

Listen Up

'The days of the Spanish Inquisition have passed'

Editor:

It became apparent last night that A&M does not have a censorship board; rather, it has a programming committee under

the guise of the MSC Council, which is determined to simply "program" the films available to be seen by the student body, whether the student body likes it

or not.

The reference is to the rejection of "Pink Flamingos" as a film worthy of showing on this campus, because some rather vehement complaints about other films were received and because Mr. Stark and, apparently, six other council members do not consider the film "fine art" even though they have never seen the film themselves and have based their opinions entirely on hearsay "evidence."

A reasonable proposal suggested was an "experimental" showing with questionnaires handed out in order to determine if a significant fraction of A&M students desired such "programming." The Arts Committee urged this be done. They selected the film because it is, in their opinion, "significant," e.g. it has made enough impact to be reviewed in the New York Times. Indeed, it seems to us that one important facet of the educational process is to let students know what is going on in this world, if they want to know, whether it is pretty and "decent" or not.

Even though the Arts Film Series has been drawing increasing numbers of students, the council says it has "responsibilities." It might be noted that similar "responsibilities" almost kept a speaker off of this campus that

quite a few students were interested in hearing.

The open-mindedness of some council members was obvious, though one was too busy with her needlepoint to say much.

In closing, it is suggested that while the council considers its "responsibilities," it also ponders the concept of the university as an open forum for the free exchange of ideas and realizes that the days of the Spanish Inquisition (hopefully) have passed.

Ralph McNutt
Thomas P. Donahue

★ ★ ★

Wrong idea

Editor:

Re: printed response to the question in the March 26 Battalion on the NSL, TSL and TSA.

My answer in The Battalion to the question on lobby groups may have created on incorrect impression in the minds of your readers. I am completely in favor of membership in an effective lobbying organization. I do not consider the TSL as an effective lobbying organization at the present.

Recently, for example, the TSL endorsed the armadillo as the state animal of Texas! An organization that concerns itself with such frivolous and petty matters

does not deserve our respect. Too long, the TSA and TSL have been dominated by Sandy Kress and Co. from TU and have degenerated into a farce. A&M should only be a member of these organizations as long as it can exercise a sobering, moderating and influential role.

If the issues before the NSL,

like improved funding for higher education, lower air-rail fares for senior citizens and students, etc. are acted upon, certainly the A&M students stand to benefit. As a veteran, I have also noted with great interest NSL's role in getting improved veteran's benefits. In the interview I was trying to point out that we should be-

long to those organizations concern themselves with individual issues. Also, to be more representative, NSL should bring schools like TCU, SMU and SMU into its realm. This not done by doing things like endorsing the armadillo for animal.

Wally Reinke

Editor's Notes

Last Friday three students were nabbed by university officials for illicit drug use and are facing misdemeanor charges for possession of marijuana.

This incident kindled my interest into how elaborate are the university's drug abuse prevention efforts and what happens to students caught with illegal drugs.

According to Dean of Men Charles Powell, the main enforcers of drug laws in the dormitories are the resident advisers. They are instructed to give warnings to students the first time illicit drug use is suspected. If a student is caught with drugs after an initial warning, an RA would refer the case to Dean Powell. Powell says the usual punishment is conduct probation, but if the offense is repeated the student would be suspended from the university.

Not surprisingly, "pushing" illegal drugs calls for immediate suspension, but Dean Powell says this has happened only three or four times in the two years he has been at A&M. "We try to make discipline a learning experience," Powell said, "but, on the other hand, we have to provide a degree of security in the campus community." If a person is a compulsive thief or drug user, he added, and the campus can't live with him—"We'll have to live without him."

Powell said drugs are not a major problem in the dormitories. The quantities involved are not large, he said, and almost invariably, the pushers work off campus. In addition, dormitory drug abuse (ignoring alcohol use) seems to be limited to smoking or otherwise possessing marijuana. Powell said only one person has been caught with LSD on campus while he has been here, and that person was not a student. "I can't say they're not using it," he said, "just that we haven't caught them with it." He added that occasionally a student will take an overdose of tranquilizers, but that medical, not disciplinary, help is sought for these people. In two years, he said, no one has been caught with heroin.

Unlike the University of Texas, A&M does not have a fulltime narcotics agent, as such. However, two of the University Police's 34 officers are investigators that concern themselves solely with criminal matters. According to University Police Chief O. L. Luther, "a considerable amount of their time" is spent with drug cases. Department of Public Safety officers can come on campus and act independently from University Police. Normally, Chief Luther will ask DPS officers that campus officers and resident advisers accompany the DPS people when an actual "bust" is taking place. Dean Powell said this policy helps student victims feel more comfortable and can protect them from overzealous state officials. Police, Powell emphasized, are seldom used to catch students with drugs, as most cases are handled between the students, resident advisers and the dean.

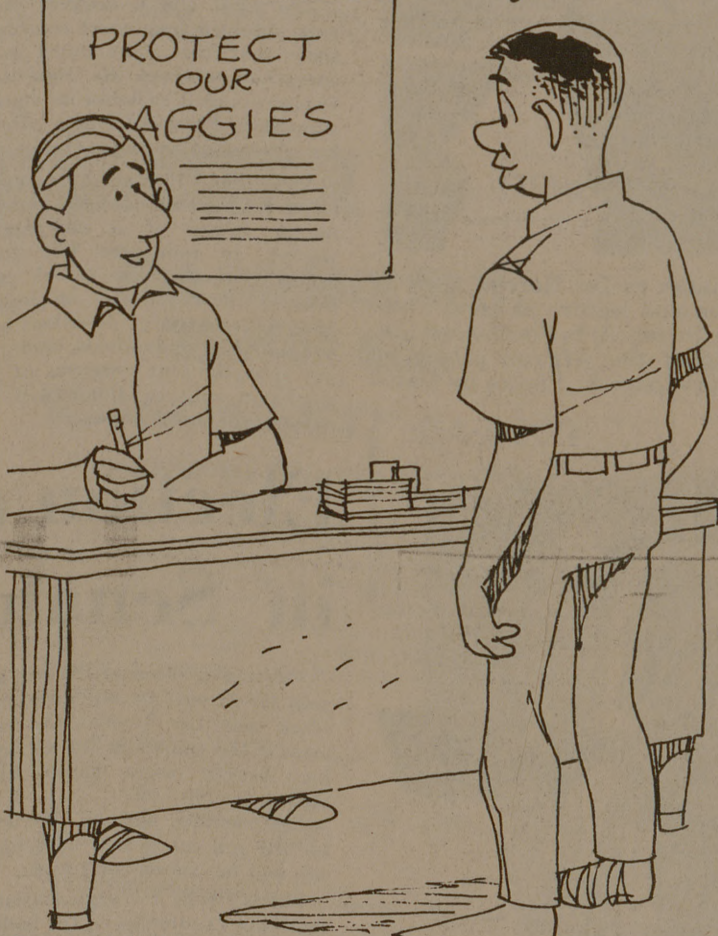
Dynamic expenses

A representative of Evelyn Wood's Reading Dynamics Institute is in town this week seeking students for a course in speed reading. The institute guarantees it will improve someone's reading efficiency by at least three times and boasts of having over 500,000 graduates including key members of the Nixon and Kennedy administrations. The catch is—the tuition for the seven-lesson course is \$325. Since, each lesson is three hours long, a student pays \$15.48 for each hour he learns to read faster.

The institute's rep, Barry Rountree, cited high advertising costs as the reason for the high tuition fee.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"We appreciate your offer to serve on our committee that reviews material to determine if it is pornographic, but there is an extensive waiting list to serve on this committee!"

The Battalion

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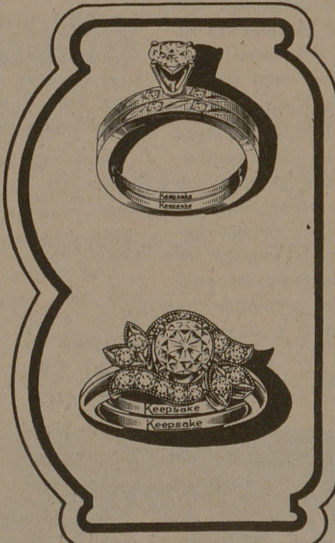
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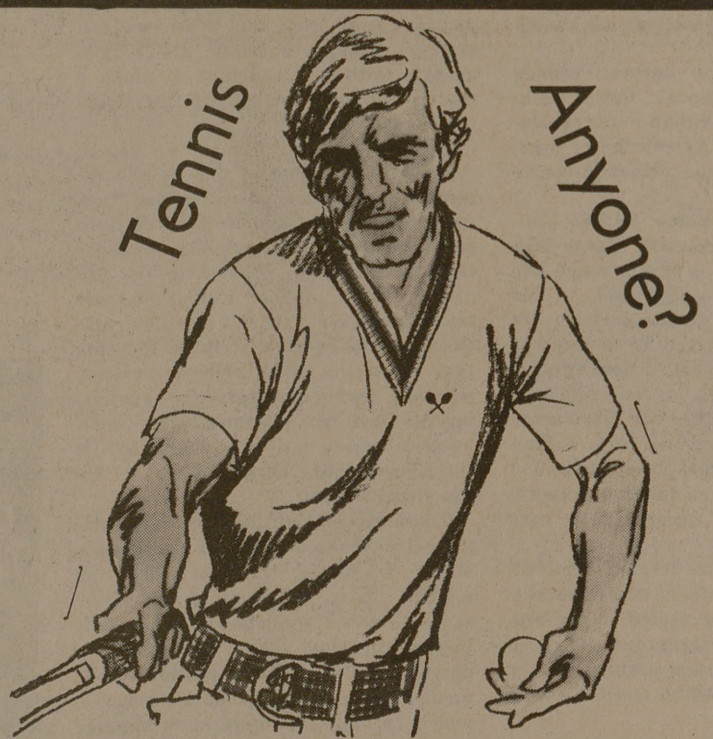
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