



'FILL 'ER UP, CHECK THE OIL, AND REMOVE THE BUMPER-STICKER!'

**Batt Commentary**

**A Black Insult**

Black Aggies could have learned a lesson in working with the administration from Student Government in its efforts to achieve racial equality.

Student leaders and the President's Office have tentatively worked out a solution to the potential problem of working out Students Services Fee allocations, largely due to efforts of Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services.

The plan worked out by the three parties will give the Student Senate and involved departments until Feb. 6 to work out an allocations plan and the Senate will have a meeting each week for the first three weeks of the spring semester to do it. Great. And everybody will probably end up reasonably happy as a result.

But, the person who should probably receive the greatest amount of praise in this is Dr. Koldus—an administrator every student should get to know, particularly if they have a problem.

Koldus has taken over his post in a manner that is rarely done here at TAMU—with an open mind towards all people within the University, be they black or white, student or administrator, male or female.

We realize that his predecessor may not have been so open and direct with students as he could have been, but that is no reason for students to think that Dr. Koldus is this way. Take for example, the Thursday press conference held by the Black Awareness Committee.

Koldus was as stunned as anyone else at the conference, but was even more surprised that the conference had taken place before consulting anyone here, especially himself. He has grown used to doing a lot of direct dealing with student problems such as the budget allocations cycle. Students who have worked with him have grown used to his fast methods of action—methods that generally leave all concerned parties as satisfied as possible.

We take it as a personal insult to the University and Dr. Koldus that the black student leaders on campus didn't take the time to find out what Dr. Koldus could do for them in their demands from the administration and students. Student leaders, likewise, should feel the insult, although it may wake some students up as to the complexity of student problems here.

Black students have never tried hard to make their problems known through The Battalion. Although we have repeatedly offered our help several times last year, the BAC seemed so disorganized (as demonstrated by the fact that its press release had wrong information in it and the press conference didn't start on time) that information was never given The Battalion when requested.

The administration generally recruits and treats all students with equality, especially with respect toward race. If black Aggies have complaints about the system, then they should do as other Aggies do: work within the system for changes. Dragging the outside world into our problems should be a last recourse if the solutions are unobtainable.

Try the system. You may find that it works.

**Listen Up—**

**Potpourri: Energy & Suicide**

**Editor:**  
Potpourri:  
I agree, energy must be conserved, but a few remarks are in order. Using light bulbs is false economy as energy is required in the production of light bulbs. Unplugging refrigerators isn't smart either, it takes energy to replace all that spoiled food. Not that I'm not public spirited, you know.

To save water I'll only bathe once a month at home, during the week I'll be a slob and shower in the Rudder fountain. Of course, I'll shower after I finish my sauna bath in 104-C of the Zachry Engineering Center where it's 120 degrees.

Regarding Oliphant's cartoon on Nixon's windiness, I would suggest the windmill be placed in the Senate where it would have a higher utilization factor and increased torque due to the senators lack of courage to do anything except babble.

To a more serious discussion,

I would feel suicide should be considered as some sort of solution to personal problems, only it is one solution after which no other remedies can be tried. However my opinion nor 250 "eminent intellectuals" opinions nor all the Germans and Scandinavians opinions change the fact that suicide is still murder.  
J. R. Miller

The Rudder fountain may not provide you with a shower as it stands a good chance of being turned off to conserve energy.  
—Ed.

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**Editor:**  
Since much has been written about our nation's energy crisis I wish to point out to the Bonfire workers that their efforts could be put to more humane results than firing the spirit of their fellow Aggies. No Aggie could dispute that the sentiment behind the Bonfire is worth maintaining.

However, wouldn't it be far more generous and gratifying if we chose to not ignite the Bonfire and, instead, distribute the wood and oil to needy families in the Brazos Valley? This is not a request that the Bonfire activities (gathering of the students, yell practice, etc.) be abandoned. I feel that it would be very selfish of us to burn the Bonfire with the knowledge that someone less fortunate than ourselves will suffer because of our actions.

The local welfare department can attest to the fact that there are numerous families in the Valley who lack gas and electricity. We urbanites too often take our luxuries for granted.

Bonfire Committee, please read this letter carefully and give it serious considerations. I feel certain that the students would willingly contribute the time and energy to help you dismantle and distribute the Bonfire after the UT defeat.

Lee Greiser

**Homosexuality: Image vs. Reality**

By NEAL PARKER

The recent controversy between two people prompts me to say something about a matter of considerable pragmatic concern to homosexuals—their public image. That concern is vividly real, because it is still the case that you may well lose your job or never be hired if it is known that you are a homosexual.

The refusal to hire homosexuals and the tendency to reject them in other ways clearly depends on the public's perception of homosexuality. That perception is largely founded on ignorance since our society, and especially the church, has traditionally viewed homosexuality as a distasteful topic that well-bred people don't talk about. It was genuinely unspeakable, and you can't be well-informed about something if you can't discuss it. Moreover, most people, especially men, would be afraid to ask questions, or even read a book about homosexuality in a public place, for fear that someone might "misinterpret" their interest.

For the average American it was unthinkable that any of his or her friends or relatives could be homosexual.

"And what about Uncle George, who never got married?"

"Why he's always been very nice. It's ridiculous to think he could do things like that."

Homosexuals were a handful of bizzare

people in New York who made a disgraceful spectacle of themselves running around in women's clothing, Tch. Tch.

But in fact Uncle George probably was gay along with roughly 10 percent of his fellow American males and about the same percentage of females. Nobody realized it because he was obviously a kind and decent and respectable person. Today it is not generally known that at least one of our representatives in Congress from Texas is a homosexual. Nor is it generally known that at least five ministers in the Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church are homosexuals. As long as they keep their sexuality hidden, they are safe—at least they are safe from being expelled from the ministry, though not safe from the psychological torment of having to masquerade in public as being something that they aren't.

Consider the case of one of these gay ministers. He has a church in a small conservative South Texas town. The people in his congregation probably regard him as a fine, upstanding, young Christian, wholly dedicated to God's work. His image is a bit tarnished because he's divorced, but that's not too serious. Because of his good qualities it is unthinkable that he is a homosexual, and hence those qualities are chalked up to heterosexuality. That is an exceedingly im-

portant fact in the public's overall impression of homosexuals. The social contribution of thousands upon thousands of homosexuals and women will be taken as further evidence of the worth and dignity of heterosexuality because those men and women will be perceived by the general public as heterosexuals.

The only people traditionally perceived to be homosexuals by the public are those who behave in a bizarre way or who are unfortunate as to get in trouble with the law. The image of a large group has been based almost entirely upon the public's perception of the behavior of a very small group.

This situation has been furthered by the general tendency of the media to focus on what is unusual or sensational. There have been seven pictures of homosexuals in The Daily Texan or in Pearl since April, 1970, and three of these focus their central attention on people in drag. Not that it is bad to be in drag or to have your picture in the newspaper, but the ratio of three to seven does give a false impression of what most homosexuals are like. Since that false impression is not corrected by people's first-hand experience, and since public prejudice leads to concrete oppression, I think homosexuals have some basis for complaint.

There is a sense in which the gay movement is far ahead of the black movement or the chicano movement. We don't have to go through the slow painful process of working our way into the mainstream of American society, because we are already there—government, in industry, certainly in academia. What the rightwingers have been telling you all along is really true. The government is riddled with homosexuals, although in general they aren't also Communists.

A few weeks ago Dr. Howard J. Brown, 49, former health commissioner in Mayor Lindsay's cabinet, acknowledged that he was gay and exhorted other homosexuals in Lindsay's administration to do likewise. The story ran prominently on Page 1 of the Oct. 3 issue of The New York Times. There are millions of other homosexual men and women who would like to do the same thing if they could do so without jeopardizing their jobs or being rejected by family and friends. When these people do finally "come out," it will no longer be possible for the general public to attribute all the virtues of decent and responsible people to heterosexuality by default, and they will cease the naive practice of assuming everybody is straight until proved otherwise.

Neal Parker has been active in Gay Liberation for several years in Austin.

**President's Box**

(Continued from page 1)

wood strips on a yellow background.

"The walls are of colored felt-like material with sponge backing for less sound, maintenance and for esthetics," said Boyce. One wall is light blue and another black. The colors were chosen to look good at night games, Boyce added. Two speakers provide crowd noise and announcer C. K. Esten's commentary for the guests.

The Host and Fashion committee selects the hostesses from girls who volunteer for the job. Senior Carol Silverthorne, who served as hostess for the Wichita game, said "I enjoyed it and everyone was very nice to us, but I'd rather sit in the student section and see varsity's horns with everyone else."

Guests expected for the Texas A&M-Texas game are Congressman Olin E. Teague, Mrs. Earl Rudder and state legislators.

**Blacks**

(Continued from page 1)

H. Ray Smith, director of personnel said there were black faculty members but could not give figures on the exact number.

Marvin Bridges, a senior psychology major and member of the BAC, told The Battalion he believed the University should use the method of "reverse compensation" to overcome the discrimination practiced here for the past 100 years." He added that he and the BAC stand ready to help the University correct racial inequality here through active recruiting.

It has been the policy of the Dean of Admissions Office, headed by Ed Cooper, to recruit high school students only when the high schools ask TAMU to recruit there. Bridges said that he believed that it was the administration's responsibility to insure that all Texas high schools knew this. He added that the BAC would also help in this area, if officials wanted help.

**PEANUTS**



By Charles M. Schulz

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