



'DEAR ANN LANDERS. EVERY TIME THE PHONE RINGS, MY HUSBAND ...'

Editor's Notes

by Rod Speer

Last Friday, when the streaker pictures were published, I was told that unless the girl's exposed breast in one picture was concealed and the star covering a student's genitals in another was enlarged that those two photos would not be used. It was a result of this incident that I charged Assistant Director of Student Publications Lane Stephenson (who reads Battalion copy in a "counsel and advisory" capacity) with prior restraint and censorship at Tuesday's Student Publications Board meeting.

After much prodding, the editor's right to control the content of the newspaper was affirmed at that meeting. However, I think it is important for all students to know exactly where their newspaper stands in terms of editorial freedom.

The Rules and Regs handbook of this university explicitly states: "The Director of Student Publications shall counsel and advise all student editors, but neither the Director of Student Publications nor the Student Publications Board shall determine the content of publications."

The courts have backed this up. They have answered questions like these:

Does the First Amendment apply to students?

Supreme Court judge Abe Fortas ruled in 1969 that "First Amendment rights, applied in light of the special characteristics of the school environment, are available to teachers and students. It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."

Can't a state university control a newspaper operating within its jurisdiction?

District judge Alfred A. Arraj ruled in 1971 that "the state is not necessarily the unfettered master of all it creates. Having established a particular forum for expression, officials may not then place limitations upon the use of that forum which interferes with protected speech and are not justified by an overriding state interest."

Can the university stop the presses by cutting off funding?

In the case of Antonelli vs. Hammond the district court ruled that a "Massachusetts statute giving the president of a state college power over allocation of student activity fees (at A&M, the Board of Directors has that power) and providing that they should be expended as the president might direct in furtherance of activities... and once that determination has been made, expenditure is mandatory."

It is important that the student body consider The Battalion as a student newspaper acting in student interests free of administrative control. It is equally important that administrators see it that way.

Listen Up

Reader 'shocked' by MSC movies

Because of the man-hours involved in typing letters and the column inches taken up by lengthy ones we are asking that letters be double-spaced type written and that they be held to a maximum of 300 words—Ed.

Editor:

At this time I wish to register a sharp protest of some films being shown by the MSC. Just a couple of weeks ago, I was shocked to see a movie which emulated, among other things marriage for money, adultery, murder, throat cutting, robbery, cursing God, rape, prostitution, beating with a horse whip, black market profiteering and even more. The movie: *Gone With The Wind*. I was also shocked and dismayed at another piece of garbage which encouraged prostitution, marijuana use, premarital or just recreational sex, a nude scene with a man and a woman, degradation of the use of a college education, sneered at classical music and even denounced literature as an art form. The movie: *The Owl and The Pussycat*.

A performer on stage advocated use of alcohol, smiled at the thought of a riot breaking out, degraded the woman's position in the sex act, encouraged recreational sex, travestied a beautiful memorial song into a little ditty, and even worse ridiculed all learning as "a Bore." WHO? Roy Clark. Needless to say, you can't please everyone. BUT the MSC Council has a responsibility to show anything and everything that can be run across as an educational experience. They are not entitled to reject ANY program which some members of the student body may wish to see. Any other organization may show or not show what they please. WHY is the MSC different? Because we must all pay for MSC programming through our Services Fees (of which the MSC gets just less than half) or we face suspension from the university. YOU ARE REQUIRED BY THE LAW OF THE STATE OF TEXAS TO PAY STUDENT SERVICES FEES WHETHER OR NOT YOU AGREE WITH THE USE TO WHICH THEY ARE PUT. No other organization has this ability. Saddle and Sirlain, Economics Club, Lincoln Union Debating,

all 380 organizations outside the MSC have no source of funding other than membership dues, gate admissions and donations or grants. So, if you disagree with any of them, you just quit going and it costs you nothing. But if you never went to another MSC program, you would still have to put out about \$8 per semester in your services fee to support them. So they cannot limit what members of the student body may see since they do not limit what members of the student body must pay for them. So, MSC, do one or the other of these: Quit censoring with our stolen monies or make your fees optional (the administration can do this for you) and then you can truly be like any other organization.

I am tired of having my money stolen by a group which uses "responsibility" to deny access to experiences which can stimulate thought, evoke a laugh, bring tears to the eyes, or even a sick feeling to the stomach. **OPTIONAL FEES FOR THE MSC!**

Mike Perrin

Bucks Stark

Editor:

Is an individual only right and open-minded when he agrees with others? And how is it that a few can suggest that their opinions represent the majority of students and even if they don't that these same few are right? I'm talking about those who complain their right to a "free exchange of ideas" are being violated when it seems what they really want is license to do anything, not freedom.

Well, I believe it's time more students who realize that this is also their university and that they have rights, too, should start standing up for them. Therefore, I want to go on record as fully supporting Mr. Stark and those who voted against "Pink Flamings" because of its content (as per Batt March 26). By the way,

Lease Line—

Owners plan to use nine-month leases

By BARB SEARS

Many of the local apartment owners are planning to convert their leases from semester-length contracts to full nine month commitments.

From the student tenants' viewpoint, nothing could be worse. Students by nature are very transient creatures. The whole educational system has many associated uncertainties which could definitely affect a person's living situation. A student may flunk out, be suspended, decide to transfer, or in many other ways change his educational status and relationship with the university. In addition, he may not get along

with his new roommate, dislike the apartment manager, get divorced, find a cheaper place to live, choose to move into a dormitory, or decide he needs quieter surroundings. Any of these reasons would make a student tenant want to change his rental situation.

However, if he signed a nine-month contract, he would be stuck with the same apartment and living situation for the remainder of the nine months. The landlord has every right to hold a tenant to the lease contract. Should a tenant try to skip out, the landlord can sue for the rest of the rent which would have been collected over that time period.

Nine month contracts would dissatisfied tenants little more.

One would hope that local landlords would show some concern for their student tenants and provide the option of a semester-length lease. After all, the rounding apartment contracts are largely dependent on students as tenants, and rely on the university's ability to make their apartments attractive to students.

Already, the Fair Housing mission has received many from individuals unhappy their renting situations, asking to change apartments. binding nine-month lease has the disgruntled tenants to where they don't wish to live has served only to increase volume of complaints.

Barcelona Apartments, while in the process of converting nine-month lease, was quite a showcase for its policy. The lease used to be a one-month basis, and was automatically renewed unless one of the two parties designated otherwise. This allowed either landlord or the tenant to change the renting situation easily. However, Barcelona Apartments one of the apartment complexes which may convert to a month lease policy.

It is easy to see why a landlord would desire a longer lease cause it gives him greater security about occupancy of his apartments. He doesn't need to worry about finding new tenants. Barcelona Apartments has a problem in this area for the apartments are so well-liked that have always been close to per cent full.

It also should be pointed out that for the second semester, university's enrollment was down. If all off-campus students are committed to nine-month leases, two serious problems are either themselves student College Station owing rent payments on an apartment, or leave their roommate holding the bag. The university may see as well for there would be flexibility to fill empty rooms which may appear.

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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