this \$18 fee will not be sufficient to sustain the respective student programs at an acceptable level. It is therefore, recommended that the Student Service Fee be set at \$19 per student for the regular session and \$9 per student for each term of the summer session."

The letter was signed by Dr. Williams and passed on to the Board for its up-coming May 1 meeting. We ask what the idea of maintaining programs at "an acceptable level" means? We know that Mr. Cherry was in favor of giving athletics the \$240,000 as requested instead of the Senate's budget allotment of \$170,000, but the Senate spoke against this.

But now the extra dollar will be appropriated to the MSC facilities account for running the MSC. All's fair in love and war in economics, but unfortunately it seems student have lost the battle.

One consolation, however, is that the recommendation to the Board for hospital fee payments will not be the ceiling price (\$15) as allowed by pending state legislation, but will be \$14. In essence, students will be paying the same amount of money per year (\$36) although the money has been re-routed for services.

At the writing of this, a student referendum seemed inevitable since the Students of Concern needed only 244 signatures to have one called. The results of a referendum would be entertaining indeed, especially if students voted to lower fees to \$15 with a six dollar athletic user fee.

At any rate, it would be a good test to see how much the University administration responds to its students when it comes time for allocating student monies for student projects.

The Battalion

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed and show the address of the writer.

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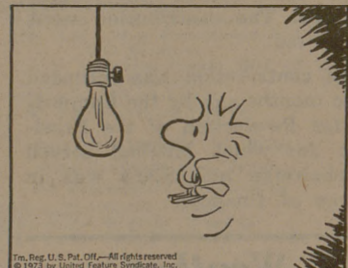
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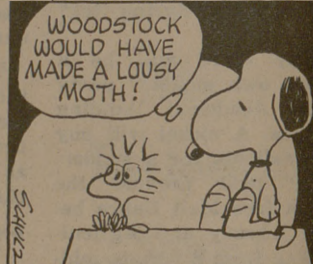


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By Charles M. Schulz



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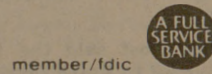
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