

World's Hard Luck Newsmakers Find Honorable Mentions

By RICK BROWN

Monday a Soviet court ruled that Yuri Shikhavovich, a dissident and friend of physicist Andrei Sakharov, was mentally insane. When his lawyer asked if the psychiatrists who judged him crazy had ever met Shikhavovich, the court told the impetuous upstart that had nothing to do with it.

In other news from Europe, the Paris fire department reported that in 1972 it was called out five times to help people who had their feet stuck in toilets. (Your guess is as good as mine.)

And while I'm on unusual but interesting tidbits I might mention that Jack Saunders of Spo-

kane, Wash. lost a court suit against Arden Farms, a dairy products company. He sued for damages just because he found a tooth, a human one, in a gallon of ice cream. (picky picky picky). The judge said, in what may be the understatement of the year, that Saunders suffered no damages although the tooth "could be considered unappetizing."

Speaking of things being out of place, Lt. Governor Bill Hobby was in Germany this past week. He led a Texas trade delegation hoping to lure German companies to Texas. The trip was especially timely since Volkswagen recently announced plans to establish a factory in the U.S.

The absence of a corporate income tax, relatively cheap labor and a general climate strongly in favor of industrial expansion all make the job a little easier for our state officials who have been quite successful in enticing foreign investors to Texas. Witness the Mitsubishi airplane manufacturing plant in San Angelo and a planned \$15 million cotton spinning mill on the South Plains by a Japanese firm. That cotton mill, by the way, resulted from the efforts of the recent Japanese trade delegation led by Gov. Briscoe. Our state executives seem to be honestly trying to earn their pay.

Some legislators, notably Tom

Massey, D.-San Angelo, suggested last week that the legislature not bother itself with drafting a new constitution next spring. They recommend simply ratifying the document submitted by the Constitutional Revision Committee

and presenting it to the voters. Fortunately, not many people agreed with them.

The rewriting of a constitution is too important to merely rubber stamp approval on the work of an appointed commission. The

people who will have to live under the new laws should have as much opportunity as possible to express their views directly or through their representatives, the kind of opportunity the upcoming convention will provide.

Granted, the committee listened to citizen groups around the state as they formulated the new constitution draft, but not everyone was able to attend the meetings. The convention is essential in assuring the voters ample opportunity to have their views aired.

And one other item from the capital. Former State Rep. E. E. "Dick" Cory, D-Victoria, chaired a 1968 interim committee investigating the Texas vending machine industry. He recently was called to Austin to review once again the committee findings. In his absence Cory said what most people already knew, that the vending machine industry may be corrupt and that the Texas Amusement Machine Commission which supposedly regulates the industry instead serves to protect the companies (sound familiar?). According to Cory, "... an unregulated business would be better than what we have now." If someone would just discover that the Texas Insurance Commission and the Texas Water Quality Board are inept it would really make my day.

Batt Commentary

Athletic Facts

Questions and misunderstandings have been arising the past two days about the feasibility of putting together a women's division of intercollegiate athletics at TAMU. Many people within the University can't understand what membership in the Southwest Conference means for all involved. The money question almost always is the center of conversation on the topic.

Rightly so! To find funds for a program about which SWC officials know will involve more participants than they can readily see is not an easy task. Indeed, even if the SWC were to allow women into its house, it would probably be a matter of several years before adequate funds would be available to support one or more good teams.

Sports news director Spec Gammon suggests that women form their own conference, of sorts. However, one already exists and has for 10 years in Texas. The A&M Women's Sports Association has been a member for three years. This illustrates a lack of knowledge of what people just down the hall from each other have been doing and not doing. It also shows the poor publicity the Texas Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics for Women has been getting for the past few years and why there will probably always be a shortage of funds for schools that are members of this group alone. TAMU, a member organization, has likewise not gotten much publicity from the national counterpart of this group, the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. Publicity, of course, must be interpreted in monetary terms, too.

To illustrate, one should merely look at the situation we have currently. The WSA managed to scrounge up \$200 from the Texas A&M Book Store in the MSC to support 10 different activities for this coming year. The A&M Athletic Department, however, had a budget of \$1.8 million for the 1972-73 school year. At the University of Texas in Austin, women's intercollegiate varsity teams are funded through intramurals on a budget of about \$6,000. UT's Athletic Department operates on a \$1.8 million for men's intercollegiate. The situations, obviously, are intolerable.

Representatives of the WSA have been pondering who they will play if they were allowed under the SWC umbrella. As the current rules allow all teams in the SWC, they may play whoever they want whenever they want, although teams coordinate schedules when playing among themselves. Anyone the WSA plays now could still play them, regardless of SWC membership.

We have talked to numerous Athletic Department officials who have said they would be more than willing to help with the organization of a women's program of intercollegiate athletics. They admit, although the women would have to play the major role in finding additional funds. This might be slow at first, but with careful coordination, money-making teams could compete to eventually develop more teams. If there were enough teams warranting one, a female associate athletic director could be hired to coordinate intercollegiate athletics.

Our intramural department could develop additional programs in its area for women, also. It's obvious to all that intramurals could never fully fund intercollegiate athletics for women without severely hampering its program for men—and the object is not to tear down what we have, but to build up.

Texas A&M stands to be a leader in the SWC in these areas. We urge Dr. Charles Samson and the Athletic Council to take a positive view of this proposal to allow women's intercollegiate athletics. An image of fairness and equality will overshadow many schools and be beneficial for all Texans.

Zindler Again

Houston TV's favorite problem investigator, Marvin Zindler, did it again Tuesday for that house of ill-repute in La Grange, otherwise known as the chicken ranch (to Marvin, it's a house of prostitution). Zindler interviewed State Attorney General John Hill recently on the matter and in Channel 13's Tuesday evening news presentation, he presented his findings.

Hill admitted that he had heard rumors and complaints about the chicken ranch's recent unofficial reopening, apparently through the use of a back road leading to the rear portion of the house. Zindler seems to have been about the last one in the state to hear about its reopening and the first one to be upset at it.

Prostitution, morals aside, is considered by state law to be illegal and therefore, if the rule is going to be on the books, it should be enforced.

Perhaps, though, Zindler should give up on his present direction and lobby the legislature for legalization of the "corruption in Babylon-on-the-Brazos." Otherwise, it seems there are more important problems in Houston for Zindler and Channel 13 to deal with.

The Battalion

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Listen Up—

Tree Chopping Demands Reimbursement

Editor:

Should we recommend gold medals for the eight young men who reportedly chopped down the Rice University victory tree for their act of heroism or should we get to the grit of the matter.

First, according to sources closer to the scene, the chopping was done last Wednesday morning thanks to directions given by the camp owner's ten-year-old daughter before getting on her morning school bus.

Second, in all articles previously written in the Batt, there is no mention of Camp Menison. This implies the tree was the property of Rice. In actuality, the camp is private property and the Rice football team pays only for its use on Friday nights before home games.

These eight students did no disservice to Rice (as shown last Saturday in Ft. Worth), but only on an act of foolish vandalism to the camp. Having a personal relationship with the Manison's,

their camp and all their trees, I know they are not pleased with this ignorant achievement.

My personal feeling is that if the eight students were hacked off by the band's performance, they should have gotten their firewood from the band director's front yard.

In all fairness I believe Tom Manison should be fully reimbursed for his loss or at least an honest apology from these rash Ags.

Barry Kluth '76
Your letter clearly shows how really foolish people can be and how blown up rivalries can affect the rights of others. It's too bad not all people share your views.—Ed.

★ ★ ★

Editor:

The bonfire is one of A&M's most effective means of communicating its institutionalized attitudes and values. With it we annually express our profound failure to grasp the nature of our

challenge to reason and leadership we seem to be spending an enormous amount of time and energy demonstrating ourselves to be very ordinary.

Michael D. Murphy '61

★ ★ ★

Editor:

I would like to know if the Aggie mascot, Reveille, is male. Also, how many different mascots have the Aggies had since the original mascot died.

H. R. Dula
Houston

The current mascot is most definitely a female and is the third dog the Aggies have had for a mascot.—Ed.

★ ★ ★

Editor:

What's the difference between an Aggie who kills himself and an Aggie who dies in a car accident? Give up?

Answer: 98 per cent.

Jimmy F. Scott

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