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The first 100 years

Board drafts rules

By DON MIDDLETON

When we last left them, the first Board of Directors had just set the opening date for the new college. Since all the directors were asked to attend the ceremony, Governor Coke seized the opportunity to hold the third meeting of the Board.

If Coke expected better attendance due to the occasion, he was disappointed. This time speaker Bonner was absent, but previously unheard from director, Charles De Morse made a quorem for the meeting.

The Board waded through tons of financial business and the four-day affair contained little of lasting historical interest, with the exception of one item of business — the establishment of the Laws governing the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, affectionately known in our day and time as the University Rules and Regulations.

In drawing up the rules, the Board first turned its attention to admission standards. State law decreed that no applicant for admission would be considered unless he was "of the white race." (Earlier that year, on August 14, the legislature passed a bill establishing a separate college for blacks.)

It was also decided that all applicants be at least 14 years old and "satisfactory testimonials of good moral character" would be required.

Upon acceptance, each student was required to bring with him to the college, among other necessities, seven shirts, seven pairs of socks, seven collars and four pairs of drawers (hmmmmm, only four?). Students were also to bring enough money to cover expenses for the term, and a book in which to keep a record of all purchases — to be examined periodically by the President. Can you imagine Jack Williams going through 20,000 overdrawn checkbooks?

The Board laid down a lengthy set of statutes governing curriculum and examinations as well as discipline procedures for violators. Some of the measures were fairly stringent by today's standards.

For example, the policy towards missed exams reads — "Students absenting themselves from any exercises of examination without a satisfactory excuse, shall cease to be members of the college." Period. No exceptions. Seems like a good way to encourage attendance.

The conduct of students was of paramount importance to the school administrators. The wild-west town of Bryan with its saloons and dancing halls was thought to be enough of a negative influence that the Board set down the following rules:

No student shall:

—Drink or have in their possession wine, porter, or any spiritous or intoxicating liquors, brandied fruits, or viands.

—Go to places where such items are served.

—Visit a public hotel without first receiving permission from the President.

—Play cards, or any other game of chance.

—Cook food or provide entertainment in dormitory rooms.

—Keep a waiter, horse, or dog.

—Send or accept a challenge of a duel, or be the bearer of such a challenge.

And the list goes on and on. The thought of such a spartan existence is enough to make any good Ag shiver. Imagine not being able to keep a waiter.

As for the military aspect of college life, the orders are frighteningly familiar, from Call to Quarters and noiseless study hours beginning thirty minutes after the evening meal to inspections, drills and guard duty.

The cadets were required to practice infantry drill every day, except Saturday and Sunday, from the 1st of March to the 1st of December (while the college was in session) and to be present every Sunday morning for inspection on the main drill field, weather conditions permitting.

Conduct in the mess hall was also strictly defined. Each table had a commanding officer whose duty it was to see that the mess hall regulations were obeyed and to appoint a carver for the table. Loud talking while at the table was prohibited, the carver being the only person allowed to call the waiters.

At no time, in the dining hall or elsewhere on campus, was a cadet allowed to use vulgar language or to make suggestive gestures. Don't talk to me about Old Army.

Times may change but mess hall food doesn't. One of the articles governing dining hall conduct stated that "if any student shall consider any article of the fare provided at the table to be tainted or otherwise unsuitable for use, he may report the fact to the superintendent of the hall, who shall communicate the report to the Commandant of Cadets."

One final item of interest. Quote — "No student shall throw water from any room in the buildings into the hall, or into the galleries, or spit on the floor, or sit in the windows. No object of any kind shall be thrown from windows, doors, galleries, or halls, or at the buildings." Unquote. Waterfiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiight!

Campus briefs

SG applications accepted

Applications are being accepted in the Student Government Office until May 9 for these positions: Election Commissioner, Chairman of Book Mart, Chairman of Muster, and Chairman of Parents' Day. Interested persons are also needed to work on the various Student Government Committees.

Students wanting to apply for any of these positions should come by the MSC, Room 216 and secure the proper forms.

Fish drill team wins again

The Fish Drill Team proved itself a champion again by winning the Lone Star Invitational Drill Meet in San Antonio Saturday. Of a possible 795 points, the Fish Drill Team accumulated 732 points, followed by UT-Arlington with 702 points and UT-Austin with 689 points.

Superstar contest starts

Tennis, swimming, and bowling are a few of the events planned for the first-ever TAMU Superstar competition. The contests will occur throughout this week, ending with an obstacle course run at 6 p.m. on Thursday opposite Kyle Field.

Announcements still available

Graduation announcements are still available in Room 216 A and B of the MSC on a first-come, first-serve basis. Spring graduates have less than two weeks to get their announcements in the mail, and are encouraged to pick them up as soon as possible.

Seniors to begin dances

In anticipation of commencement and Final Review, the Class of '75 has planned a "Senior Bash" on Friday, May 2, to be followed by the Senior Banquet and the Ring Dance on Saturday, May 3. The "Bash" will be held at the Lakeview Club, and is very informal. The Banquet will be held in the MSC, with the formal Ring Dance to be from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Rudder Center Exhibit Hall. Music will be provided by the Ed Gerlach Orchestra of Houston.

bulletin board

TUESDAY

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT SEMINAR features Robin Winkler of the University of New South Wales in Australia speaking at 3:30 p.m. in room 209 Harrington Center.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY meets at 7:30 p.m. in room 305 Fermier Hall for election of officers.

BASEMENT COMMITTEE will hold a meeting and auditions in the Coffeehouse in the MSC at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

A&M WHEELMEN will hold a short bicycle ride starting at the MSC fountain at 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

MIDLAND HOMETOWN CLUB will hold elections for officers at 8 p.m. in room 502 of the Rudder Tower.

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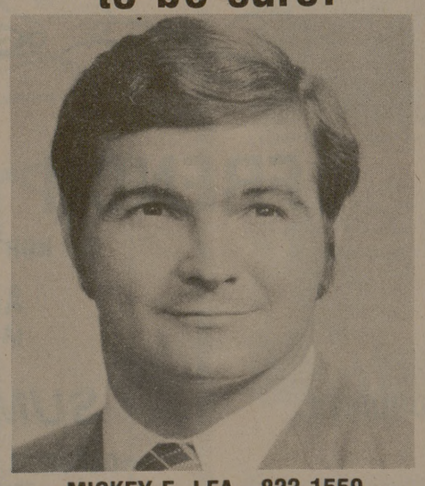
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