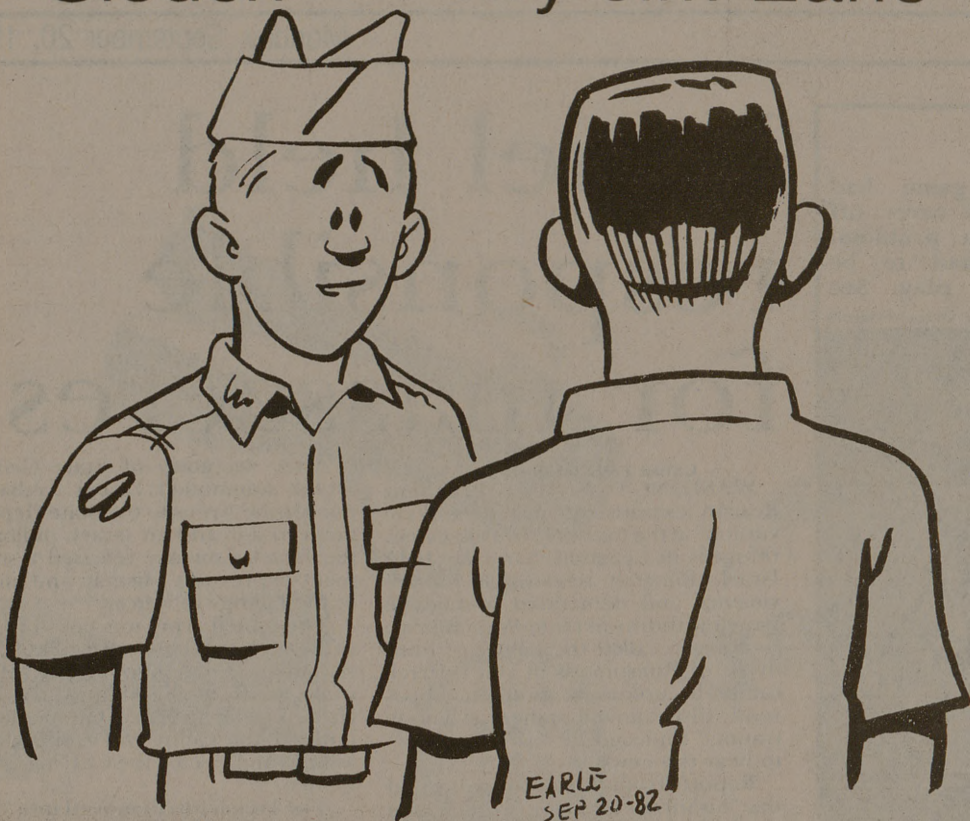


Slouch By Jim Earle



"I'll have to admit, it seemed strange when he told me that midnight yell practice was at 9:15, but who am I to argue with a sophomore?"

Court cases cost money

by Dick West
United Press International
WASHINGTON — In Texas, a pioneering satellite company successfully launched its first rocket, thereby opening the space age to commercial investment. These truly are heady times for disciples of the private enterprise system. In addition to the burgeoning space business, we have a couple of firms challenging the postal service in the express mail field, a tuition tax credit plan that would give a big boost to private schools and at least one state experimenting with privately owned penal institutions. If incursions into what has traditionally been the public sector agree with your own political philosophy, I'm sure you can envision other governmental arenas that commercial firms could enter. One step that appears inevitable to me is the development of a private judiciary system. From justices of the Supreme Court to justices to the peace, our courts historic-

ally have been governmental entities. Yet, at least until it is tried, who is to say a privately run court system wouldn't do the job better? There are, as I see it, two basic approaches that might be taken. One is the quasimonopoly method under which a company would be granted an exclusive franchise to operate a judiciary system in a certain area. To get some idea of how the private judiciary system might work, let's invent a mythical enterprise — the Amalgamated Magistrative and Storm Door Co. — and set it up in business. Starting out on a small scale, Amalgamated first bids for, and is awarded, a license to operate a civil court system in Clods County, N.M. At that level, the firm mainly adjudicates divorce cases and damage suits. But subsequently, it also gets jurisdiction over criminal cases in the county. Now it is ready for conglomeration. As its next venture, Amalgamated

arranges a merger with the Acme Judiciary and Aluminum Siding Corp., which has a statewide contract. From that power base, the firm then seeks to take over the Freestone Tribunal and Automobile Company of America. Freestone, as you may already be presumed, has authority over federal cases, the very foot in the door that Amalgamated-Acme is seeking. There is a nasty stock fight, which ends with Freestone acquiring majority control of the company. But all is not entirely new. The new corporate structure is being attacked by the Antitrust and Manufacturers Association headed by Ralph Nader. It obtains a decree in the Southern Circuit Appellate Court forcing Freestone - Amalgamated-Acme to divest itself of all its lower courts. Under the second approach, competition would ... on second thought, let's just stick to privately orbited satellites.

Whatever happens after graduation?

How many times in the past has one of your friends told you "things are going to be different" come graduation?

How many hours have you yourself spent dreaming of the years ahead when being a productive, wage-earning member of society will be more than a half-concealed idea?

Well wake up Ags. It just ain't so. Graduation is a myth — a gigantic, complex, constantly promoted, universally believed, myth.

I can hear the scoffing now. You don't believe me. I know. I know. I had a hard time believing it at first, too. But it's true. The writing is on the wall for those who can see.

Point One: How many of your friends are graduates? If they claim to be one — can they prove it? Did you see them graduate? And if you did, have you ever heard of mass hypnosis?

Point Two: Have you ever seen a before and after picture of a recent — so called — graduate? Notice any change? I can't.

For example: I have a friend who claims to have graduated this August with a degree in biology. I knew him before this mythical graduation and as far as I can tell he hasn't changed a bit.

What is the purpose of graduation if it accomplishes no change in the student? Can you tell a graduate from a peasant without talking to one? I'll bet not.

Point Three: Want proof? Go up to the second floor of Rudder some evening when seniors are trying to sign up for interviews — you'll see what I mean.

Point Four: Ever hear someone talk about the "real world" — as opposed to the Ivory Towers we inhabit? I can't see the difference.

For example: I have another friend who expects to graduate this December — with a degree in economics. If he can find a job, he says he expects to go to



robert mcglohon

work in the morning, deal with economics for eight hours, then go home and goof off. How does this differ from college? In only one way. He'll have a lot more time to goof off.

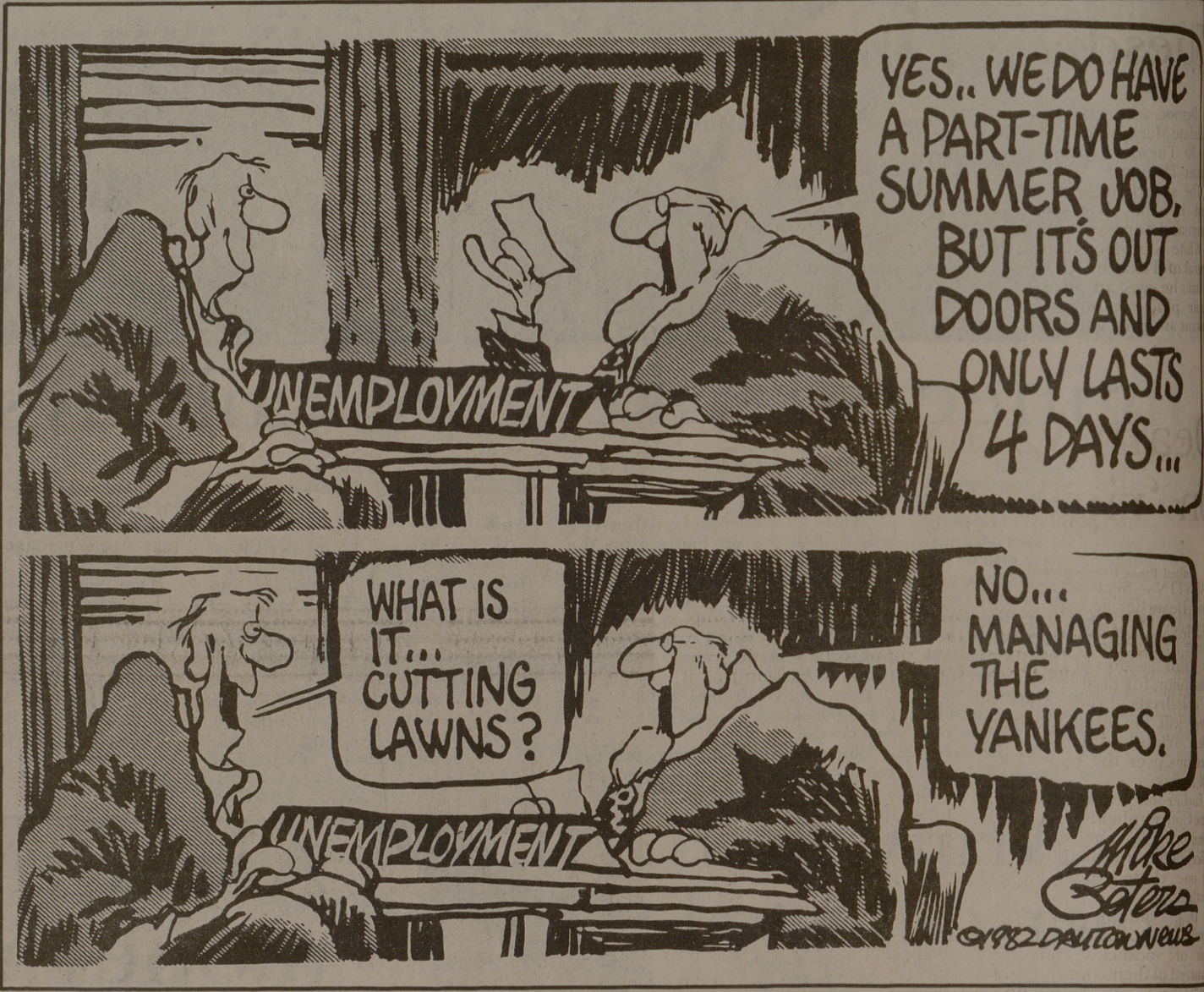
Therefore, it is obvious to me that graduation is a myth — a myth promoted (by the administration?) to urge undergraduates on in a study in futility. What are we here for then? What happens to former students when they leave here? There are several possibilities.

Ever read "Soylent Green?" I try not to even think about that.

Or, have you ever thought about who puts the fuzz on the ends of the Q-Tips? Is there a giant factory out in the middle of nowhere, staffed by former students, who's only function is to wrap cotton around little sticks? I doubt it, but it's a possibility.

Another possibility is the colonization of space. Hasn't it ever occurred to you that our space program is moving along kind of slow? Could it be that NASA is much more advanced than it lets on? This is one possibility that I might like, but why keep it a secret? Unless of course they are sending us to a planet occupied by teasips. Shudder.

To tell the truth, I really don't know the answer. But somebody must. If you do, please let me in on the secret. You can reach me by calling 555-HELP. Thanks.



Letter: Keep Aggie tradition alive

Editor:

To the Class of 1986: By now, you have probably heard the rumblings of those "Aggies" who would do away with many of Texas A&M's sacred traditions.

You are probably starting to doubt the pride that all Aggies are supposed to have in their school.

You are probably depressed because you cannot FEEL the Spirit of Aggieland like your father described to you.

You are probably starting to think that everything you learned at Fish Camp was a lie.

Let us assure you that you can stop doubting.

Even though recent letters to The Battalion promote the contrary, the Spirit of Aggieland IS still alive.

At Fish Camp, you learned about the 2 percenters, the students who will not participate in the Aggie traditions, and you learned how to tolerate them.

What you did not learn about were the students who seek to abolish Aggie traditions. They want to change Texas A&M and make it into their own self-styled version of t.u.

We challenge you, Class of '86, and all other TRUE Aggies, to combat these radicals. Not verbally or physically, but by your actions. Uphold and strengthen our traditions which have made Texas A&M a great institution for over a hundred years. Show them that the University will never change and will never bend for anyone.

These time-honored traditions are what separate Texas A&M from any other university. Others also may offer an academic education, but none have what we have here at Aggieland: a proud history so rich in tradition.

It does not take much to follow our traditions. You can see how unreason-

able someone must be to refuse to remove his hat upon entering the Memorial Student Center or Kyle Field.

Our traditions are, not that demanding. Your class must see to it that the classes below you carry them on. Be proud to call yourself a Texas Aggie. Say "Howdy" to people. Learn our traditions

because they belong to you now. Let them and keep them alive.

Russell O. McGee
John Kyle Mays
Chris L. Breaux
Alexander C. Horn
Randall Pollock



"Can't we talk about something besides 'volume on the Big Board'?"

The Battalion
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Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 845-2611.

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