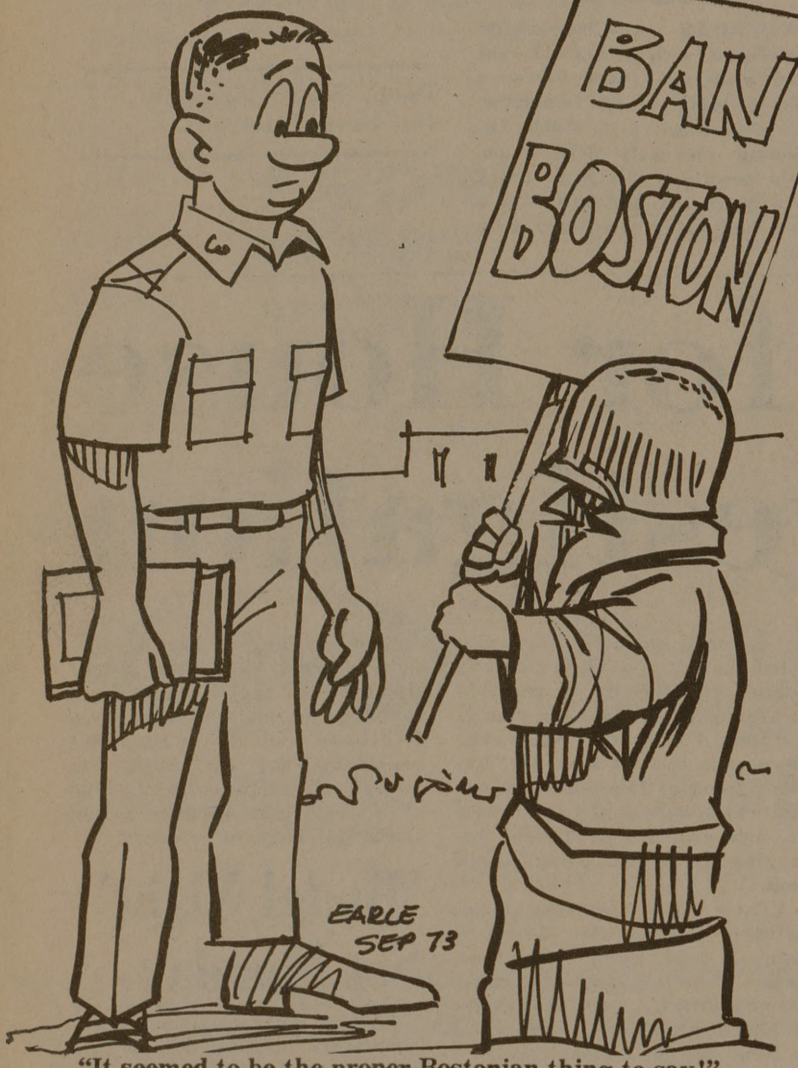


CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle

Listen Up —

Student Y Backer Guns For Editor



"It seemed to be the proper Bostonian thing to say!"

Christmas Break Extended

Readers may be glad to learn that the Academic Council has voted to add one week to the coming Christmas vacation, thus pushing back all scheduled events on the University Calendar.

Although this may bring a few hardships to some people in their projects, the overall intention is good and we hope the TAMU System Board of Directors approves the change. By tagging an extra week to the end of the semester, the university will stand to save a tremendous amount of fuel during what is typically known as the worst week of the year.

One thing that didn't change was the scheduling of the spring break, which remains on the same dates. And profs have already begun to plan activities for the week, with many planning field trips never before possible.

Two academic matters of concern to students were also approved in the meeting and are subject to Board approval.

The first item provides that the required physical education courses 101, 102, 201 and 204 now be averaged into the grade point average complete with one-hour credit. These courses will be mandatory for both male and female students in September 1974.

As a result, department heads will now slightly modify degree programs where necessary so that the total number of credit hours will not change.

Students who rank in the top quarter of their high school class and score at least 1,000 on the SAT may be granted admission without presenting all the specified high school courses (but having completed requirement for graduation). Their rule will apply only to junior students in high school seeking early decisions.

The Council also approved an admissions policy change for those never obtaining a high school diploma who want to enroll in the university. The council's proposal requires students to score at least 1,100 on the SAT and rank in the top quarter of their high school class.

There has been no written policy concerning the admission of this type student and there has been no requirement on class rank of SAT score (set by the state). A flexible rule as this is surely warranted and long overdue and thus the council should draw praise for both of its decisions.

Editor:
Your editorial concerning the Student Y Association was completely unfounded and uncalled for. As far as Fish Camp is concerned, the counselors are there by their own choice and come from all parts of the campus. Also counselors do not have to be members of the Y. Freshmen are not forced to join the Y and other organizations are represented at the camp.

If the Y hasn't maintained its stature on campus, I would like to know why it is the largest independent student organization on campus second only to the Corps. Furthermore, our organization had nothing to do with being moved out of the YMCA building.

I would like to ask Mr. Rice why he doesn't work within the organization to change things and why has he been a counselor at Fish Camp for the past two years.
Wade Watson

No one said the Fish are "forced to join the Y," but they are coerced. Fish Camp is intended to introduce freshmen to all aspects of campus life—evenly. Are your membership rolls including just active members or active and non-active members?

The Batt editor is not a member of the Student Y and has been invited by the Y the past two years to attend as a counselor. No application forms were filled out or interviews held for the endeavors.—Ed.

Editor:
I and many others would like to know why the televisions in the M.S.C. are turned off at 10 p.m. Many programs continue until after 10 o'clock. For instance, movies often do not end until after 10:15 or 10:30 and it is a disappointment to the viewer(s) who have watched for two hours and then are not able to see the final scenes. In many movies, it is in these closing scenes that the full content and message of the movie is revealed.

Also disappointing is to watch a sports event and have it terminated during the fourth quarter of a football game, ninth inning of a baseball game, or near the end of any sports program. For example, Monday night, Sept. 24, I watched the Cowboy-Saints game on the television at the M.S.C. until the television was turned off at 10 o'clock; during the third period of the game. By the game being discontinued at that point you have no idea of the final score, outstanding play, or injury to a player. This may not seem important to some people, but it is to many.

Something that should be important to everyone is missed by turning the television off at 10 o'clock. The "news" does not come on until 10 and I feel that a student should learn of the world around him as well as the lessons taught in class.

I am not saying that the television should be left on all night, just until the "prime-time" programs can be concluded. I feel 11:00 p.m. would be a suitable time; late enough for the programs to end and yet one extra hour should not create any major labor problems for the M.S.C. staff. Also, if the television rooms were not being used the televisions could be turned off before 11:00.

I don't feel this request is unreasonable and the extension would be appreciated by many students.

Joe Latimer '77
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Editor:
As a radio-TV journalism

major, I notice that there is a definite need for an open-air, FM educational radio station to complement our fine educational TV facility.

Apparently, TAMU is one of the few large universities that does not have a combination radio-TV facility, and many journalism majors here plan to go into some facet of broadcasting. Dr. Melvin Chastain, director of the ETV program, replied to a request by President Williams for information concerning establishment of a "student oriented and operated FM radio station." That request was dated September 19, 1972, and was answered by Dr.

Chastain just two days afterwards.

But it is now a year later and no action has been taken, except by half a dozen students on the Student Radio Governing Board interested in operating an FM station on the Midwest Video cable. Nearly two dozen people have applied to work as volunteers at the station, which will begin operation during the second week of October. Most of these people are trying to get a "break" into broadcasting and, for many of them, this FM cable station may provide them with their only chance.

With luck and a lot of coopera-

tion, A&M could have its own FM, open-air station in about two years, if we began moving now. If the station met National Public Radio (NPR) qualifications, it would be eligible for annual financing support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, ranging from \$15,000 to as much as \$200,000 a year, some of the grants of which are competitive among other stations.

I strongly urge President Williams and the Board of Directors to take a closer look, now, at this need.

Stephen Gray '76
News Director
Student Government

Rick Brown —

TWQB Causes Pollution Inequities on Channel

"It seems fundamentally unfair to me to enforce the law against industry and not against the government."

That statement by Terry O'Rourke, assistant attorney general, was made in regard to recent reluctance on the part of the Texas Water Quality Board to prosecute certain institutions responsible for massive pollution of the Houston Ship Channel. Those institutions happen to be the 40-odd sewage treatment plants of the City of Houston, and because of their status as municipally owned plants, they are currently above the law. They are free to expel more toxic material into the channel than any of the often-fined private industries.

Texas law currently authorizes fines of \$1,000-a-day for institutions failing to comply with pollution standards. The \$1,000 figure is considered too meager by federal standards which recommend \$25,000-a-day fines. But even the lower figure is never invoked against what is said to be "... open, continuous, violations of the law." One of the principal impediments towards equal enforcement of the law lies in J. Doug Toole, chairman of the

Texas Water Quality Board. He has said that while the board will consider filing a suit, he does not feel it is justified. (sic)

Chairman Toole's action, or I should say inaction, in regard to his responsibilities brings to mind another fine example of public-spirited dedication to duty. That example being William Barron, former public relations officer for another state control board, the Air Control Board, who is currently under indictment for extortion charges Great public relations.

It seems the Texas anti-pollution agencies, at some of the administrators who run them, are perhaps somewhat less than zealous in their desire to do their jobs in an efficient and fair manner. "It seems inconceivable to me that the Texas Water Quality Board will refuse to sue the City of Houston," says Assistant Attorney General O'Rourke, and his statement is echoed by hundreds of others who share his concern about our environment, legal inequities and complacency on the part of governmental agencies towards the laws they were designed to enforce.

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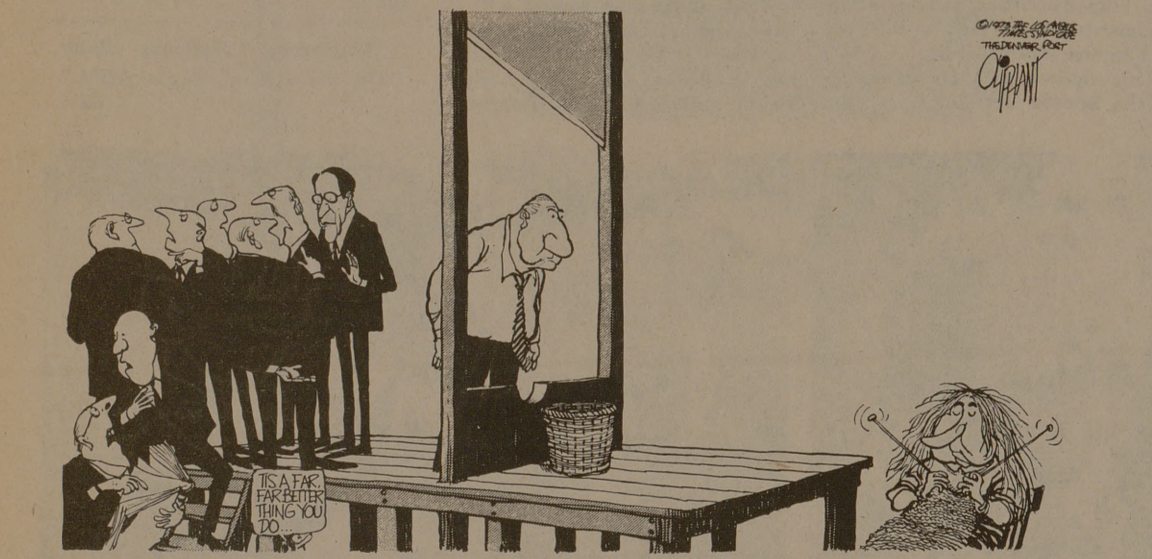
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