

Over the wall

# NTSU complex violates safety codes

By LE ANN ROBY  
Battalion Staff

It seems like students are always finding fault with something their administration is doing—sometimes warranted, sometimes not. I remember when our student body voiced its negative opinion regarding the exorbitant cost of A&M's Memorial Student Center. But the Administration just grinned and bore it through all of the ruckus and went ahead and spent \$28 million on the complex anyway. (It was after that someone told me he thinks we're all out to get the "Watergate" of the week.)

The students at NORTH TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY have a gripe about their University Union, but it's of a rather different nature. Dr. Dorothy Pijan, director of the University Union, gladly announced a few weeks ago that the campus now has a beautiful facility with which to draw the thousands of students and hundreds of faculty members closer together. And, I imagine, that with its indoor trees, babbling brook, festively furnished lounges, brightly lit pinball machines and supposedly delicious food, the multi-million dollar structure is little short of magnificent.

However, we have a slight problem here. Alvin Evans, Denton's assistant fire marshal, has claimed in black-and-white that the university violated at least seven different building and safety codes including the Uniform Building Code, the Fire Safety Code and the National Fire Protection Association Code.

Evans inspected the building just prior to its opening at the request of the university and called it very unsafe in the event of fire with "no safety features, misleading corridors and not enough exit signs," as well as unmarked fire extinguishers.

Evans was most upset with the lack of a sprinkler system in the Union. James A. Nash, manager of facilities, construction and maintenance, (who says the union adheres to all of the Codes), said that a sprinkler system would have cost as much as \$400,000 which would have forced the university to cancel some part of

the complex in order to stay within the budget.

So, they scratched the sprinkler system off their list and broke two codes with one stroke.

"A student can use something like a music lounge, but he can't use a sprinkler," Nash rationalized.

I would like to see a student's list of priorities if he were on a burning fourth floor where, according to Evans a fire would be hardest to fight. I know if it were me, I would much rather have the sprinkler system.

## FREE FOOTBALL TICKETS

Last year the UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS (UT) gave away \$23,000 worth of Longhorn football tickets to state officials including 29 members of the Texas Senate and 95 state representatives, according to the Daily Texan, UT's student newspaper.

Each member is allowed to request up to two passes for each home game.

The politicians receive seats between the 30- and 40-yard lines on the second deck of Memorial Stadium.

The distribution of free season passes to state legislators and other officials has been a long standing tradition at UT. University Regents Chairman Allan Shivers said he thought of the season pass program as a goodwill gesture.

"We are not trying to influence anyone with these passes, and we don't believe anyone is being influenced," Shivers said.

What's the matter, Mr. Shivers? Isn't \$23,000 enough to influence someone?

## CAMPUS SOLICITATION

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY students comprise a captive market which the university is trying to protect from unethical businesses, according to James Caswell, assistant vice president for student affairs.

Off-campus, non-student sponsored companies must go through the office of the dean of students for permission to solicit on campus. After gaining approval from the dean, the company is then able to hang posters and advertise on bulletin boards.

Recently, Mustang Rental Co. rented refrigerators to on-campus students without going through the university first.

The company then complained

that staff members of some residence halls tried to keep them from delivering refrigerators to students who

had already signed contracts. Caswell wrote the incidents off as the actions of new staffers eager to do their job right.

"When we told them Mustang could not 'distribute,'" Caswell said, "the staff members thought we meant merchandise. We didn't mean that they couldn't deliver the refrigerators. All we asked was that Mustang go to the dean of students office and get their signs approved."

Caswell argued that the rules are not meant to restrict free enterprise, but are intended to protect the stu-

dent's privacy and to keep companies from taking advantage of them.

## COSTLY CARTS

The Daily Cougar, the student newspaper at the UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, reported that the average cost of the 70 Cushman scooters which dart around their campus varies from \$2,000 to \$2,500. Three of the scooters are battery operated while the rest run on gasoline.

Some of our campus departments use Cushman's, including the University Police Department. It makes me wonder if that's where some of the money collected from parking tickets goes, while the parking space problem goes unsolved.

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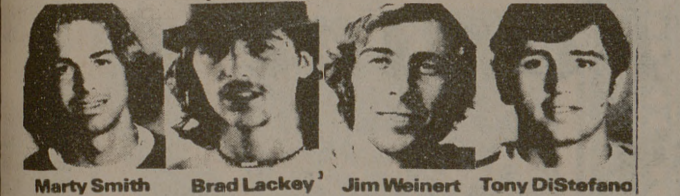
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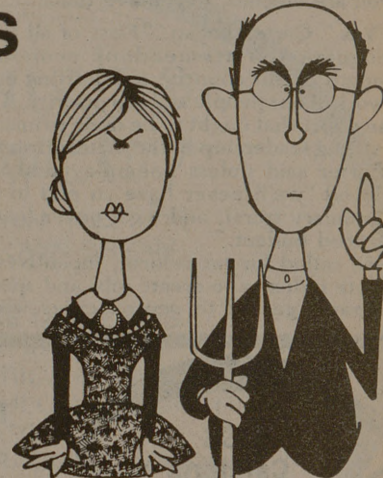
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Placement Office  
Interviews: 10th floor Rudder Tower

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