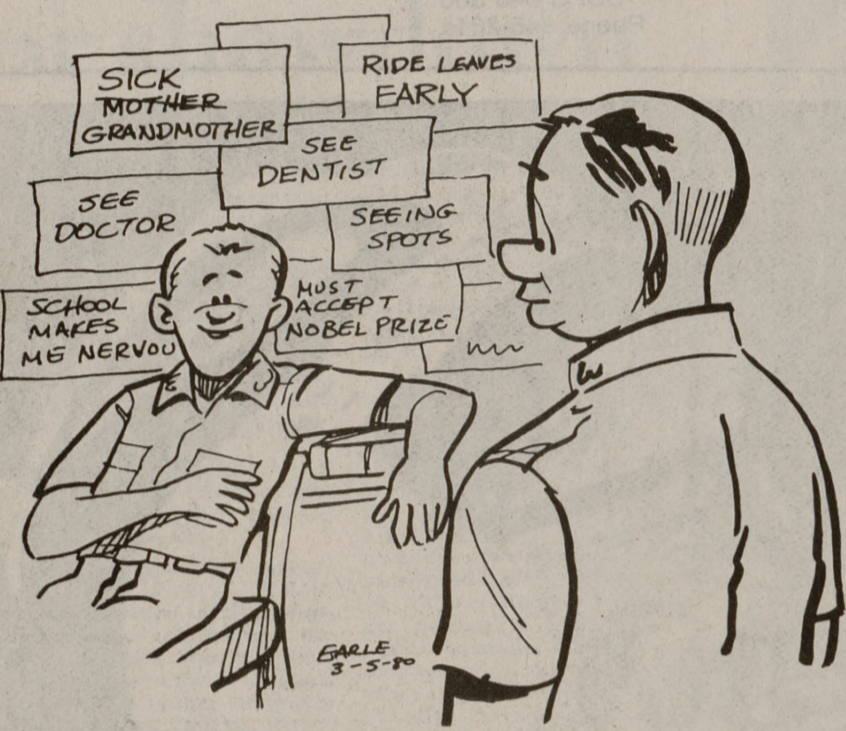


SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"When you get down to it, there are no original excuses for leaving early for the holidays."

OPINION

Shuttle needed for death ray

Trade journals and available government documents reveal that many serious scientists and military weapons experts believe the era of "death ray" warfare may arrive this decade. This latest "ultimate weapon" would then arrive 10 years ahead of schedule.

The most likely first use of laser beam weapons will be in a defense from space against intercontinental ballistic missiles (IBMs) and satellite killer weapons. On the drawing boards of American military planners is an 18-station anti-IBM defense system, on which construction could begin in three years, according to Senate sources.

To build, maintain and support such a system, which would be "manned," we need the space shuttle. The shuttle is just one of the problems which must be solved before we can see the change in the world military picture which would follow the development of an effective defense against longrange strategic nuclear weapons delivery.

Sherman Democrat

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 5, 1980

Baylor administration votes against free press, students

By ROY BRAGG

Battalion Editor

The firing of The Baylor Lariat's editors is a perfect example of totalitarianism pushing freedom of the press aside.

On Monday, Editor-in-chief Jeff Barton, City Editor Barry Kolar and News Editor Cyndy Slovak were fired by the university's 11-member Student Publications Board. As a result, several staff members resigned in sympathy.

The whole episode began with the announcement that Playboy photographer David Chan would be in the Waco area to photograph students for a Playboy photo feature on "Girls of the Southwest Conference."

At that time, President Abner McCall said Baylor students who posed nude for the magazine would be subject to disciplinary action.

In response, the Lariat published an editorial saying students should decide for themselves whether to pose for the photographs.

McCall then decided to show the Lariat who was boss. He issued a warning to Barton saying he would be asked to resign if any further editorials and stories appeared about the Playboy situation.

McCall based his decision on the fact that the university owns the paper. Since he is the university president, he said, he is the publisher of the paper.

First Amendment rights, he added, apply to the publisher of the paper, not the editors and reporters.

Then, on Friday, Barton, Slovak and Kolvar signed their names to an editorial criticizing the university administration. Ralph Strother, director of student publications, edited two sentences out of an editorial that referred to administrative "arrogance." Strother then told the three they could either resign or be fired by the board.

They didn't resign. They felt that the student editors should be able to cover the news and comment on it as they saw fit.

At issue is control of the school paper and what it prints.

The Lariat's editors, as do those at The Battalion, felt that the content of the school paper is the business of the editor and not the university administration. Apparently, Baylor officials disagree.

The university has the law on its side. All the staff members have a belief that they were elected to do the job and a strong conviction in the Constitutional guarantees of free speech and press.

The publication board's action poses several questions:

— Do the appointed student editors actually have control of the contents of the paper?

— Are the school's administrators exempt from criticism? Do they want to control the news? Do they want a newspaper or a university-controlled public relations sheet?

— Why go through the ridiculous formality of selecting a student editor to run the paper if in fact the administration is going to dictate editorial policy and news coverage, and advertising content?

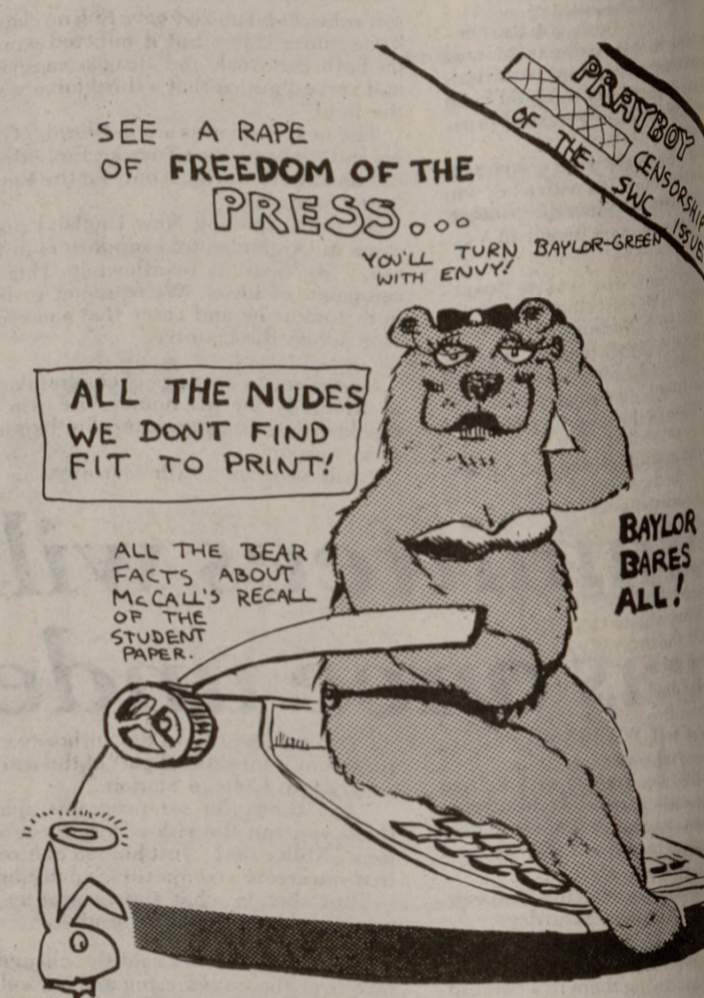
The answers to these questions are apparent after the editors' Monday firing. The student editors don't control the paper. The Baylor administration cannot be criticized. Baylor University does want to control the news. The university administration does want a daily propaganda sheet. The pretense of selecting editors will continue (the publications board has said new editors will be selected soon).

If Abner McCall wants to run the paper, then let him do it. It's his newspaper, after all. If Baylor University administrators don't care about real freedom of speech and press, then let them run the show.

The Baylor University administration might have the nerve to call the Lariat a newspaper.

But we can't consider it one.

See related story on page 1



LETTERS

Reader's Forum needs clarification

Editor:

After reading Reader's Forum in Monday's Batt, I felt compelled to clear up some issues presented in "Whatever Happened to the Human Race." The emphasis on world view is important to understand the parallels that were drawn in the series. Dr. Schaeffer quoted the Biblical statement "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." It is thinking that shapes the way a man behaves. The point is this: remove the absolute of the Bible, remove God from life, and there is no basis for morality or the uniqueness of man. Henceforth we have the Supreme Court's arbitrary decision ruling the Black man a non-person in the Dred Scott decision and ruling the developing fetus a non-person in the 1973 abortion ruling. This is the parallel that Schaeffer drew, and it is an accurate one.

The parallel between the Nazi extermination camps and euthanasia is equally clear from the film. The extermination camps slaughtered thousands of "undesirable" members of German society who were crippled, retarded, mentally ill, or too sick to work. Euthanasia, under the guise of compassion, has the potential for these same abuses. It all goes back to Dr. Schaeffer's main point: without a basis for morals, man lives under the tyranny of the majority, or worse yet, the rule of a powerful elite.

Dr. Koop did not say the church was responsible for the holocaust. The point he made is that the church was painfully silent on this issue, as it was on slavery. He is calling on the Christian to take action against the abuses that we see in modern society that cheapen the value of human life.

The statement by Mr. Spring and Ms. King noting that there was no documentation was false. Both Dr. Schaeffer and Dr. Koop quoted articles written in major medical journals. Dr. Schaeffer also quoted sections of the 1973 abortion ruling verbatim.

I felt that the scene with the memorial at the end of the series notes an important point. We have the power to make changes to speak against what is wrong in the world. If we fail to do so, then the memorial would be more than accurate. I pray to God we will change.

Bill Hobson

Soccer ignored

Editor:

Last semester, the Texas A&M water polo team, ranked 4th in the nation, threatened to leave A&M if they didn't receive Marvin Tate's recognition as a varsity team. Well, this problem is not exclusive to the water polo team.

From 1959-'63, the Texas A&M men's soccer team were state champions, and some think that had soccer been an NCAA-sanctioned sport, the Aggies would have been national champs. Last season the Ags had a .500 record, and this season, with a 2-1-1 record, are in first place in the conference and are picked to win the Southwest Conference Soccer Tournament to be played here March 25-30. All this was accomplished without varsity status, with the second-lowest budget of any SWC team, no professional coaching, no recruiting or scholarships and virtually no press cover-

age. That's quite an accomplishment, isn't it?

Apparently the Intramural Department doesn't think so. They now want us to do it without a field to practice on! Those are odds one cannot beat. Imagine, the representatives of Texas A&M are not allowed to use the soccer fields! And for what?

Well, you say, surely there's a good reason, right? Wrong. Intramural soccer is what stands between the men's and women's soccer teams and the SWC Tournament. Although we don't have anything against intramurals or other varsity sports one gets the impression that one of the world's richest schools is trying to eliminate the world's most popular sport. It is also important to note that a contract was signed with the Intramural Department giving the soccer team the unconditional right to use the field; not only was this document breached, but no one was even notified.

We think we are good Ags and we want to represent A&M in the competitive sport we play best; soccer. We would appreciate the support of the Intramural Department and Texas A&M.

Mark Stromberg '83
Curtis Eng '83
Paul Winston '82

'Ryder' offends

Editor:

Recently I made the mistake of attending the play, "When Are You Coming Back Red Ryder."

I never knew that anything could be characterized by such contemptuous parity

as was used throughout this play such a thing, as degrading as campus does nothing for the and national reputation for high quality of Texas A&M University. I would be interested to know what the criteria by which mine which plays shall be broadcast on campus? Who is responsible for this decision? What benefit could be expected from exposing young people to such vulgar language?

I am particularly disturbed by this program is part of the curriculum. It would be appalling if this is indicative of the type of program given to students of English campus.

'Good Ags' exist

Editor:

I wanted to write and let you know are good deeds being done by Ags. In today's world, you see fewer people a chance or going out of their help others.

I really appreciate "Rock" and "Rockelle" the good mag had '80 for seeing my car light turning them off. I work all day battery would surely have been what a way to end the day.

Thanks for letting me say thank you to two nice people.

THOTZ

