Listen Up

Houston designer asks

Why import an interior decorator?

Editor:

In regard to the article in the May 1 edition of the Houston Post on the opulent furnishing in the new building at A&M University, I would like to raise the question on why a decorator was 'imported' from New York. The State of Texas boasts a large number of competent and nationally known designers and decorators, many of whom are right here in Houston! There is no excuse for going elsewhere for such services. Furnishings of all periods can be secured through the Houston Decorative Center and, I might add, at very competitive prices.

I feel that State Institutions should shop at home!

Charles R. Frank, '70
Charles Frank & Associates

Input

Editor:

Being a past member of the Campus Planning Committee, I would like to clear the record about General Luedecke being receptive and cooperative with the student input he received from us. As the April 18 **Batt** stated and as I must confirm, he was anything but cooperative with us, especially when it came to the issues of the wall and the arches.

The real shameful part about the whole affair is that he nor President Williams feel that they owe the students an explanation (even out of courtesy) for why they chose to let these things happen, despite the protests of students. I fail to see why any of them are surprised to hear talk of investigations and budget cuts when nobody seems to know or want to extend an explanation as to why money from the Permanent University Fund was spent so wrecklessly. To top all of this off, the blatant insult to the intelligence of the few students around here who still had some trust left in our administrators of having a Board of Directors meeting in DALLAS after spending as much money on the Board of Directors Facility at the University Center on campus is just too much!

Student input can be effective IF it is used — and the end product of cooperation is usually success. Also, in this generation, responsiveness to student needs can prevent investigations. Or should we be patterning our lives as future leaders of this country after the example that we see the A&M administrators setting for us?

Darryl Baker

Gun control

Editor:

On Friday, Batt reporter Jim Hendrickson had a special of the reactions of gun merchants here in town to the proposed legislation. In his article he quoted that in 1973 19,500 murders were committed in America, and that 53 percent of them were done with a handgun. The same issue of the Batt carried a National Safety Council ad stating that 55,600 people died last year in motor vehicle accidents.

This is 5.4 times as many people killed by accidents, in cars, than people murdered purposely with handguns! What I want to point to the student body is the propaganda the anti-gun forces use to sway people and the misplaced priorities of our legislators to cut down on deaths. Notice how much larger 19,500 murders look than the actual 53 percent which is 10,340. Picky point you say? Well if it is why didn't they do ahead and write it 10,340 murders instead of the larger and more impressive 19,500? It seems if our legislators wanted to cut down on deaths instead of interfere with citizens rights they would attack the problem that is the largest and affects the most people, auto accidents, not murders committed with hanguns.

If our legislators really feel a genuine need to cut down on deaths by firearms they would introduce a stricter quality control which would eliminate the cheaper "Saturday night specials" so commonly used in crimes. They should not infringe on law abiding citizens rights to keep, bear and own firearms.

Jay Buckler
David Grassbaugh

True meaning

Editor:

If the coverage of the ERA debate was representative of what actually happened, I feel that the true meaning of the ERA was lost.

The Equal Right's Amendment is much more than just a question of what will happen to the Aggie Band. Although this is one aspect which will eventually have to be dealt with, the ERA is to provide equality. The amendment reads, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any states on account of sex." Just like any other part of the constitution, it is a general statement, whose interpretation will be left at the discretion of all courts. The ERA is to provide opportunities for those that want them, a woman won't be forced to take advantage of something if she doesn't want to.

I cannot fathom some of Wanda Schultz's arguments. If she's the chair-person of Happiness for Women, I question her ethics! I assume she's referring to the happiness of all women. This would be equality which, according to Schultz, we already have. If indeed, she is for the happiness of all women, then I, for one, have the need for equality for my happiness. I want the same opportunities as anyone (whether they are male, female, black, or green) to use my talents and abilities. I don't want to be given anything because I'm a girl, I just want the chance to use what I've got. I respect any person's right to be what they want to be, from housewives to Astronauts, so why should women who want to achieve goals other than in domestic roles seem so outlandish? Any person who is employed, should be employed for their performance. Therefore, one should be paid for this performance, regardless of their sex or race.

Terri Jones

Fair report

Editor:

First, I would like to compliment Mr. Kimmey on the reporting of the ERA debate; I thought he was very fair in representing both sides. I attended the ERA debate and was impressed with the arguments both pro and con.

I did get the impression that if ERA were passed, women would be drafted. Personally, the idea of my girlfriend being drafted isn't very appealing. I can just imagine what she would go through if ever captured by the enemy. Rape, torture, beating and interrogations would all be a part of the POW camp. There's also the possibility that she would never return. What about all those American "male" servicemen still in Communist prison camps? Our government choses to ignore them. Will it make a difference when women are in those camps? Hardly!

Rodney Deschamps

Koozat — By Nguyen Dziem

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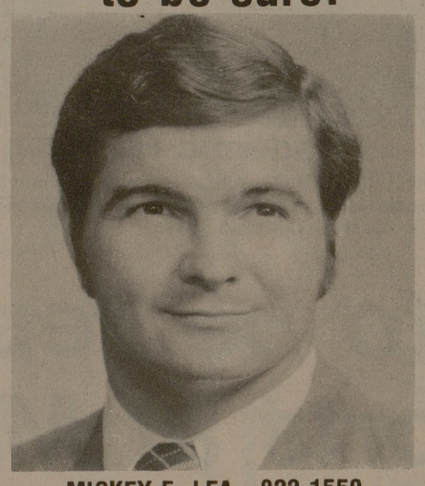

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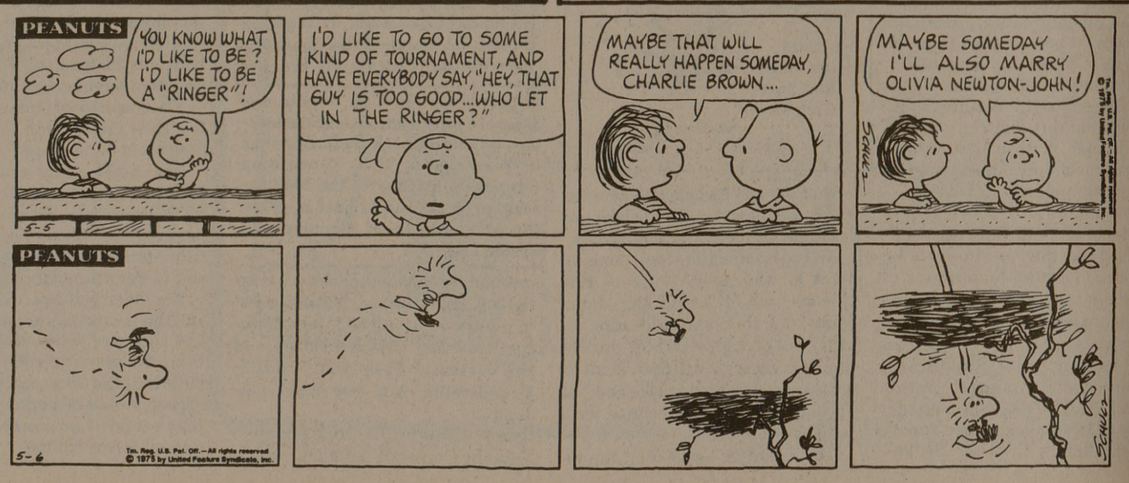
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