

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I started this 'letter to the editor' and the more I wrote, the more I realized that I could make my point better in person!"

Batt Commentary Committee Problems

The most overworked and ill-established system of communications at TAMU is the committee structuring for the various deans, vice presidents and president. It is clearly chaotic and needs swift overhauling, some of which has already begun.

To understand the system, one must first comprehend how committees are appointed. The group members are nominated to President Jack Williams by those directly concerned with the committees, such as Randy Ross, Student Government president; T. Getterman, Residence Hall Association president; and by college deans, University vice presidents and other department heads.

Williams then reviews all nominations and replaces student and faculty members he deems unnecessary. Although most committees do not report to him (only six do), the vice presidents, etc., responsible for committee actions never have the final okay. This is wrong because these top officials may and frequently do have to work with individuals they don't want on the committees.

The most evident problem in this setup is the delay involved with final committee membership approval. The delay (a lengthy one this year) means that committee effectiveness is impaired since most are unable to get going until the beginning of October.

Membership should be determined solely by the individuals the committees are responsible to for several reasons, the foremost being that the task of running the TAMU System and the campus at College Station is too much for one man to handle. This is borne out by the fact that the Board of Directors appoints a separate individual to manage each other part of the system, such as Prairie View University and Tarleton State.

It is impossible for Williams to accurately review committee appointments himself and he usually farms out the task to his assistants, Dr. Tom Adair and Roger Miller. Since his approval of appointments is usually a rubber stamp (except for those people responsible directly to him), it seems even more logical to have those responsible approve their own committees.

Another aspect of this committee system foulup is, of course, who committees report to. There is frequently a criss-crossing of committee duties, which causes undue friction between members involved. By having committees report to a single individual, much of this can be alleviated.

The final problem is the apportionment of committees reporting to the various vice presidents and deans. Vice President for Academic Affairs John C. Calhoun heads the list with the most committees under him, 36, while other vice presidents may have as few as four groups. The distribution discrepancies are obvious, but unfortunately hard to solve. True, each may have assistants to deal with the committees, but then the committees aren't supposed to report to assistants, but the vice presidents.

We urge that something be done to alleviate much of the red tape and action should be initiated from the president's office.

The problem can't be solved by another committee, but the decision to make a change must be made by one man—Jack Williams.

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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Listen Up Bonfire Aids in Ecology Destruction

Editor: In response to Griff Lasley's comments in the Battalion (Oct. 31) about the bonfire: The size of the bonfire is proportional to the number of trees you have pointlessly cremated, the amount of land you have raped, the number of organisms you have displaced or destroyed, and inversely proportional to your wisdom. This is the third year that I

have listened and objected to this bonfire B.S. and still the ridiculously destructive practice goes on. I can recall past letters in support of and against the bonfire and remember how little people realize the significance of this atrocity against our environment. Here at a land grant college where wildlife management techniques, animal and plant ecology, and other biosciences are taught one would

think that people would look upon this with a somewhat more enlightened view. How can we condone destroying these trees for such a trivial activity when already our supply of naturally functioning ecosystems is being severely depleted by housing developments, farms, and Millican Dam(n)s.

Please understand that the "useless scrub oaks" (Batt- Nov.

1971) which you cut down are anything but useless from both an ecological and an economic standpoint. Ecologically the hardwood trees provide some of the most important wildlife habitat. Economically—how can one simply waste all the energy one burns up in the bonfire; the wood would be better put to use as crating material, furniture, baseball bats, or simply fuel in the home (as it

appears we are in for another lean year from a fuel standpoint. Please consider this and try to find a more creative way of showing your spirit.

Oryln Gaddis  
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Editor: A picture is worth a thousand words on the food at Sbis:



Robin Coppedge  
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Editor: There is a rumor going around campus that the restaurant in the Rudder Conference Center is going to be open only to faculty and staff in the near future, thus not allowing students to use this facility.

I would like to find out if there is any truth to this and if so, who made this decision.

If it is true, I would like the deciding party to reconsider. After all, we, the students, are required to pay \$10.00 each semester for the Student Center Complex. I, like many other students, don't mind this providing we are allowed to use it, including the restaurant. This is the only restaurant on campus and it seems unfair to turn the students away.

LaDonna Oldham  
The restaurant, originally designed to be a soup and sandwich bar with mixed drinks, will not be closed to students as there is no faculty demand for this. Most go home after work. Another larger cafeteria is being built in the new MSC building, more suited for student needs. The snack bar by the bowling alley is only temporary until the new facility is completed.—Ed.

Lease Line— Oral Agreements Bad Security Risk

By BARB SEARS  
Question: My roommate and I have been living in a duplex for about a year. We don't have a written lease, just an oral agreement. Recently, the owner decided that he wanted a \$100 deposit, even though he has never required one before. How can we be sure that we will get our deposit refunded?

Answer: First, you should demand a written lease. If the landlord needs security concerning your renting, then you do, too. Without a written lease, he can make you move out of the apartment with only a month's notice. It is unfair for him to require you to pay a security deposit without giving you in return some security in the form of a lease that guarantees you can rent the duplex for a certain amount of time.

However, there is no way to force your landlord to give you a

lease. You should be warned that if you do give him a security deposit without having a written lease, you may very likely never get your deposit back.

There are a few safeguards that might be able to help you in that situation. First, be sure to obtain a receipt for your deposit, properly dated and signed. Second, make a checklist for your apartment that lists the condition of everything, from the floor to the furniture. Insist the landlord initial it to validate it. This may mean that he has to look over your apartment, but it is very important that you insist upon this before you give him the deposit.

An oral agreement is binding to the landlord, but it is harder to enforce. So if you have his verification on the condition of the apartment, then his claims against your security deposit if you ever move out will have to

be accurate. If he has initialed the checklist and it says that your apartment has a hole in the wall or the carpet already has cigarette burns in it, there is no way he can charge you for those things.

A checklist is a security measure for each tenant. It is valuable evidence if you must ever go to the Small Claims Court.

It should be emphasized that oral leases are rarely helpful to the tenant. Unless the tenant is uncertain about how long he wants the apartment, he should try to get a written lease. If the landlord gives the excuse of not having the proper forms, there is a model lease in the back of the Fair Housing Commission's Legal Guide for tenants which can be used. You just need to fill in the blanks about rates, rental dates, etc. A copy can be obtained at the Student Government Office, the

Housing Office, or the offices of the Dean of Men and Dean of Women.

Question: We have an oral lease and our landlord recently told us that he was going to raise our rent. How much advance notice does he have to give us? Can he raise the rent in the middle of the semester?

Answer: In an oral lease, the contract is considered to be renewed on a month to month basis. Therefore, you generally pay rent monthly, and the landlord must give one month's notice before he changes any portion of your agreement, like raising the rent. It is legal for him to raise the rent in the middle of the semester, and there are some apartment owners who use that trick of obtaining tenants at a low rental rate, but raising the rent repeatedly so that the rate is no longer such a bargain.



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