

## Red Cashion's clan is true maroon

By TRICIA PARKER  
Reporter

Texas A&M is a personal tradition for Red Cashion and his family — it's a part of his life that stretches back as far as the initials he carved on the oak tree across from the old hospital on campus. And like the letters, his interest in A&M has weathered and grown deeper as time has passed.

M.L. "Red" Cashion, 53, is chairman of the board of ANCO Insurance. ANCO, an insurance company with 180 employees, has branches in Houston as well as Bryan.

"I was born and raised on the A&M campus, across from the old hospital," he says. "My father was general secretary of the YMCA, which in those days was like the MSC."

Cashion says that when the time came for him to be born, the doctor told his mother she might as well stay put instead of walking across the street to the hospital, so Cashion was born in his family home in the center of campus.

Growing up as a "campus brat," Cashion says he used to watch the Corps of Cadets march around campus. In his years on campus he saw many changes.

When Cashion grew up, the next logical step was to enroll at Texas A&M as a student.

"I never knew there was another school," he jokes.



M.L. "Red" Cashion is chairman of the board of ANCO Insurance and has been an Aggie ever since being born on the Texas A&M campus.

For football games, he told how men would go meet the bus or train to pick up their dates. Corps dorms would be turned into women's quarters for the weekend but problems would occur when cadets would forget and invite two dates for the same weekend.

"Fortunately, I was going with the same one, the one I married, the whole time," he says. "But you didn't see any

unattached girls on campus."

When Cashion graduated from the University in 1953, he worked a while and then went into the service for two years.

"I got into the charcoal business but the charcoal business didn't do all that well," he says.

The business, a charcoal manufacturing company of which Cashion was owner and manager, failed in little over a year. After that the opportunity

arose for him to get into the insurance business.

He moved up in the company, and like in all Cinderella stories, it ended happily ever after with Cashion chairman of the board. But many Aggies have comparable success stories. What makes Cashion's special is what else he's done along the way.

Cashion began officiating college football games as a

hobby while he was at Texas A&M. After graduation he kept it up. Fourteen years ago he was discovered by an NFL referee scout.

The NFL hired Cashion and he still works as an official for several games each season. Cashion, former president of the Professional Football Referees Association, says the best part of the job is working with the players.

Cashion is also dedicated to the community and education. His interest in the community led him to run for city council.

"I ran for city council once," he says, "against the most popular guy in the district. I needed over 100 votes to win and got 107. The other guy got 109 and that was the end of my political career."

But he has served the community in other ways; as president of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the board of the Education Service Center.

Cashion's family is also rooted in Texas A&M and likely to stay that way. He is married to the former Lou Burgess, whose grandfather had Walton Hall named after him, and two of his five children are Aggies.

He still takes time to give a little advice to Aggies who would follow in his footsteps.

"Don't go into the charcoal business," he says. ♪

## Litmus to be a literary tool for students

By MARY COX  
Staff Writer

One word may have made all the difference in the world for Litmus, the new MSC sponsored literary magazine at Texas A&M.

The young MSC Literary Arts Committee, developed only this year after going through the proper channels of approval, might have forgone those channels when a problem came up when preparing to publish their magazine.

The problem was an adjective — some called it "obscene," others said it was "vulgar," but the author and the committee considered it reasonable. In the end, the MSC Council approved the poem where the culprit word was printed.

"We could have easily slipped this one by," Paul Stewart, the chairman of the committee, says. "But it would have hurt us more in the long run."

Stewart had two opinions. First as the committee chairman, he says he was pleased that the vote went through. The count was 6-5, with one

member of the council abstaining.

"Because of the closeness of the vote, I don't think the council is condoning it, but they are establishing a precedent that students at Texas A&M are in the cultural mainstream — creating artworks," Stewart says.

But as Paul Stewart he was disappointed that the issue ever had to come up.

Pat Wood, the president of the MSC says, "The questionable word was brought up to the proper committee in the proper way.

"When there are 33 committees you just have to play by the rules, but it's very hard to enforce the rules. We have to rely on self-enforcement. This committee has shown that they are going to play by the rules. I'm pleased with Paul and with the committee.

"After I read that one poem it sparked my interest. You know how we engineering majors are — you have to explain what the hell these poems mean. That's as close to obscene as I'll get."

But long before there was a

question of censorship in Litmus there was the question of why doesn't A&M have a literary magazine at all.

The magazine was projected as an ideal way to recruit outstanding high school students to the university. So just like any project wanting recognition they went before the Cultural Study Committee. The group, led by Stewart, approached the committee after having done a lot of hard work in the planning stage. They wrote detailed descriptions of the functions of the officers and even their by-laws.

"After asking more detailed questions of ourselves and how to run the magazine, we got approved to be a committee," Stewart says.

"Our budget next year will be partially supported by student service fees," he says. "We have a \$4,800 budget and the MSC has given us \$1,000 to work with.

"We felt that was very generous — we expected to have to raise our entire budget."

Wood says the group achieved substantial victory over the bureaucracy of the

MSC.

"They've already proven themselves — they've done a great job of raising funds," Wood says.

The MSC Literary Arts Committee will have functions other than publishing Litmus. The committee will also bring in local poets and other literary speakers.

The majority of the committee's money comes from donations from people who are interested in the campus and art on the campus, Stewart says.

"I know some people in Dallas who are interested in young people and who are interested in education," he says. "They got us off the ground."

Litmus funding also comes from former students who believe in what the Literary Arts Committee is doing.

Stewart says he feels that at some point the committee could be self-sufficient, but they won't be an income generator.

"Art never is," he says.

But whether art is a money-maker or not, this group of people involved with Litmus is concerned with other things.

Their pioneering spirit has sparked a determination to contribute something of value to the university and its students.

"I've never seen a group of people so excited about a project," Stewart says. "We ran into problems in planning; we ran into problems in personality, but these things never dimmed the fire.

"I feel really good about the people I worked with and the product we're putting out.

"It's been a very altruistic thing, but we're doing this for us too."

Stewart mentions one student, Susie Boyer, who delayed her graduation to work on the magazine.

"I feel I accomplished something at school besides school work," Boyer says. "I've accomplished something for A&M, and that made me feel really good about myself."

With dedication like that, Litmus becomes more than a magazine.

"We're providing an educational and cultural service to

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