

Youth Problems Create Too Many Problems, Few Solutions

By RICK BROWN

On Oct. 16 about 6,000 yelling sign-carrying supporters of Brother Lester Roloff converged from all across the state upon Austin determined to show the world their undying allegiance to Roloff and his efforts to keep open three unlicensed homes for juvenile delinquents. Signs read, "Brother Roloff Today—Your Church Tomorrow."

The furor originated when the Houston Post and Corpus Christi Caller-Times released story after story describing conditions in the homes inconsistent with commonly accepted standards of hygiene and nutrition. Also, according to the Texas Observer, "The papers found former students of the Roloff schools who signed statements concerning efforts to beat the Devil out of them and Christ into them."

Mimi Crossley of the Post gathered reports that Roloff was in effect selling babies of unwed mothers in his homes for "love gifts" by the adopting parents.

To these allegations Roloff replied, "Our local newspaper, that I begged to come out and see the home before they published the lies and slander, has gone to press on the front page and the back page accusing us of brutality . . . Others have picked up the story . . . Ten or 12 of our girls were picked up at the home by officers and carried to the county attorney's office for some statements. These happened to be the meanest girls at our home, who hated Christ, the Word of God, and all that we sought to do for them." Perhaps Roloff just had not had

sufficient time to indoctrinate them to the glories of salvation.

On Aug. 3, Dist. Judge Walter Dunham issued an order that the schools must be licensed or shut down by Oct. 1. Roloff went into high gear decrying the state rules as obstructions to religious freedom. (Similar Catholic and Baptist schools have had no problem meeting the minimal requirements.)

Many of Roloff's arguments simply do not hold water. He objects to the hygiene and P.E. requirements. He refuses to allow the Department of Public Welfare to inspect his facilities. The sex education required by state law can even be taught from the Old Testament and still meet the regulations. Yet he objects.

Roloff is the founder of Roloff Evangelistic Enterprises, Inc., and runs homes in Texas, Kansas and Mississippi. His homes operate under the protective cloak of thousands of religious fanatics attracted to his defiant attitude to the government they feel is obstructing their right to force the will of God down everybody's throat. In my opinion he is a demagogue and a hypocrite. Roloff refuses to comply to state standards not because of ideological objections, but because of the publicity and the limelight such church vs. state clashes inevitably bring. Another reason is the heavy contribution to Roloff Evangelistic Enterprises, Inc. received when 6,000 yelling supporters gathered to voice their support of their vanguard for Christianity.

State schools have their problems, too, it seems. On Aug. 31 Judge William Wayne Justice of Tyler issued a restraining order to halt demeaning and unnecessary treatment of the students at the Gatesville State School for Boys. On Sept. 4, just days after receiving the new freedoms, the boys rioted. Why?

The GSSB reform school is divided into two facilities, one at Gatesville and one at Mountain View. The Mountain View division handles the "problem" boys too tough for Gatesville. When a boy has been sent to Mt. View he is automatically considered a hardened delinquent. Authorities have been known to ignore recommendations by caseworkers for releases. A policy of "keep 'em in there where they can hurt no one but themselves," seems to prevail. Punishment, not rehabilitation, is the key word.

One incident, related in the Texas Observer by Charles Derrick, caseworker at GSSB, involved a retarded 90 pound epileptic Chicano. The boy was having seizures and Mack O. Morris, former assistant superintendent at Mt. View, decided to cure him. He had the boy locked in solitary confinement and tear gas canisters were thrown in through the food slot. The boy was found curled up in the corner after having clawed marks into the wall with his fingernails.

Another student was kept in solitary confinement for 30 days. Solitary has no lights or toilet. Why was he kept there?—obscene language.

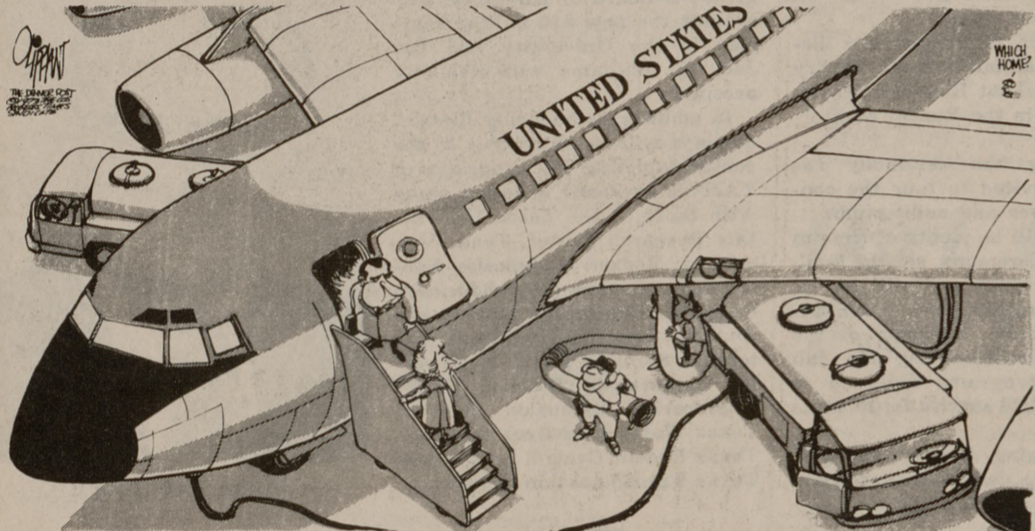
Students were required to pull grass and weeds with knees straight. Mail was censored. Families sometimes were not allowed to see their children. Guards carried clubs wrapped with tape with which to beat students whenever the urge struck. Why would there be a history of riots and disorders under such pristine living conditions?

Judge Justice's injunction ended the worst treatment. Why then did the boys riot? Some students at Mt. View had built a still in a shed. While under the influence, they boarded a laundry truck and spun about in the courtyard. They were stopped, locked up and charged with auto theft. (Two barbed-wire-topped fences, one 10 and one seven feet high, surround the complex and guards are stationed at all gates. How they were to steal the truck was not explained.) The Gatesville boys heard about "the riot at Mt. View," and proceeded to have a riot of their own, a real one. The administrators, rather than stop the riot, stood by and blamed it all on the order by the judge. Presumably they did not know how to treat the youths if they were not allowed to beat them or put them in cells and pour in tear gas.

While everyone was shaking his head, Gov. Briscoe created an Inter-Agency Task Force on Youth Care and Rehabilitation. We already had the Texas Youth Council, State Welfare Commission, State Mental Health Commission, State Mental Retardation Commission, Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the Texas Education Agency. Perhaps fewer agencies with more competent administrators might have been a better idea.



"It's the time of the season to get serious about football!"



'I HOPE ONE OF YOU REMEMBERED TO TURN DOWN THE THERMOSTAT BEFORE YOU LEFT HOME.'

Batt Commentary

Board Proposals

A dinner meeting Tuesday between the TAMU Board of Directors plus the TAMU administration and student leaders was the epitome of the fallacious existence of direct communication links at TAMU.

The meal, primarily a social get-together for all parties, went off as the administration hoped it would—without a hitch, and with no help from the students.

Take for instance, the proposal for liquor on campus which the Senate sent to President Jack Williams recently for approval. His okay or opposition to it was never formally announced to anyone. All we were told was, "The Board probably won't accept liquor on campus, even with restrictions." Most Board members, likewise, were never told that Williams had laxed the liquor rule here to the point where Corps Commander Scott Eberhart could tell his cadets when to drink in their dorms via a memorandum.

Some students asked Board members last night to divulge the reasons the group had, indeed, said no to the proposal. The decision was made only yesterday, but apparently on the wrong basis. Williams discussed the liquor subject with the Board, but according to one Board member, not in the context it should have been. The three-year president ignored the fact that he had already laxed the rule in his discussion, said the member. He apparently presented the Senate proposal by saying students didn't have liquor on campus at all, when in fact, he had approved liquor on campus without telling the Board weeks earlier.

Another blow occurred when the Board held the last of its infamous private meetings Tuesday prior to a regularly scheduled meeting. Williams told Student Government President Randy Ross that he could not be present at the meeting even to only answer questions about the Senate's proposal. Williams can never fully represent the views of students, especially after he told certain individuals that he was really against the proposal. House Bill 6 should break this bad habit on January 1, though.

Still, other students were having trouble with Board President Clyde Wells at the dinner when he was asked why student proposals that went to the Board through Williams were never placed on the formal meeting agenda given each member. He could give no definite, logical reason. Students were only trying to discover the proper way to bring proposals to the Board. State law allows all to petition the Board for a spot on the agenda, meaning Williams and students.

Student leaders were going to attempt to quiz the Board again at its meeting this morning and to oppose or approve the proposal on liquor is not our purpose here.

Only, we demand that the correct procedure for routing proposals be revealed to the masses. If we won't be allowed to petition the Board for policy changes, tell us. Students and faculty alike have a right to this information, whether it helps or hinders them.

The Battalion

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Listen Up—

Hotard Greivance Group Takes Action

Editor: We the undersigned Hotardians wish to make known to the rest of the campus our grievance.

We demand:

(1) A Hotard awareness committee.

(2) A Hotard Studies program.

(3) Being tired of our secluded location we want to be moved to a more central location, preferably between the statue of "Sully" and the flagpole.

(4) That native Hotardian dishes be served at least once a year in Sbisas.

(5) More Hotardians on the faculty.

(6) An end to the sexist University policy that has yet to admit the first female Hotardian.

(7) An end to the prejudiced University policy which has set the percentage of Hotardians at .4 percent of the actual student population.

We are not calling for revolution, we are just asking for our basic human rights.

Steve Tanner '75
John Emery '75
Jay Wright '77
Hotard Grievance Committee

Editor: Your decision to run the gay lib story on November 16 without your personal editorial comment leaves confusion on the part of the reader as to the BAT and the University's stand on gay lib expression. The lack of such statement might lead to a conclusion you favor this deviation from the behavioral norm.

Although it is the duty of the journalist "to inform," it is also important you remember your re-

sponsibility to society. You are responsible for what is NOT said as well as what is said.

Psychologists talk about behavior modification. Perhaps it might be possible to soften public opinion against the homosexual. State and federal legislation can be altered so that the homosexual would not suffer the legal difficulties he may now experience.

The author of the article made attempts to note the inclusion of homosexuals in the church, and among the clergy. He seems to lay "blame" upon the church and Christianity for much of the anti-gay feelings.

It should be pointed out that although man may change his own laws, the scriptures, the Bible, which Christianity considers as the Word of God, has very specific comments about homosexuality, as it does towards any and all sexual activity outside marriage. Man may compromise with his own laws, but the Bible doesn't even imply that man can compromise, or rationalize (situation ethics) with any success on Judgement Day.

Praise God, however, that He has provided a way. He does not leave us stranded, but provides forgiveness and a New Life to all who yield their full allegiance to His Son, Jesus. Men and women alike who may have problems of this nature, or any other, can find complete freedom, the instant they yield themselves totally to the full Power of Jesus Christ.

Howard Eilers
Associate Professor, Journalism

Editor: Intellectuals have a nasty habit of exhibiting eminent stupidity at

times, especially when a non-intellectual phenomena is involved (the plaque in the Zachry Engineering Center speaks to this point). I can imagine what 250 of these fruit-cakes would come up with on the subject of suicide.

Texas A&M, through the years, has characteristically had a special spirit that makes it just a little better than the run-of-the-mill university. The students who have "checked out" early on purpose have had nothing, but nothing, to do with the growth of this reputation.

Rationalizing suicide for three weeks was the high point of one writer's academic career? Right on.

Experience indicates that people who invoke the unloving-and-apathetic-society routine are usually people-haters, and these types are definitely two-percenters.

To reiterate—Suicide cases should not in my opinion be accorded the honor of Silver Taps.

Perhaps, though, if you can round up 250 idiots you can start the Texas Aggie Suicide Society.

Taylor Sealy

Editor: I am a student at the University of Texas at Austin, but I have been on the A&M campus a number of times and know that the student newspaper prints letters to the editor. I do not know if you accept letters from students at other universities, but I have written this with the hope you will. I would rather you not sign my name to it, but if you wish to contact me, my address is P. O. Box 7854, University of Texas, Austin Texas.

As a student at the University of Texas at Austin who attended the Rice-A&M game, I was shocked by the behavior of the A&M students during half-time and after the game. Who are you to place your trite traditions above everyone else's? You can steal our mascot and parade him around your campus like a bunch of spoiled children as you did last year, but you can't take a harmless spoof on your own mascot and traditions. By your actions this Saturday you have proven once again that the University of Texas is the only school worthy of the name of Texas. I do not want to put down the academic status of A&M for in some areas it is a fine school. But the attitude and 'spirit' of the 'True Ag' leaves a lot to be desired. I sincerely hope you grow up by Thursday so that our traditional meeting will not be marred by such antics. I would hate for the police to have to escort anyone off the field again. What sort of satisfaction can that possibly give you. It's time you Aggies grew up.

John Cunningham

Editor: Obviously Mr. Sealy does not understand that a person who has committed suicide had a very serious and complex emotional problem. But, if Sealy does grasp this fact, I fail to see why he offered such a simplistic and naive view of Mr. Scott's character. Perhaps James Scott should not have been honored, but for our own good we should at least try to understand the real situation.

Anthony M. Kalenak '77



PENISTON CAFETERIA
OPEN
Sun - Fri. 7 a. m. - 1:15 p. m.
4:30 p. m. - 7 p. m.
And
7 a. m. to 7 p. m.
Thursday Nov. 22,
THE DAY WE
BEAT T.U.