

End of parking lot an inconvenience

Rest in Peace, Parking Annex No. 7. By day it served well as the parking lot for geology and journalism faculty and staff, and by night it served as a refuge for the cars and trucks of engineering, business and journalism students.

A chain link fence now stands as a barrier across the former lot entrances as the smooth black asphalt pavement awaits the jackhammer's cracking fury.

The Halbouty Geosciences Annex that has been built on half of the lot is certainly a nice building. With space at such a premium on the Texas A&M campus, the added classrooms and laboratories will get full use.

But the disappearance of more inner-campus parking lots will cause hardships at night.

As the inner-campus parking lots become tracts for buildings, the library will become an island at night in a sea of buildings and walkways closed to all

but pedestrian traffic — an island isolated from off-campus students.

Since the shuttle buses only run periodically — once an hour after 7 p.m. — and not at all after 10 p.m., that is not a reasonable alternative to driving.

Students who wish to use the library will be forced to endure long, dark walks from the outlying parking areas. Maybe shuttle buses should be run from the outer parking areas to the library from early evening until it closes each evening.

Students who really want to use the library will always find a way, but why should they have to endure circumstances caused by poor planning?

The Battalion Editorial Board mourns the passing of another fine monument to the automobile. We will always remember Lot 7's service to the cars of Texas A&M students.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Buchwald insulted by USIA blacklist

By Art Buchwald

Whenever the government comes up with a blacklist I immediately rush out and see if I made it.

The other day it was revealed the USIA kept a list of Americans who were not to be sent abroad as part of the propaganda department's speaking program. Among the blacklisted were Walter Cronkite, the most trusted man in America; David Brinkley; economist John Kenneth Galbraith; Lester Thurow and Paul Samuelson; Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee; former Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger; former Director of the CIA Stansfield Turner; former National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy; and feminist Betty Friedan, as well as about 80 other outstanding citizens.

The reason given for the list was that top officials of USIA did not believe foreigners should be exposed to any kind of ideology that was remotely in conflict with that of the president's.

Since some of my best friends were on the list I was embarrassed I didn't make it. It was the second major blacklist I've missed. In 1974 I failed to make the famed Nixon "enemies" list, an oversight that cost me any clout I might have had in this town.

I called and demanded to talk to the agency's ideological czar.

"How come I didn't make your speakers' blacklist?" I asked him.

"We had to limit it to only the best and the brightest."

"And how were they chosen?" I demanded.

"Very carefully. Whenever a name was submitted to us to represent the United States in our overseas speakers' program it went upstairs to our Blue Ribbon Ideological Review Board. If there was the slightest policy, or just plain conservative philosophy, he or she was listed as a questionable spokesperson and one who could not be trusted to carry America's message to the world."

"The whole thing smacks of McCarthyism," I said.

"That's a typical liberal knee-jerk reaction," the man said. "The truth of the matter is that the USIA is the propaganda arm of the president of the United States, and our nation's credibility would be seriously questioned if we sent Americans abroad who disagree with his policies."

"All right, I'll accept the fact that the USIA does not want to send any speakers overseas who are not in tune with Reagan's conservative philosophy. But where does that leave those of us who never made the list?"

"There was nothing personal about the blacklist," he replied. "The reason you didn't make the list is that your name was never submitted by anyone as a candidate for our speaking program."

"Is it too late now?" I asked.

"Too late for what?"

"To make the blacklist. I have several friends at the USIA who would submit my name if they knew it meant that much to me."

"I'm afraid it is too late. We just had a directive from upstairs that since the blacklist is now public knowledge, we can no longer keep it."

"Does that mean the Blue Ribbon USIA Ideological Board is going to be disbanded?"

"Of course not. But the blackbaling will be done verbally, and no longer by printed ballot. We have no intention of throwing out the baby with the bathwater."

"One more question. Did Charles Wick, the director of the USIA, know you people were keeping a blacklist of loyal Americans who didn't agree with the president?"

"Not to my knowledge. He was so busy taping the telephone calls of his friends, he left the day-to-day blacklisting to us."



Opportunities are made

Given: many minorities attend inner city schools and therefore do not have the opportunity to receive a high quality primary and secondary education.

Given: many minorities come from very low income families who in no way have the economic resources to send their children to college.

Given: many scholarships at Texas A&M and other universities are earmarked for whites and exclude minorities.

But, what about "majorities"? What about those who come from inner city schools? from low income families? from small town high schools that don't offer the broad spectrum of classes of bigger schools? Should we make special recruiting efforts in small towns just like we are making for minorities?

I don't think so. I'm one of those students who comes from a small town high school that didn't have a high quality of education. The education I got was good, but it

wasn't very broad. No trigonometry, no physics, no foreign languages and a chemistry class of three students.

Not only that, but my family's annual income is low enough to qualify us for federal aid like food stamps. That's not an attempt to make you pity me, just to illustrate that all kinds of people are poor.



patrice koranek

There are seven children in my family, but we all somehow managed to get an education beyond high school, whether it was a 2-year degree from a business school or a master's degree in chemistry.

No one made a special effort to help me because I was poor and didn't have a high quality education. I'm going to college here only because of the financial aid I received. My financial need, scholastic achievement, curricular involvement, I know, I wanted a college education but I had to work for it on my own.

Why should Texas A&M make special scholarships available to minorities just because we're poor? It seems to me that we should be able to receive financial aid based on need, test scores or special talents many majorities do.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that I feel that I overcame a lot of obstacles to get to a major university. Why should everyone else work just as hard as I did and not get the same opportunities?

Given: hard work can get you a lot, no matter what your background.

Letters

Down with racism

Editor: There are students at this University who have racial problems.

I am not referring to the minorities in this case. For years I have tried to rationalize that maybe parents have not instructed their children on the fundamentals of other's feelings, but this is no excuse for allowing racism to be displayed as it is at Texas A&M.

Do bigots understand how it feels to be hated by strangers? Strangers yelling racial comments from moving vehicles are not equipped to handle the world as reasonable and responsible adults.

This is not how well-educated people should act. If people have something to say to one another they should sit down and talk.

I have lived in Europe and many

places in the United States only to find that racial problems are the worst in Texas. One cause of racial problems is stereotyped ideas about groups of people.

People should try to communicate as much as possible and deal with each other as individuals rather than categorizing each other. We all came to this university for an education; therefore, each student is equal regardless of ethnicity.

When we learn to work and live together, we can achieve a common goal.

Henri Harris
Class of '85
Lisa Coffey
Class of '87

Time for Big Event

Editor: On March 31, Texas A&M will have a new tradition.

Aggies have roughly defined tradition as, "Something done at least twice in a hundred years."

Right now you are probably thinking,

"A new tradition. Great. Just what our university needs." Well, this should be welcomed by everyone.

Yes folks, it is almost time (roll please) the second annual Big Event. To some people, the Big Event is just a bunch of work that you don't even get paid. Well, one lazy person to another, it's a bull.

The Big Event is the largest community help project in Aggville. It was fortunate enough to drag me out of bed and down to help with the first Big Event in 1983. In that event I met friends that I still see and helped older people fix up their homes and contributed with picking up our area. I did all that in just a few short hours.

I went home that day motivated because I got myself off my lazy butt and did something with my day rather than lay around and put off my studies. I got involved in the birth of a new tradition. I guarantee you will love it.

John White

Slouch

By Jim Earle



EARLE 2-20-84

"When you say, 'All of it,' do you truly mean that you want me to go back over the whole bloomin' course with you from day one?"

The Battalion

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