

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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The recipe

By DAVID WEEKS

The basic requirements for a university are simple.

There must be a large campus with tall brick buildings, scattered at random for the assorted types of students and faculty to run between before class starts. Another important ingredient is an active social calendar, complete with panty raids, athletic events, and discussions of the number of quanta of light wasted by the chlorophyll in tropical ferns.

These requirements may seem somewhat inadequate, but upon further investigation there seem to be only a few other minor qualifications, such as mid-terms, finals and a large parking area.

The buildings of a university should be conservative, impressive structures, designed to relax the student and make him feel at home in the small, contoured plastic seats.

The campus itself must have an assortment of plants such as trees, flowers and shrubs, and should have a nice, manicured look. This impresses visiting parents and lets them see that their money is being put to a good use. The many varieties of trees also attract birds that roost on the limbs that shade the sidewalks. The birds, therefore, are an added bonus in that they keep the students, faculty, and visitors alert

while walking across the campus.

No university would be complete without active student organizations. Who could imagine a university without a football team or spelunkers society? These are very important in attracting new students as well as in occupying the minds of students currently enrolled. Usually some organization will have a lecture, meeting or party at just the time a reason is needed to put off studying for a test.

What a great idea is the concept of getting students involved! Of course there must be faculty to sponsor these groups as well as students to join them.

The faculty and students are quite a story in themselves. There must be at least a dozen representatives from each cultural and ethnic group in the world for a school to be classified as a university.

Most of the faculty should have names that are hard to pronounce, and each instructor should work on a hard-to-understand accent. This is so that students will stay confused during class, and then not know whom to ask for after class.

These are the major requirements; not necessarily all, but by putting these together, someone could start a pretty successful university system.

Weeks is a freshman animal science major from Diboll.



Passenger pinchers beware

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — Transportation officials in this country are watching with interest Mexico City's experiment with sexually-segregated subway cars.

Thus far, it appears, the pinching of female subway passengers south of the border is far more prevalent than it is the United States.

Hence there is no immediate pressure to assign men and women riders to separate cars, as in Mexico City.

There are, however, certain other conveyances where pinching is a problem.

In the early stages of the Mexico City innovation, some trains were being delayed and couples that wanted to sit together were complaining about being parted. But if that approach ultimately

proves feasible, look for an upsurge of anti-pincher movements here at home.

One prominent consumer advocate, Rolf Naysayer, told me the first goal probably will be to persuade the Federal Aviation Administration to require that "No Pinching" sections be set aside in airliners.

The Lighter Side

"We also would like to see pinching banned entirely in crowded elevators, but we realize we have to go about these crusades one step at a time," he said.

I said, "I wasn't aware passenger pinching was much of a problem on airliners."

"It isn't," Naysayer replied, "but for

stewardesses, pinching is a big headache."

"They get pinched on the head?"

"Not usually. However, an unexpected pinch can cause a stewardess to give a little jump and bump her noggin on the overhead baggage rack."

"What we hope to eliminate through the 'No Pinching' sections is the element of surprise."

"With pinchers and nonpinchers lumped together, stewardesses never know when they're in the danger zone and the next pinch is coming from."

"But with segregated seating, they'll know when they're in the danger zone and can keep their guards up, so to speak."

I said, "Other than being an occupational hazard for stewardesses, is there any evidence that pinching is harmful or annoy-

ing to passengers?"

"Definitely yes," Naysayer averred.

"There are many documented cases of surprise pinches causing stewardesses to drop trays and drench passengers with coffee, tea or milk."

"Equally undesirable is the prospect that a pinched stewardess will emit a loud yelp that awakens sleeping passengers and makes the baby in the seat next to you start crying."

"Passengers who object to this sort of thing should have the right to be seated in a section of the airplane where pinching is prohibited."

I said, "How do you go about enforcing a 'No Pinching' rule?"

"Violators will be required to wear their hands inside their seat belts."

Letters to the editor

What happened to all-for-one, one-for-all

Editor: It's a good thing that most people today are sophists. If society didn't believe in "doing your own thing" we'd all be having nervous breakdowns over the dealings of our neighbors. Fortunately, society's safe. Now we don't care what our neighbor is doing.

Example: Rapes are getting pretty common around here. The newspaper lists four cases. I ask myself "does anybody care." Obviously, there is a rapist roaming around, yet the ladies who report the cases are still given the third degree. All cases are "suspect" or "alleged." Open your eyes, people.

The University seems detached from the situation. The campus police are offering our ladies a shuttle. But, guys are still parking in the girls' parking lot in the north dorm area. Also, street lights are out everywhere; outside G. Rollie White Coliseum, the north dorm parking lot is 50 percent dark, and lights are out in the parking areas across the tracks and across from Rudder Tower.

Well, I'm fed up. Where is the traditional one-for-all, all-for-one attitude so often spoken of? Where is all the hand-shaking and friendly smiles Texas A&M is known for? Maybe they are reserved for the football team on home weekends.

I bet next time I walk up the stairs in some building looking for that friendly smile, I'll be asking myself "does anybody care."

—Scott Dethloff, '79

Boob tube rude

Editor: This letter is being composed from the MSC Lounge. I am an off-campus grad student who really enjoys taking an occasional break from the day's activities in the lounge. It is a great place to sit back, read a little, meet and talk with friends, enjoy the talented piano players, yet has enough activity to make people-watching worthwhile.

However, at this moment, and at other times in the past, my enjoyment of the environment, however garish it may be, is being totally disrupted by the loud and noxious noises coming from the boob tube against the windows. Thus the reason for this letter.

The background noise level is already high enough, but to have to put up with Hendrix's wailing guitars (on the tube) is too much. The poor little speaker in that box apparently has to be turned up so high to compete with an already-bad acoustical situation and the piano that its totally distorted sound translates across the room as not music or words, but as a boomy crescendo of noise that is really irritating.

Now I like to listen to Hendrix, but not in the MSC Lounge. Other, more sedate programs can be just as irritating when you are trying to enjoy something else.

Don't get me wrong, the recorded programs are a good idea, but definitely in the wrong place. In the lounge it is just like a

rude cigarette smoker blowing smoke in your face while you are trying to eat; you just can't hide from it.

I don't know if others feel as I do, but I would like to suggest the TV be moved to another location out of the lounge. Perhaps that large, usually unused exhibit space in the Rudder Center would make a good location, given some adequate seating. Maybe it belongs more down with the pinball machines.

Now you may say why don't I just go someplace else? Well, I did, but I would much rather have stayed there.

—Randy Hohalus, '76

How tall a Tower?

Editor: Well, Nathan Hines ("Letters", Battalion, Sept. 14), I bring you controversy.

Dateline, Friday's Battalion; article about Jeanne Tower.

How tall is John Tower? Even standing on top of his issues and his past voting record, he still comes up short.

How many years has he been in the senate? How many pieces of legislation has he proposed?

John Tower has stated his "opposition" to inflation (who is not in opposition?), to government spending (other than for military or congressional pay raises) and of course civil rights.

John Tower has voted against minimum wage laws because "they are inflationary", but he voted for a congressional pay raise

to \$57,000 a year "because they deserve it." Ask anyone who makes \$2.65 an hour how much they deserve!

John Tower voted against almost all of the civil and voting rights legislation of the 60s and still continues to vote against minorities, women and of course, "Mr." Carter. His reason: "They were not in the best interest of the minority or do not do enough for them." If they have been so bad, why hasn't he come up with anything better or equal or anything?

John Tower is against "big government expenses." The "defense" budget must not be a government expense. The defense budget must be expanded forever to keep up with the Russians (you can shape anyone's mind with enough force.) The conditions at home and the student loan programs are a big government "expense" which can be whittled away.

Does John Tower's daughter know her father's voting record? Did he or did he not vote against the tuition tax credit bill? The Houston Post said he did.

In regard to "mudslinging," John Tower claims the references to his voting record are mudslinging... Maybe there has been some muddying, but the facts (not John Tower's press releases or his newsletter) show more mud toward his opponent.

I can go on with the "virtues" of our man in the Senate, but...

I feel like I am not so much in support of Krueger, but against Tower. It is time to axe out liabilities to our state in the Senate and in Korea.

—Ted Arnold

No debates, please

Editor: In response to a previous letter to the editor on "a lack of interesting, controversial letters," I would like to compliment all Aggies on their previous conduct.

It seems as if some of us have forgotten the meaning of a truly good Ag.

Is it necessary for Aggies to have something to quarrel about? To be constantly feuding over some insignificant "controversial" issue? No sir!

The "bright and intelligent Aggies" have already fallen in step together to make this year the best yet.

Come on Ags, let's not waste a minute debating with each other. Let's work hard together and help each other in every way.

—Todd Huckabee, '81

—John Schneider, '81

A new tradition

Editor: To Cindy Childress & Cindy Parker, '80 (Battalion "Letters", Sept. 15).

I have always thought that at least upperclassmen can read. Your letter in the Battalion Friday showed me how wrong I was. Look sharp, kiddies, we're fixing to learn something.

1) If you will go back and really read Ms. Stephens letter (Battalion, Sept. 14), you may find that you're barking up the wrong tree. Ms. Stephens was not attacking that sacred male bastion known as the Aggie Band *per se*. She was denouncing the practice of not receiving PE credits here for marching band credits at another university. According to sources out there in the real world, this is a fairly common practice among more enlightened institutions of learning.

2) Ms. Stephens obviously wanted to come to A&M; otherwise she would not have transferred here. She undoubtedly realizes as well as the other 31,900 of us that this is a reasonably decent place to get an education. (Reasonably—not everyone can read.) However, she knows as I do, that there are a lot of brick walls put up by The Administration that do not make sense. Period.

3) Now, girls, you really opened a can of worms when you talked about traditions. Did you know that A&M used to be known as one of the friendliest campuses around? Do you two happen to know what friendliness is? Obviously not, since you told a newcomer that "Believe it or not, honey, Highway 6 runs both ways." That was unfriendly, thoughtless and narrow-minded. It comes from being a Snob. I don't recall hearing that snobs are a tradition here, but it's fast becoming one. Just think, you're helping to start a new tradition at A&M!

End of lecture, kiddies. Next time you get diarrhea of the pen, stop and think for once. You won't look like such morons to your betters.

—Marge Bernhardt, '78 & getting out

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"OOPS! SORRY!"

TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

Torres case lawyer to speak

Bob Bennett, a criminal attorney from Houston, will speak on human rights and the police function at a Political Forum program Thursday. He was employed as assistant district attorney from 1965-1976. His last position there was Chief, Special Crimes Bureau (1972-1976) where he was responsible for the investigation and prosecution of cases involving organized crime, economic crime, consumer fraud and public corruption. Since entering private practice, he successfully defended one of the Houston police officers charged in state and federal court in the Joe Campos Torres trial. The program will be at 12:30 p.m. in room 206 of the Memorial Student Center.

Naval representative in town

A representative from the Naval Reserve Units in Waco will be in College Station Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week to interview Navy and other service veterans who may be interested in the Naval Reserve program. A number of officer and enlisted personnel from the faculty and student body at Texas A&M University are currently assigned to the three Waco units that meet the second weekend of each month. For further information, contact Senior Chief Wallace at the Bryan Navy Recruiting Office, Sunnyland Shopping Center, phone 822-5221.

STATE

Exxon faces air pollution suit

Exxon Co. USA's Baytown, Texas, facility is facing a possible pollution lawsuit, along with adjacent Stauffer Chemical Co. Officials said last February Exxon's own air samplings showed 200 sulfur dioxide violations in eight months. The Texas Air Control Board recommended the attorney general file suit against the two firms. Exxon and Stauffer officials have said they were or soon would be in full compliance with state laws.

Galveston man sentenced to death

A jury in Galveston Friday sentenced 25-year-old Jackie Ray Osteen to die by injection for the robbery and slaying of Lawrence Mathis, 59, of Texas City last March. It was the city's first death sentence in more than seven years. Osteen was convicted of capital murder and a second defendant, Jude Walter Broussard, 20, was convicted of robbery Wednesday. Broussard was sentenced to 20 years in prison and a \$2,500 fine. Prosecutors said Osteen and Broussard took Mathis to an isolated location, robbed him of \$1,000 and Osteen then shot him three times.

NATION

Third escapee apprehended

Larry Chism, 29, one of two Tennessee convicts sought after last Wednesday's breakout, was captured Sunday near Salem, Ark., after a high-speed auto chase. Another escapee, Richard Lyons, is still sought by authorities in Ohio. Chism, Lyons and two other men blasted their way out of a Dickson, Tenn., bowling alley on a prisoners' outing, using guns that had been affixed to the men's rooming. Since then, the men have commandeered an airplane and shot five vehicles and taken at least eight hostages, all of whom were released unharmed. The other escapees, George Bonds and Fred Brewer, were captured Thursday at Hoxie, Ark., at a police roadblock.

Tornado kills four people in Iowa

A tornado ripped through several central Iowa communities Saturday night killing at least four people and injuring 29. A Jasper County sheriff's deputy said "there's damage all over the county. There are farmhouses and trees down everywhere." The National Weather Service had issued only a warning for severe thunderstorms at the time.

WORLD

320 people killed in earthquake

At least 320 people were killed in the east Iranian town of Tabas that was almost completely leveled by a killer earthquake Saturday night, Iranian newsmen reported from the area. The government radio said the death toll in the quake, the strongest in the world this year, would be much higher than the official figure of 24 reported earlier. The Red Lion and Sun Society, Iran's equivalent to the Red Cross, mounted a massive relief operation flying in tents, food, field hospitals and medical teams from areas around the stricken zone.

Guards recapture two cities

The National Guard said Saturday it recaptured two cities—including Nicaragua's second largest city—held by Marxist Sandinista guerrillas attempting to overthrow President Anastasio Somoza. Late Saturday a National Guard commander said his men had liberated the city of Chinandega, about 160 miles northwest of Managua and asked for helicopters to evacuate the wounded. The information monitored from military radio could not be confirmed. At least two other cities were still largely in guerrilla hands and new fighting was reported in a fourth.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and warm for today. The temperature will be high in the mid-90s and low in the upper 70s. There is no precipitation expected, continuing like this Tuesday and Wednesday.

THE BATTALION

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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