

Viewpoint

The Battalion
Texas A&M University

Friday
December 9, 1977

Survey needed on lights-out policy

It's just about over. By the end of this week those research papers should be turned in and out of the way, just in time for another round of all-nighters before finals. And to help in these hours of need, the library will be open 24 hours a day from Sunday morning, Dec. 11, to Wednesday midnight, Dec. 14.

However, there have been grumblings from the authors of many end-of-the-semester research papers that the library's designated hours of need have not coincided with their own. They contend that they really could have used more hours to sift through the library's holdings before the lights went out, and there have even been reports of some persistent researchers hiding out to continue their browsing after hours.

Apparently there is a need for a study to determine whether the current library hours should be revised, at least during the weeks immediately preceding the end of the semester. Let's face it, students are invariably procrastinators, and will

wait until the last possible minute to finish semester requirements.

As with any University facility, there is a financial problem with keeping the library open. Dr. Irene Hoadley, library director, says the library is operating to the extent of its budget, and even the four days of continuous operation during finals week puts "a considerable burden" on that budget.

A study has been done by the Graduate Student Council to determine if there is a demand for later library hours during semester breaks to allow grad students (and others remaining on campus) to catch up on their research. The results of the study should be released in today's Library Council meeting. One of the grad students working on the study said that if an extension of hours is approved, some reallocation of library funds would be needed to cover the change. He couldn't say what aspect of library operation would be cut to allow later hours.

The fact remains, however, that undergraduates' use of the library has not recently had the benefit of such a study as was done for the graduate students. Dr. Hoadley estimates that fewer than a dozen students use the library after midnight. But it has been more than two years since the last study of student usage, and in that time the University has added some 5,000 students to its enrollment.

It would seem, then, that a few more research papers are in the mill these days, pressing the library's documents into greater use. If this is true, no financial deficiency should be allowed to block needed hours revision, for it's the state's responsibility to provide its students sufficient access to its facilities. Additional funding would be necessitated.

To begin with, though, perhaps some heed should be given to those moans as the lights flicker at midnight during dead week. A survey of student usage during these last crucial weeks could be enlightening. J.A.

Paying the price for cooking in dorm

By GEORGE FRIEDEL

As a student at Texas A&M University, and resident of Schuhmacher Hall, I am subject to a list of rules and regulations set down by student, staff and faculty alike.

One of these rules in particular I would like to call your attention to. All kitchen appliances, with the exception of coffee pots, "hot pots, popcorn poppers and blenders, shall be prohibited in residence halls. Cooking in residence halls is prohibited.

As is obvious by this rule, students cannot have certain cooking utensils in their rooms on campus, and cooking is also forbidden. I have just come from a second J-Board meeting where I was retried for "cooking in my room." Now, I realize this is breaking University policy and therefore was not upset when I was informed I would be turned in to the J-Board. This incident occurred on October 10. Within the prescribed ten days I was informed I was to appear before the Judicial Board of the dorm. On the assigned date I went to the meeting and was read the charge against me. As I knew I was guilty I made no defense for myself.

Later that evening I was informed of my punishment. I was sentenced to write a paper, which was to be placed in various

locations in and around the dorm, about the reasons for having cooking restrictions in the residence halls. This paper was to be written after interviewing Ron Blatchley, the area coordinator, and a knowledgeable administrator of the physical plant. The interviews were to be set up by the Head Resident, and I was to proceed from there.

Reader's Forum

A deadline of two weeks from October 10 was set. After a few days of stewing over whether to write it or not, I decided to contact the Head Resident and have him set up the interviews. He informed me he had no knowledge of setting up any appointments, but would put someone in touch with me.

Three weeks after the deadline had expired, I was confronted by the head of the J-Board. He informed me I would have an extension of one week and would still have to write the paper. I told him I would not write the paper because I felt I had done my part of the assigned punishment as far as I could, in contacting the Head Resi-

dent. I was then informed I would be turned in to the area coordinator. I went and talked to him myself within a few days.

He told me since it had been so long since the original deadline that he would not rule on an appeal. He informed me that it would be his recommendation to the J-Board to rehear the case. If I was not satisfied with their decision he would then consider an appeal. November 30, nearly two months after the original violation, I confronted the J-Board again.

My argument with the J-Board was not over my guilt or innocence in the second trial, merely with the principle of punishment. I feel I am to be punished for a second time. Certain members who were at the trial tell me getting in touch with the Head Resident is no punishment. With this I disagree. I was to contact the Head Resident and he was to set up the appointments. That is what was explained to me in the paper which told me of my punishment. I know this is no punishment, but it is as far as I could go without cooperation from an inefficient appointment setter.

If the original paper had been written, I would have asked the following questions of those interviewed:

• If cooking is prohibited for the reason of fire hazard, why am I permitted to smoke in my room or burn an opened flame candle?

• If the smell of cooking food infringes upon my roommate's or fellow dorm members' rights, how is it I can keep Limburger cheese, with its pungent odor, in my refrigerator?

• If my small hotplate draws such an enormous amount of energy from the lines, what is it like at 7:30 AM when everyone fires up hair dryers, curling irons, and electric razors, etc.?

• Finally, who is donating money when I have missed dinner because of a 4-6 lab and 6-7:30 p.m. intramural flag football game. If the members of our student body, staff and faculty who formulate these rules will, then I will cease to cook in my room when I am without money and have missed dinner.

But since the original punishment paper never came about, I am now to summarize the rules and regulations for residence hall members found in the Rules and Regulation Handbook, so no other damn fool has to go through the same procedure.

Friedel is a sophomore chemical engineering major.

Top of the News

Campus

Magazine now accepting work

Moebius Literary Magazine is now accepting poetry, short stories and artwork. Deadline is Jan. 27, 1978. Rules and format are available in room 216 of the MSC. The magazine is a project of the MSC Arts Committee.

School kids lunch with Santa

The second annual A&M Consolidated "Luncheon With Santa" sponsored by the Bengal Belles is planned for Saturday, Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Youngsters can have lunch with Santa and a photographer will be available for a picture with him. Tickets at \$1 for pre-sale are available at South Knoll, College Hills, Kisdergarten or High School office, or from any Bengal Belle. Tickets at the door will be \$1.25.

State

Lawyer defends Nazi party

A lawyer who feels the American Civil Liberties Union should be involved any time there is an apparent civil rights violation is going to ask a court to let the American Nazi Party preach violence via telephone. ACLU attorney Michael Maness has rejected the ACLU's refusal of the Nazi case. He said Wednesday he would go to court for the Nazis to ask that they be permitted to re-establish a telephone message that offers a reward for the deaths of non-whites who attack white persons.

Court ruling nullifies conviction

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has ruled a person who refuses to consider anything but the death penalty in a capital murder trial should not be allowed to hear the case as a juror. The ruling Wednesday nullified the murder conviction of Richard D. Smith, sentenced to death for the 1976 murder of a Comanche, Texas pharmacist. The court said Smith should have a new trial because juror Leo Franklin Payne told the court he could not consider life imprisonment in a capital murder case. He said he would only assess the death penalty.

State fire marshal under fire

A Senate subcommittee on consumer affairs will hold hearings Dec. 15 on allegations the state fire marshal is selling licenses to installers and servicers of fire extinguishers. Sen. Ron Clower, D-Garland, and his staff said they have received numerous complaints about state fire marshal Charles Meadows since he assumed control of the office in October. "The state fire marshal is simply selling licenses without adequate investigation of the applicant's background and abilities," said Darryl W. Grubbs, the subcommittee's staff research specialist.

Police nab stranger, not strangler

Detectives who arrested a bearded man, in a sedan resembling a police car complete with radios, red lights and siren, now say the man has nothing to do with the 10 hillside stranglings. Steven McCoy Sawhill, 24, was arrested while driving on the Hollywood Freeway based on the theory that the strangler may have lured his victims into his car by posing as a policeman.

Nation

Copter crashes in Gulf, kills 17

A helicopter trying to land on an offshore oil rig spun wildly out of control and slammed into the Gulf of Mexico Thursday, killing 17 of the 19 men aboard. A spokesman for Pennzoil Oil Co., which operates the rig 90 miles southwest of Morgan City, La., confirmed the 17 deaths after crews unsuccessfully searched the Gulf more than five hours for survivors. Bob Harper, Pennzoil's director of personnel, said 15 of the dead were Pennzoil employees, but he had no word on the other two victims. The twin-engine, French-built helicopter went down shortly after noon CST on a flight from Intracoastal City, La., to an offshore oil rig operated by Pennzoil Oil Co. The helicopter was one of 200 used daily to shuttle 7,200 workers to and from drilling platforms in the Gulf.

Democratic chairman resigns

Kenneth Curtis said Thursday he is resigning as Democratic national chairman because it's a lousy job. Curtis denied reports he had been forced out of office by the White House staff. But, at a news conference, he could barely hide his dislike of Mark Siegel, President Carter's chief political aide. Curtis said he was in no hurry to get out of Washington and would probably stay in the post through the meeting of the Democratic National Committee next April.

Weather

Fair and colder today and tomorrow with northerly winds 15-25 mph. High both days mid-40s. Low tonight upper 20s. Slight chance of rain today with a 20 percent chance of rain for tomorrow.

The Battalion

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LETTERS POLICY

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.

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Letters to the editor

Parking tickets not issued on equal basis

Editor:
Once again I've been disillusioned by the "fairness" of a Texas A&M institution. The institution to which I'm referring is the University police.

One day last week an orange Volkswagen van with a teacher's parking sticker was illegally parked on the sidewalk behind Legett Hall almost the entire day. There were several empty parking spaces in the parking lot adjacent to the sidewalk, however the van was never moved.

Usually the University police patrol this area frequently during the day. A police officer driving by in his Cushman made a beeline for the van, obviously planning to ticket the vehicle. The officer began writing out the ticket, and walked to the back of the van, apparently to get the license number. However, when he saw the parking sticker of a teacher, he tore up the ticket, and immediately drove away.

This angered, as well as puzzled me, so I called the police department. The woman I talked to told me that teachers are not exempt from tickets, and that they are supposed to comply with university parking regulations.

I know, from personal experience, that if the van had belonged to a student, it would have been ticketed without any reservations whatsoever. This exemption was a gross injustice to students, and if regulations are to be made, they should apply to EVERYONE!

—Diana McComas, '80

Other side of abortion

Editor:
In response to Becky Adamietz's letter against abortion, I feel that she's neglecting to look at another side of the issue.

Perhaps if you were born into a family unwanted and unloved, your feelings on the subject of abortion would be different, regardless of your religion. I've grown up with friends whose parents have had six or seven other children and who couldn't afford to support half of them. Sure, birth control should have been thought of but isn't it a little late now that these kids have been brought into the world?

Becky, don't you think the world has enough unwanted and unloved children already? What about medical cases where an abortion is needed to save the life of the mother? Shouldn't the fathers views be presented? There are just too many questions like the preceding ones to take into account to be totally against abortions.

Since the baby involved is unable to express its views, I feel that the decision on abortion should be left with both of its parents.

—Dean Shattuck, '77

Honor deteriorating

Editor:
On reading Paul Arnett's article

"Where are the true fans?" in Tuesday's Battalion, I was pleased to note a feeling similar to mine upon leaving the game Saturday and listening to the unkind comments. It seems to me that our twelfth man is not the "traditional" good guy always behind the team, "outscored" or victorious.

Sadly, I see around me a deteriorating sense of honor and wholesomeness which has been the public image of the academic community here at A&M for decades. I find it increasingly hard to stomach the atrocities committed in the name of tradition.

The most recent example is the "traditional" profaning of Christmas carols (which in my nearly six years at A&M, I heard about for the first time this fall). Such a practice, while most likely to be nearly as amusing as coming up with, "Texas, jump up and bite my ass," I would hardly like to think it one of our more treasured "traditions." Then again, while fun, it doesn't exemplify the sterling qualities of tomorrow's officers. Also, it sounds remarkably like a "Frat-Rat" initiation stunt, and we have all followed the battles over the years about the absurdity and such of fraternities here on our campus.

Both this and the more public examples of our tarnished image at football games saddens me and I am sure many others. Perhaps if folks would take the public relations picture of a warm, sup-

portive, really together bunch of Aggies more seriously, and act accordingly, people on the outside would not be so abusive when speaking of us.

—Ann Johnston, '76

Utay has spirit

Editor:
Sure, there are a lot of bad things to say about Utay — But also for any dorm on campus. Seldom does anyone say anything about the positive side of Utay. Some of us who live in Spence would like to do so.

Many of the guys in Utay make us laugh, compliment us or show concern for us if we are down.

What made some people say that Utay didn't have spirit? Only a dorm with spirit would raise \$200 to hire a plane saying "Beat UH" to fly around during the football game.

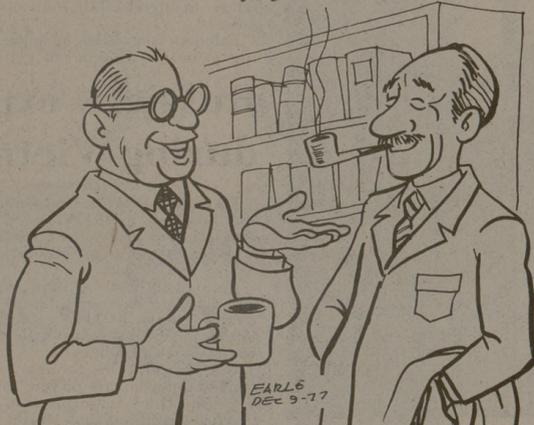
Keep now the guys in Utay are fighting to right their dorm for next year. We want them to know somebody is on their side.

—Kathy James, '81

An angry reader

Editor:
This letter is in regard to the Battalion and its actions this past semester. It seems the Batt has started to use more liberal coverage in its articles, claiming that "they have to tell it like it is." But, there is a dark, distinct line between "telling it like it is," and blowing an issue out of propor-

Slouch by Jim Earle



"THIS IS THE TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN IT'S FUN TO SEND OUT 'REPORT TO ME IMMEDIATELY' NOTES TO GRADUATING SENIORS!"

Not the only band

Editor:
We were disturbed upon reading the letter in Tuesday's Battalion written by Mr. Sam Beecroft. We agree with his sentiments that the Aggie band is an excellent band rating at the top of its class.

The part that incensed us was where the author gets off condemning other bands for being different (i.e. show bands). Many people, believe it or not, equally enjoys seeing show bands as much as seeing the Aggie Band.

Mr. Beecroft's remarks were uncalled for from a so-called "good Ag." All Aggies should show some respect toward other schools. The Aggie Band is great we agree, but it's not the only band around.

—Randy Schrecengost, '79
Mark Melish, '78