

MSC Policy: Take Off Your Hats, But Be Careful!

By DON WEBB

A recent informal polling of the Student Senate and other representative bodies indicated that a majority of students favor the continuation of two traditions with respect to the Memorial Student Center. Recent action taken by the MSC Council and a resolution being considered by the Student Senate on Oct. 24 made it necessary to examine why they are threatened and by whom.

Of these traditions, the hat policy, requesting that gentlemen remove their hats upon entering the MSC, was a policy until last March. The other, the tradition of not walking on the MSC grass, has never been an official policy, since the grounds were not declared part of the memorial when the building was dedicated.

The hat policy was reenacted on Oct. 15 by the Council because of a belief that most

students favored it. The Senate is now considering a resolution that would ask Dr. Jack Williams to declare that the grounds around the MSC portion of the University Center are part of the memorial, which might lead to an official policy against walking on the grass. However, there are problems involved with these policies, and those students who cause the problems must change or they will bring about the demise of these traditions.

These traditions came into existence when TAMU was small and word got around easily. There were far fewer visitors than at present. Thus, most people approaching and entering the MSC knew of the traditions or saw signs which informed them. Those that did not, have frequently been treated very rudely — yelled at, and sometimes even threatened. The classical examples are a three-star general who was told by a fish to take off his damned hat, and an A&M dean who was rudely told to get off the grass by some students who had not noticed that he was standing on a block of concrete surrounded by grass.

The point is this: even when there were far fewer visitors on campus than at present,

there have been dozens of cases where guests of A&M, who had no way of knowing our traditions, have been treated so rudely that some of them have vowed never to return to what they had believed was a friendly campus. One bad impression or experience can obliterate a dozen good ones.

A&M has literally thousands of visitors per year and can expect many more thousands with the 1976 Centennial coming up. We simply cannot continue to allow students to treat our guests so rudely. Such students not only ignore the fact that the visitor does not know the rules and frequently does not see warning signs, but they are forgetting that these same visitors will generally be happy to comply with traditions, and even be favorably impressed, provided they are approached calmly and politely.

One fact should be remembered. The hat policy states that gentlemen are asked to remove their hats. In a public building like the MSC, supported by student fees and many other sources of funds, there are no legal grounds for forcing people to remove their hats, nor for forcing them to leave the building, should they refuse to do so.

Moreover, there may be circumstances,

such as religious convictions, or a social son, under which a visitor feels obliged to wear a beanie, turban, or hat. These are not to be bothered in any way. It is quite ironic that those students who favor hat and grass traditions are the same that impose the greatest danger to the student body that is the MSC. While the Corps of Cadets is quite vocal in this respect, it may not be the only member of the student body that is interested. For all of those students who would like to see these traditions, which are two of the finest, continued, the following should be kept in mind.

There are two ways these traditions can be changed. The first is for a majority of students to decide that they should be continued. This is not likely in the near future. The other way is for students, a few of them, to continue to be rude to students or visitors, and guests of the university. Thus, the responsibility for changing these traditions is placed squarely on the backs of those who support them.

Don Webb is a TAMU senior, president of the 24th MSC Council and Director, member of the Corps of Cadets.

Batt Commentary

GPR Reports Costly

The mid-semester grade point resolution being considered by the TAMU Student Senate is perhaps the most worthwhile of the legislative issues undertaken by the Senate thus far this semester.

The bill calls for grade point reports to be mailed only to freshmen, students on scholastic probation and students having a grade of "D" or "F" in a course. Freshmen should have these reports made available because they are valuable guides to understanding what the grading system is all about, often pointing up a needed change in study habits. The bill goes too far in asking that all students on scholastic probation and having a grade of "D" or "F" in a course also be mailed reports. These students, most are adults, should be able to take care of themselves and their grade point ratios without the help of a costly report.

As the resolution points out, the mailing requirement tends to produce undue pressure on students during what has become mid-semester quiz week, a tradition, not a University policy. By simple posting grades in the halls of academic areas, University professors could single-handedly save the TAMU pocketbook much money and many student headaches.

Students with low grades or who are on scholastic probation should already know where they stand with their grades because of final grade reports, contact with their major departments and the University Regulations handbook.

According to the bill's sponsor, John Tyler, 70 per cent of the TAMU faculty advocates reform of the mid-semester grade reporting system and a three-fourths majority has indicated its disrespect for the current policy by posting and mailing "blanket" grades at mid-term.

Since these grades are frequently used as a basis for determining various scholastic awards and admission to graduate school, such an ill-used system is definitely cursed and should be modified.

There is another proposal coming from the Academic Programs Committee, a sub-committee of the University Academic Council. The group is comprised of vice presidents, academic deans, the dean of admissions and records, the library director, Corps commandant, department head and other associates. Student Government President Randy Ross is the lone student representative with direct input to the Council, and that is a non-voting privilege.

The APC proposal calls for all students, regardless of age, who have less than 30 hours of college credits, to receive mid-term reports and their next of kin (usually parents) to receive a GPR report. The idea has merit, but we don't believe reports should be sent to all with less than 30 hours credit. Nothing should be sent to those entering their third semester of college.

University workers would indeed be flooded with re-proved open document law to mean that any parent, student or appropriate campus administrator may be given free access to grade points records at all times if requested.

University worker would indeed be flooded with requests from freshmen parents for grades and could save themselves much trouble and money by making a blanket decision for freshmen reports. But, the fact remains that the law states that parents or next of kin must first request this information and that any attempt to automatically send reports to guardians is a clear violation of procedure.

It is interesting to note that two state schools have no mid-term grades at all, while six, including the University of Houston and SMU have mid-terms posted by profs. Seven Texas schools issue reports on a selective basis and A&M is one of only four schools that issue mid-term grades to everyone in all classes.

TAMU administrators and faculty, in their efforts to cut as many costs as possible, should consider mailing reports to only first and second semester students.

Moves in any other direction would insinuate that students who have recently gained rights as adults, shouldn't really be treated as such.



The Battalion

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Listen Up—

Married Student Housing Complimented

Editor:

I think Mr. Bales' letter concerning the "barracks" was unfair. Cats not only leave fleas, but hair, too. My husband is allergic to cat and dog hair and it's impossible to remove it from an apartment where cats were kept. Cats also serve as transmitters of a number of diseases and parasites especially harmful to small children. The print forbidding this in the terms of occupancy is no smaller than the rest.

Workers do sometimes walk in on people. It's an understandable mistake. I've found that latching the door keeps this from happening.

I think the management should

be complimented. When we report something needing repair, we always get same-day service. The repairmen and office personnel are polite and friendly.

We should appreciate the married student housing. Some universities don't bother to offer this. If it were not for the "barracks" many of us couldn't afford to go to school.

Carolyn & Bill Hayes '76
 ★ ★ ★

Editor:

Re: Dwight Fortson's letter on the Aggie Band, in Oct. 23's "Listen Up."

Since you did not understand the reason the band was playing, I must assume you aren't a former

student at A&M and therefore must have been from Texas Tech.

It is a tradition at A&M that after each game we have a yell practice and students sing three songs which the band plays. This explains why our band was playing.

I can't understand why you are appalled by this. We were appalled by the lack of consideration shown our band while forming up at half-time when it was showered by paper cups and other objects. No consideration was shown the band after the game when Tech fans were anxiously leaving the stadium.

As for our reputation, I would suggest that you check on the

reputation of your own school before making remarks of ours.

I was raised in the Lake area and I say that with the able exception of one school (A&M), Tech has the worst sports program in the conference.

Larry Jones '76
 ★ ★ ★

Editor:

Re: "Listen Up," Paul Klemm on Oct. 19.

Every "rude and unduly insulting" student in my experience a teacher at all levels has neatly dressed, well shod and you except a dribble of tobacco the corner of his mouth, etc.

Jack Bryant

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