



Listen Up No retraction said evident in Kunstler's letter to Batt

Editor:
I was surprised when I read "Kunstler retracts criticism of Congressman Teague" on page two of Tuesday's "Battalion" and even more so when I read Mr. Kunstler's letter because I found no retraction. If I remember Mr. Kunstler's speech, he stated words to the effect that Congressman Teague had no business in having anything to do with helping to obtain speakers for SCONA, period. I am working from memory as I have no transcription of Kunstler's address so please correct me if I am wrong.

In his letter, Kunstler states in connection with possible contact between Kosub and Teague, "I did not say that any such contact had taken place and I have no knowledge of it. I trust that this clears up the matter." And that is all he said, the essence of which seems to be his saying that anyone believing he (Kunstler) said Teague directly influenced Kosub into making the cancellation decision simply misunderstood. Kunstler's original criticisms of Congressman Teague would seem to still stand as far as Kunstler is concerned.

The point is it appears to me that the headline is quite misleading, and any journalistic enterprise which misleads its readers can lose credibility as easily as a politician who misleads his constituents. I should note that I am not interested in attacking "The Battalion," I merely want the record set straight; again, if I incorrectly remembered Kunstler's address to this student body as concerns Congressman Teague, accept my apologies, if not, I believe you owe your readers an explanation of the headline.

Ralph McNutt

Kunstler's remarks on Teague were as follows (from a tape of the speech): "I have been informed that some of the pressure to drop Kunstler's speech came from the Congressman from the Sixth District a gentleman by the name of the Honorable Olin E. Teague, who is listed as the executive officer of the SCONA Conference. I understand Mr. Teague was angry because his university dared to ask me to come here.

First of all I think it is an utter disgrace that a Congressman,

a partisan politician, has any voice in who speaks in this university... I was told he was kept around because he was good at getting speakers. He is also good, apparently, at vetoing speakers. Any competent lecture bureau could do far better than a conservative Congressman in obtaining speakers. This man takes an oath of office to support the Constitution.

He has cheapened himself and he has cheapened this university if he took any role whatsoever in influencing the president of this university. He has destroyed an ideal, he has dirtied his flag and he has disrupted the Constitution. And if that is supporting the ideals of this country then I guess I don't know what the ideals are."

We should have printed these statements with Kunstler's letter for the sake of clarification.—Ed.

Silver Taps

Editor:

I have just returned from Silver Taps and feel saddened. I have attended Silver Taps for nearly three years now. I can still recall the first I ever attended and they still impress me. Yet tonight (and not for the first time) I am disturbed. This Silver Taps was for an Ag who was murdered. But this is not what disturbs me—other than anger at the fact of it.

Since I was a fish the solemnness of this occasion has been stressed to me. I was not allowed to watch the Ross Volunteers as a fish. I was told to go and stand by the flagpole. I am no longer so required but I remain—out of respect. I did not know the Ag who was killed but the thought came through my mind as it always does at a Silver Taps—an Ag has died—one of us is gone. And other thoughts—"Softly call the Muster, let a comrade answer here." Other schools don't do this—they don't have the "one of us." Silver Taps, Muster—they mean something and they always will.

But as the bugle's last notes fade and I walk away, I see things that grieve me... cars gun their engines and drive off with all lights shining, people begin talking and laughing, lights come on in dorm windows.

I will not say, "This isn't right—that's not the way—shape up!" I will only say that it saddens me to see the spirit slowly go. There will be some, even in the Corps, who believe this letter weak and overly sentimental. I say to them—go and ask an old Ag how he feels after Muster and then ask themselves if it really means so little to them... and are they willing to let it quietly fade and die?

Brice A. Biggerstaff

Pink Flamingos

Editor:

On Monday March 25 there will be an important meeting of the MSC Council to decide whether or not to ban the film "Pink Flamingos."

We, the members of the A&M Student Civil Liberties Union, feel that this action by the Council acting as a review board is a clear case of censorship. Why should this group of people have a right to determine what is pornographic, what is art, or what is good enough for the students of Texas A&M to see?

The Council, which has never seen this film, will decide on the basis of the critical comments of others and their own past prejudices whether or not this film should be shown.

If you, as a concerned student at Texas A&M University, feel that this action is a deprivation of your right to view what you want to see, please attend the meeting March 25 at 6:00 p. m. at the Conference Room of the Student Programs Office at the MSC.

If you are interested in further action on this issue, we urge you to attend the meeting of the A&M Student Civil Liberties Union March 27 in the Rudder Tower.

Martin Hokanson, president
A&M Student Civil Liberties Union

Streakers

Dear Sir:

"Should streakers be suspended?" Definitely — from coconut trees!

Marie Scott

Lease Line— Repairs noted at West Knoll

By BARB SEARS

About a month ago this column cited a number of charges made by tenants against the West Knoll Townhouses in College Station. That particular column had two effects: The Battalion received a letter alleging that libelous statements were made, and a number of the maintenance problems cited in the column were repaired by the landlord.

The libel charge and retraction request did not carry much weight since the tenants were willing to testify in support of the statements reported in the column. The attempts at repairwork by the landlord should be noted, as well as the problems which remain unsolved.

One major complaint, concerned infestation of the outdoor area by rats. Apparently, the City-County Health Department recognized the

problem and asked the manager to mow the unkempt field in which the rats resided. This was done and rat poison was set out. Several tenants report an improvement in the situation.

The construction of the buildings was another problem since the roofing was so poor that extensive leaking occurred, causing mold to grow on the walls and ceiling and the carpet to actually begin to rot. Two actions were attempted to eliminate the results of the leakage: the carpets in several apartments were replaced, and the mold was sprayed and destroyed. An attempt was made to repair the roof, however reports show no improvement, and in fact indicate worsening of the situation.

The obvious shoddy construction of at least the roofs of West Knoll Townhouses illustrates a much more serious problem than

leaks in the ceiling. Apartments in the Bryan-College Station area are often constructed either in too great a rush or with improper care, and the result is an apartment complex with latent defects.

An apartment complex currently under construction, Scandia Apartments, is another example. The construction crew poured concrete for the second story floors during wet weather. The result was that the underlayer buckled, and the concrete floors cracked. Many of the cracks are a half inch wide, and run close to the full length of the room. The College Station building inspector L. P. Dulaney assured me that these cracks would be filled before the carpeting and tile were laid down.

One can hope that compliance with his directive will be noted by spot checks.

The West Knoll case in particular points out another disturbing factor: the local housing code only applies to buildings constructed after its adoption in 1970. Older buildings may be in violation of this definition of habitability. The only recourse for tenants now is to find something to violate fire safety or sanitation regulations, which leaves a broad spectrum of problems unsolved. Perhaps the City Council will provide individual assistance willing to face this problem and institute a housing code which will establish certain minimum standards for older buildings.

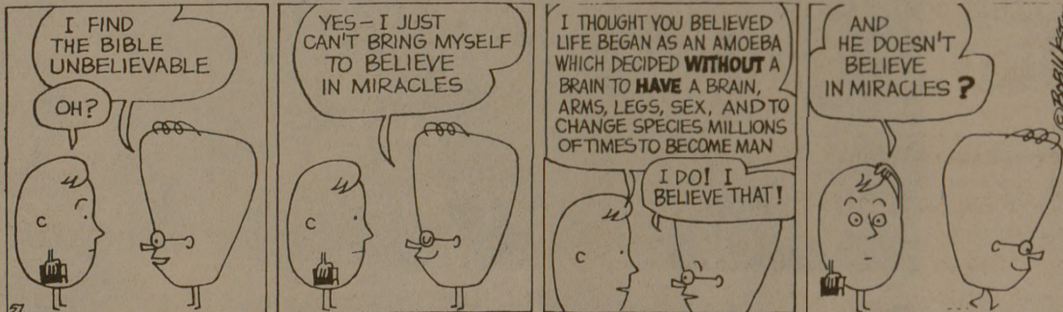
CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"I should start studying to bring my grades up, but I'm afraid if I start too soon, I'd get more grade points than I needed!"

THEOPHILUS



THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION OR SPECIAL CREATION

FROM MANY OF YOUR PROFESSORS YOU ARE PRESENTED THE EVOLUTIONARY POSITION. HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THE ALTERNATIVES THAT THE OTHER SIDE HAS TO PRESENT? ARE YOU INTELLECTUALLY HONEST ENOUGH TO LISTEN TO THAT OTHER SIDE?

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Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc. New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

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The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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