

opinion

Softball comes to Capitol Hill

by Steve Gerstel
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Despite the endless rain of the past month, staff aides who work behind the scenes in the Senate have decreed that winter is over and ruled it is high time to throw out the first pitch of the softball season.

As in many undertakings, ranging from play to work, the denizens of Capitol Hill sometimes go about their business in different ways.

For instance, after years of playing by "rules we have all taken for granted," the U.S. Senate Staff Club Softball League has, in the language of barristers, codified all procedures.

In fact, the seven commissioners of the USSCFL have drawn up no less than 37 rules for the coming season, most of them generally accepted in slow-pitch softball circles.

The most intriguing is rule 23 which states: "Alcoholic beverages shall be restricted to sidelines."

Which is a painful prohibition for a rightfielder on a hot August day who would love to take his still ice-cold beer out to the pasture.

More socially significant is the requirement that at least three females must be on the field.

This is a radical departure for anyone connected with the Senate, which has traditionally exempted itself from rules and regulations imposed on all others — including the ban on sex discrimination.

Yet, a tinge of traditional sexism also can be found in the USSCFL rules.

Rule 6 states: "The pitcher must be a female." Why?

One possible explanation, which comes easily to a chauvinist, is that in slow-pitch softball, it really doesn't matter who pitches.

The only requirement is that the ball "must be delivered with a perceptible arc" and there are no balls and no called strikes.

Maybe women are better. But there is even more of that in the USSCFL rules. The very following rules states: "At least three positions in the lineup must be designated female slots and remain so during the game."

That should put some of the managers in a quandary.

But, if a team does not have a sharp female player from a good fast-pitch league (and there are many), most managers probably will opt for pitcher and second base, plus either shortfield or catcher.

While the rules are generally unimagi-

nitive, some of the nicknames the teams have adopted show a genuine flair. Others have yet to come up with a suitable monicker.

One of the best may be the team organized by the office of Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., who are known as "The Hot D'Amatos."

Other nicknames include: the Agriculture Department, "USDA Choice;" AT&T, "The Defendants;" Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., "Strom's Right Swingers;" and Sen. Larry Pressler, "Pressler Pheasants."

Also: Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., "Nunn Better;" Sen. Alan Dixon, D-Ill., "Al's Pals;" the office of the Senate Legislative Counsel, "Premium Drafts;" Sen. Roger Jepsen, R-Iowa, "Rogers Dodgers;" Sen. Paul Tsongas, D-Mass., and Wendell Ford, D-Ky., "Tsongas Tsolarstars;" and Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, "Ted's Ptarmigans."

And more: Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., "Barry's Bombers;" Department of Labor-Administrative Law Judges, "Dim Watts;" Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., "Percy-cutions;" Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, "Grassley Hoppers;" and Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., "Weicker's Whalers."

Well, anyway, it sounds like fun and it costs only \$20 to field a team.

Slouch By Jim Earle



"They tell me it's an experimental model that fights back!"

Senior says goodbye to rental company

Editor:

Well, I'm a senior now. I made it through four years and I only have one more semester to go. Actually, I've had a pretty good time — made some close friends, made some good grades and, oh, yeah ... tangled with Metro Properties.

In my entire life I have never had to deal with a more frustrating set of people as the Scandia office department of Metro Properties. I moved into Scandia apartments at the end of my sophomore year and life has been one headache ever since. In fact, I probably made the biggest mistake of my life when I didn't get out of my lease after one year. I thought it would be too much trouble to move.

Metro and I got started on the wrong foot when I first moved into my spacious two-bedroom apartment with three other girls. We wanted to move in one day before our lease officially started, so of course, Metro charged us big bucks for the extra night that we stayed there. No problem, but when we got to the apartment, we discovered that it was filthy ... gross ... disgusting. Now Metro might claim that because we moved in early, they had no time to clean, but I take exception to that. It took me, three roommates and two mothers three days to make the apartment livable.

There were plants growing out of the rug and moldy food particles behind the refrigerator. In addition, the toilet had been backed up for the entire summer (no one lived there) and it took Metro a week to get it working properly. During that week, they alternately ignored our requests and flooded the carpet. It was definitely not fun.

Eventually, one of my other roommates wrote a complaint letter to The Battalion, which did elicit some response from the office. They fixed the ceilings in the bathrooms so that little flakes of paint wouldn't float down on us during our daily showers — a small comfort.

By this time we had become acquainted with our upstairs neighbors, Mark and Mark — nice guys who were having as many problems with Metro as we were. The foundation of their living room floor (our ceiling) was totally cracked. Throughout the entire year that they

lived above us, they had to deal with shaky floors, records skipping, scratching and an occasional work-trooping through the apartment. Finally moved.

Another of our neighbors, Jim, worked for Metro during the summer. He cleaned apartments. One of his favorite things to do was to tell us how much money he was making for not doing work. He wasn't talking about leaving an apartment in bad condition, he was talking about getting paid \$60 for vacating one room — 10 minutes of work. He told us that the Metro representative would walk through the apartment, him what to do, pay him large sums of money and charge the previous resident for the work. He even showed us some of the apartments that he was responsible for "cleaning." They weren't dirty, my thought it was a big joke. We did.

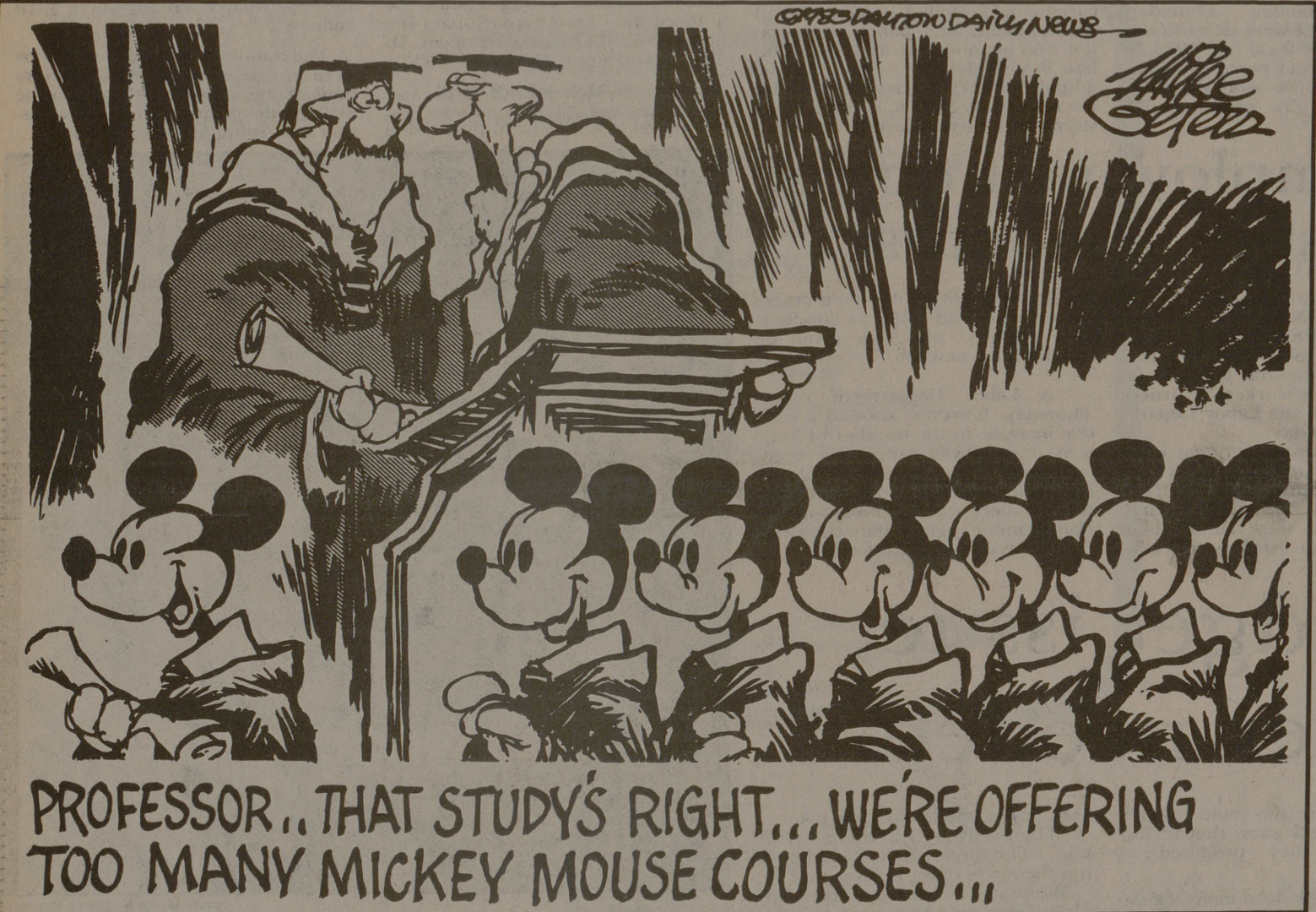
The situation went on for two years. Ignored maintenance requests, broken plumbing, a non-defrosting defroster, refrigerator and a poorly functioning dishwasher were just a few of the problems. And to top it off, every once in a while I would see ads in the paper that Metro Properties owned the most popular places in B-CS to live. I felt really sorry for incoming freshmen who didn't know better, but what could I do?

Finally, our last semester on the Metro has rolled around. I feel that I've been a good tenant. We always paid our rent time and never threw wild parties, that didn't seem to mean anything to Metro.

In fact, about two weeks ago the Metro called and asked when we were moving out. They wanted us to move out early so that the summer leasers could move in early. We told them we could move out May 16, but when we asked if they would pro-rate our rent the caller said, "I don't think we can do that. I'll have to check. Hmmm."

Well, we worked it out and they're going to refund our money for moving out early. I guess that will make Metro and me happy. I'll be rid of them and they'll have another unsuspecting tenant.

Diane Yo



Letters: Student Senate and tuition

Editor:

What's up with tuition? How are Texas A&M students being represented in Austin? We are being represented by the Legislative Study Group just the way that the Student Senate voted to on March 9. The Senate voted to oppose an increase in tuition.

During spring break, a fee bill was proposed by Rep. Bill Prenal from Brazos County. A rider on the bill would have increased tuition by 100 percent. However, during testimony before the House Appropriations committee, LSG member Madelan Yanta asked Rep. Prenal to clarify the attached rider. He went on public record as stating that the rider was a mistake and was not a part of the bill.

At that point, the bill no longer dealt with tuition. However, in the event that the bill might later include tuition, Ms. Yanta made two recommendations to the committee. First, the LSG asked that an amendment be added to allow the substantive committee to hear testimony and recommend the level of fee increase. Second, the LSG asked that if tuition were included in the bill that it be increased "at a fixed percentage (index) of a predefined set of costs." The impact of these amendments would allow students three additional levels of public testimony on fee increases and significantly lessen the severity of a tuition increase.

What's happening now? Why the nasty letters from UT students? Right now the bill has been rewritten to include both of the LSG's recommendations. However, the misconception of our UT associates is that the bill will raise tuition. It does not!! House Bill 894 only changes the manner in which tuition can be raised and places a 100 percent ceiling on increases for fiscal years 1983 and 1984. In 1985, tuition can be increased only to compensate for inflation. HB 894 is good for students in the state of Texas because it protects

them from exorbitant increases in tuition and often higher educational, and it provides several opportunities for student input into the tuition and fee setting process.

In conclusion, tuition in Texas has not been raised since 1957 and students pay less than 5 percent of the cost of their education. But to maintain a superior quality of public education, Texas will sooner or later have to ask students to help bear some of the burden.

When and if that happens, thanks to the responsible research and representation of the Legislative Study Group, students will be protected. As newly appointed LSG director I can assure you that we will continue to oppose a tuition increase. But when and if it happens, we will see that it's done right.

Fred Billings
LSG director

Prof's lament

Editor:

To All My Friends at Texas A&M: "They were the best of times, they were the worst of times ..." is a quotation that never meant much to me until now. This year has brought to me a great deal of joy, primarily from the privilege of working with the Aggies — truly the "salt of the earth." Now it has brought to me and to my family the almost unbearable heartache of losing the job that I loved so much.

I could have remained as Director of First Year Chemistry Programs if I had agreed to implement directives of our department head, whether or not I believed such directives to be detrimental to our students. In good conscience, I could not accept those terms.

There are no words to express the

deep gratitude of myself and my family to the thousands of students, former students, parents and other friends who cared enough to speak out in my support. We will always treasure that caring.

I had hoped that we would win this one, but in a sense we really didn't lose. You only truly lose when you succumb to pressure to do things you believe to be wrong.

For whatever time I remain at Texas A&M, I will be in a much poorer position from which to help students. My love for students has not, however, been diminished and I will continue to try to be helpful in any way that I can.

Thank you again for your support. May God bless you in all that you do.

Rod O'Connor
Chemistry professor

Heldenfels Hogg

Editor:

To the James Stephan Hogg of Heldenfels Hall:

The act of upholding ones belief in an issue regardless of personal consequence, is truly rare and commendable. Those in power can apply many unseen pressures making it difficult, if not impossible, for one to uphold that belief. This is an innate quality of few people — James Stephan Hogg (governor of Texas from 1891-1895) discharged his duties regardless of consequence or at times personal injury.

Dr. O'Connor, throughout my time here at A&M your stern dealings with "those in power" have become that on which I base my personal pride. You have earned my respect and admiration.

You are truly that dying breed which epitomizes being "a decent man."

Sam Payuso '85

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography courses within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

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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, but are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 261-2611.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and vacation periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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