

FORUM

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The Forum Presents The '68 Grover

It's that time of year again when awards, like flowers, blossom and fill with their fragrance every cranny of our otherwise empty lives. There are Oscar's and Tony's and Emmy's and Grammy's and many others. We conformists and group thinkers of the Forum staff thought it would be good for us to give some awards, for certainly there are those here who deserve awards. And, although we are generally a malcontent and cheerless lot, we rather paradoxically like to see people happy. Accordingly, with the hope that happiness will fill the lives of all those who receive awards from us, we present the 1968 Forum SPECIAL AWARDS Program, concluded by the presentation of THE 1968 GROVER.

We present the following SPECIAL AWARDS: The GOLDEN BROOM AWARD to our Dean of Women, to give her a flying start toward retirement.

The NEW LEFT AWARD to Dean Allen for his leadership of the Student Power Revolution at Texas State University.

The BACKBONE-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD to Grover Murray, who needs one.

The OPTIMIST-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD to Librarian Janeway for his tedious and wasteful book check-out system.

The BADGE 714 AWARD to Bill Daniels of Traffic-Security for his unforgettable words "Get off them flowers!"

The MOTHER-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD (commonly called the "mother") to Guy Moore of the Housing Office for his frequent and mostly unsuccessful attempts to bring strayed children back home.

The PLATFORMATE AWARD to Dr. Kline Nall (yes, children, he does exist) of the English Dept. for the longest-dragging TV serial in Texas State University history.

The GOLDEN LION MEDALLION to Nelson Longley, Student Union Director, for his courage in selling the Forum.

The SILVER SPOON AWARD to Roy Furr for his tasteless reign as Chairman of the Board. (Roy, you're a real card. Our congratulations to you.)

The SCUM-FLOATS-TO-THE-TOP AWARD, given jointly to all incompetent faculty and administrators just now reaching "the top" through seniority and due process

The ANONYMOUS AWARD to Dr. Sabe Kennedy, whoever that might be.

The BLIND-LEADING-THE-BLIND CITATION to graduate teaching assistants for their guts.

The STANFORD-BINET AWARD, to the Texas State Technological University Traffic-Flow Planning Commission for their placement of traffic lights near the Wiggins "Inferiority Complex" Dorms.

The UNKNOWN SOLDIER MEDAL to General Hershey, who doesn't know.

The VIRGIN CERTIFICATE to the one unnamed and unsung Freshwoman who kept her cool all year long.

To Max Blakney, in recognition of his leadership abilities, we award the MR. SMILES CITATION.

To the last and least in our SPECIAL AWARDS group goes the YELLOW TOILET ROLL SCROLL--to David Snyder and his shameless and brainless oafs at the U.D.

Now--and I know you've been waiting with considerable anticipation for this part of the awards--it is at last time for the presentation of the winner and runner-up for the GROVER. Our judges assure me that they have labored long over these choice selections. So let's all try to be partly happy with the decisions.

THE GROVER

THE GROVER, our award given for the most outstanding performance of either classical tragedy or unintentional comedy, goes to our school's Board of Directors for their consistent ability to act emotionally and irrationally in situations requiring intelligent progressive and decisive actions. We feel that their performance has best approximated the essence --the spirit--of THE GROVER.

The runnerup for THE GROVER was the majority of the student body of our school for the sensitivity, thoughtfulness, and concern among them which produced, from an enrollment in excess of 17,000, only about 4,000 who were willing to take time to vote in the Executive elections or in the recent CHOICE '68 referendum.

Until Proven Guilty

by Lillian George

Responsible news media reveal the truth about daily events. In criminal cases the media are obligated to maintain an atmosphere of doubt about the guilt of the accused who is 'innocent until proven guilty' by courts. The arrest of Benjamin Lach with subsequent news coverage demonstrated negligence of this obligation and may have convicted Lach in the public eye.

The media emphasized the ethnic element, printed parts of the accused's statement prior to its acceptance as evidence, prejudiced the case by editorials, overplayed circumstantial evidence, treating it as fact, exposed Lach's criminal record, and, finally, presented parts of the DA's hypothesis for fitting the facts together.

Local radio broadcasts hammered "foreign student" into the public's ear, failing to mention on several occasions his naturalized citizenship. Lubbock's A-J emphasized "Polish born" in the March 15 morning edition. Radio station KSEL however, did editorially castigate other news services for their handling of the case.

Parts of Lach's three - page statement were published in the A-J March 14 morning edition. Appearing on the front page under the headline "Student Gives DA Statement" was the following, "Although contents of the subject's statement were not publicly disclosed, the Avalanche-Journal learned that Lach had indicated Mrs. Morgan surprised him in room 304-J...." Treating a statement of questionable validity (from a second-hand source) as a fact is considered poor journalism, but to print part of the accused's statement before it is accepted as evidence in the case can be illegal although in this case it is within the letter (only) of the law since no quotations are from the statement itself. Newspapers are also prohibited from calling a statement a confession before it is accepted as such in court. Radio and television stations don't seem to be held by the same law, though, for many actually said Lach confessed. Later at the examining trial, Justice of the Peace Wayne LeCroy did accept Lach's statement as evidence, so any suits that could have resulted from these loose observances of the law were nullified. But one must ask this: Should one obey a law only to protect himself, or to prevent injury to others?

Two questionable editorials appeared in the University Daily. One was in the Thursday March 14 edition, under the title "Law Enforcement Difficult Business." The writer quotes Traffic-Security chief Bill Daniels as saying "I've never been so relieved in my life" about the capture of Lach. And, another paragraph down, the writer states, "The approximate \$20,000 spent on additional security for the campus immediately following the murder now seems unnecessary...." By the time the last paragraph says "If the man now charged

with the crime is guilty or not is for the jury to decide," the damage is done. It is already stated in so many words that we can all rest easy because the killer is caught.

Roy McQueen's editorial, "Who'll Get Reward" in the Friday March 15 issue of the UD is the other questionable editorial. The author seems convinced that the case is broken, that the killer is caught and that the only thing left to do is to decide who should get the reward.

These UD articles can be excused fairly easily as the products of inexperienced criminal reporting. However, the staffs of the professional news services know (we hope) laws regarding criminal reporting and thus should receive no quarter.

Overplaying sensational circumstantial evidence and treating it as conclusive was more widespread than any other offense. In the March 13 evening edition on p. 14-A, the A-J stated that reporters obtained "positive identification from at least seven persons" that Lach was the same man seen loitering around the Science Building. But they failed to mention the time element: these identifications were obtained more than a month following the incident.

See: **Lach** (Cont. on page 8)

THE PLAYPEN

During the past year, the Board of Directors have been confronted by the need to make several policy decisions. They have also had before them for well over a year the Name Change. And on February 10 of this year, the Board finally acted; it passed a resolution limiting freedom of speech and thought on this campus. Quite a record.....

The first issue of the Forum advocated a reversal of this anti-free-speech resolution. The Board failed even to consider this request. Recently it has become clear that the resolution is also a violation of AAUP principles. Will our Board always wait until it is forced to change--like a child with soiled breeches who isn't ready to quit playing? Or will it begin to act responsibly and on its own initiative? Board, we are waiting. Who will change your underwear this time--you, or someone else?

While we recognize the need for honest deliberation in making changes, we are tired of your deliberate evasion of responsibility on the Name Change. It is apparent that Texas State University is the name most favored, even among exes. Yet you still procrastinate, waiting no doubt for an Act of the Olympians from whose decisions there is little appeal. We know that you are all very busy, very important people (we hesitate to say "men"), but you must consider yourselves far more important than the degree candidates of this school, more important than the future of this school.

Frankly, we don't think you are.

Soul Off Ice

The following letter, dated April 23, was mailed to the Forum. Although the facts are not all correct, the attitude expressed in the letter deserves careful examination in light of recent events in America. The letter is printed as we received it in an effort to maintain the original feelings. Since the letter was hand-printed, we could not always differentiate upper and lower case letters. So this is like it is, Baby.

SOUL OFF ICE

Racism is Tech's name.

The Blacks and Latins are oppressed, misused and not represented.

Tech has no Black American History courses or African Language courses.

Tech has one Black Athlete out of more than 200 on campus yet UCLA won the NCAA with three Souls and Texas bred University of Houston was ranked No. 1 in basketball with 4 Soul Men.

There are 0 Black students on Academic Scholarship at Tech yet 20% of them can qualify.

The Blacks in Lubbock have resorted to buying machine guns to rebel baby and you are ignoring them. Whitey better open his eyes.

Black men fight in All white man started wars and come back to America and ain't free but the same Enemy they were fighting steps off the boat signs a paper and he's instantly Free.

Black men work all day for a $\frac{1}{2}$ days pay. Inter-racial dating is this -- A white man says it's alright for a soul man to marry his daughter but you can't marry my wife's daughter. Can you dig it?

The most prejudiced among the racist are white men and soul women.

There is a group of Black in Lubbock named RAM Revolutionary Action Movement and they carry matches and most don't even smoke - - - burn, baby, burn.

Why Martin Luther King White Society is sick, sick, sick.

Tech administrator, instructor and The President are all racist. Coaches are racist. Roy Furr - - - say no more.

Why is Mahammad Ali and Rap Brown political prisoner of white power when Georgy Wallace is a Presidential Candidate?

Who killed Martin Luther King -- Every weak Black man and all of the White who let their society be ignorant and stupid enough to shoot a man who preached "LOVE" "LOVE". He said Whites are my brothers and I must save them and set them free of their sick minds and guilts. What did Whitey do??

(Bang! Bang!)

Having perfected the method at the Wallace rally, elements of the Tech New Left should conduct a seminar on "How To Make A Bigot Look Good!"

The White Man needs a Black education in being warm, tender and stop shooting helpless dear, Buffolos, and killing Indians and Negroes.

Glense your soul Whitey or Heaven won't ever be intergrated

Will you Overcome!

A Black Citizen of the
Capitalist White Power
U.S.A. - Freedom School -
Lubbock

DISCRIMINATION?

by David Roloff

Discrimination . . . only a word, but a word that this society is supposed to be opposed to. Laws are passed and we proclaim the end to racial and religious selectivity; however you and I know that regardless of what the laws say the insanity of bigotry continues. Such laws are met by tokenism and outright defiance.

This is the case in college campuses. The supposed centers of innovation for our society continue to tolerate and even promote a system of closed-mindedness. On our campuses racism and tokenism are solidly entrenched in those oh-so-noble institutions called social fraternities and sororities. Either the beliefs within the constitutions or among the men of those organizations lie provisions for preventing the black man and other members of minority groups from joining the social "elite."

We came to such conclusions after two of us began an examination of Texas State's social fraternities and sororities in order to confirm or deny our fears concerning these organizations. After attempting to gain access to the constitutions of the organizations, we discovered that none of the administrative offices possessed copies of those papers.

After the administration proved to be no help, we called on officers of the frats and sororities in order to find copies of the constitutions. The overwhelming answer was that such papers were not available to us. Other fraternities replied that nationally they had two or three "negroes" in their organization. Duly impressed by such unbelievable liberalism, we gained further respect for the fraternities when the Phi Delt and Fiji spokesmen told us that it was, in effect, none of our damn business. Finally we received a straight answer when the Sigma Nu representative told us that they did indeed have a clause that stated that any person of slave descent could not join that organization.

See: Frats page 6

A More Functional Student Senate

by J.W.F.

The Texas Tech Student Senate usually meets every second Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the Biology Auditorium. Anyone taking time to attend will often as not be rewarded with an exhibition of slapstick unequalled this side of vaudeville.

But surprisingly, the Senate was not established to provide entertainment for its few visitors. It was created as an instrument through which the student body might make its demands known to the Tech administration and faculty. When one seriously considers the importance of this function, the slapstick incompetence isn't funny any more.

Since political realities at Tech permit the Senate to be crippled by the election of persons lacking the necessary integrity to teach themselves even minimal parliamentary and functional procedure required to discharge their responsibilities, we of The Forum urge that immediate steps be taken by the Senate:

1. To appoint a committee whose function will be to compile necessary information on basic parliamentary procedure and information on the structure, functions, and powers of the Senate. This information in pamphlet form should be made available to candidates filing for the Senate elections Fall 1968.

2. To amend the Student Association Constitution so as to require all candidates filing for Senate to pass a written examination over the material in the "Procedure and Functions" pamphlet before candidates' names are placed on the ballot. Candidates winning through write-in campaigns should pass the

examination prior to being seated. The examination should be administered by the Senate Elections Committee.

The immediate implementation of the above plan is necessary for maintaining even MINIMUM standards among Student Senators. These standards are essential if the Senate is to meet its critical responsibilities as they become more complex.

Student Power requires an effective means for applying that power. Please, no more slapstick.

The Other Driver

by Peter Harris

Frank Culpepper was driving along U.S. 77. He had been for several days now, it seemed. Back and forth. Back and forth. From Limbo to Rock, Rock to Limbo. He frowned lightly as he declutched and revved the engine, shifting down so he could make Rock Hill. Limbo-Rock. He started to hum it. Whatever happened to Rock? Now everything was psychedelic acid-rock stuff. Stuff, nothing more. Whatever happened to the good old dirty old days of basic-rock? His diesel began to slow, laboring--time to shift again. He reached for the stick.

These damn hippies own everything. Pappers. Radio stations. Men look like women with long hair. Probably are, he thought with a smile of grim satisfaction that almost made him feel good. He, at least, knew how to work long hours; the world of truck drivers was a world where men were all men. No damn sissy with long hair would ever handle a big rig like his, he muttered as he affectionately thumped the weather-beaten red door of his truck. It was warm from the spring sunshine and he let his hand rest there as the truck began to run downhill, regaining its familiar roar. When the chips are down, me and you, old girl, we can take any rig on the road, he whispered as he put his hand back on the wheel and looked in the side mirror.

Nothing there. He swiveled his eyes back to the road. Just then a new rig appeared around the curve. As it came nearer, Frank looked admiringly at the overhead sleeper cab with the air-cooler on top. Beautiful, he breathed, and felt disloyal. He grabbed over his head and pulled, greeting the new truck with a long and a short from his horns. As the new truck responded, they drew closer, and Frank saw with horror the driver's hair floating in the spring air, and on that beautiful truck, a daisy painted on the door in bright yellow and white.

A Hippie. Probably carrying drugs, Frank mused bitterly, cursing obscenely as the other driver smiled and waved, going another direction.

THE FORUM

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Patriotism And Nationalism

by Frank Wetherill

What is patriotism? We must ask ourselves this question just as we must also question the values by which we profess to live. A society which refuses to do so by taking them for granted is already spiritually dead. We accept or reject what is transmitted to us but by so doing we are transforming, we are in a sense creating our own values. Great Americans have always upheld this attitude.

Tyranny does not like this; it seeks to impose a deadly silence upon the speculative, inquiring mind. Does such a silence pervade Texas Tech?

Patriotism, as I understand it, is a love of one's native land, and as such, is tender and warm, a filial devotion acquired through understanding, experience and truth. It does not oppose the foreign but seeks to understand it, and by doing so, it may even assimilate it, thereby becoming in turn larger, more varied, often more superior and noble. Patriotism gives freely of itself but does not seek to coerce others: it bears arms in defense of the mother country rather than in conquest of a foreign people.

It springs of its own accord from the heart; it is innate and individual --- each may love his country in his own way, from his own experiences, from his own life.

Nationalism, on the other hand, is not so much a love of one's land as a hatred of others. It is inseparable from xenophobia and jungoism. Neither is it tender and warm, a filial devotion acquired through understanding, experience and truth. It thrives upon opposition to the foreign, upon an arrogant and brutal aggressiveness. Rather than assimilate the desirable attributes from other cultures, it promulgates the most negative and vicious aspects of its own. It seeks

to drive us all into a bed of Procrustes, the measure of all tyranny, by forcing the abstract upon the real, thereby killing the individual who is not abstract. For it people are generalities, not individuals. Nationalism is the blood brother of racism: it sees the blackness of a face but not the face. Its hatreds are as irrational as the blood feud between the red and the black ants. Rather than recognizing the liberty of the individual mind, the ferment and excitement of free exchange, it seeks unconsciously to impose upon us the equality of the herd. It makes of men rapacious beasts who attack alien skin color or, most dangerous of all, the alien ideologies, that bundle of abstractions learned by heart and recited on the tip of a bayonet. A political belief thus becomes functionally identical to skin color, to racism. Both are arbitrary and means of categorizing, therefore, of judging a priori (we know that all communists are bad).

Because patriotism is free and spontaneous, it cannot be taught. Nationalism, however, is always indoctrinated, most generally in schools where it bends and distorts the mind of the young and innocent. It makes of the bond between a man and his country a vicious complexity, an obscene collusion. The average man of today, if he seeks his freedom, must first repudiate a nationalism forced upon him at a helpless age.

Nationalism is a tribal perversion exerted on a huge scale. It commits every crime but will confess to none. The plague of our century, it has become our sacrificial altar. It makes us less than human. Now I must ask you, as I ask myself, how do we stand before patriotism and nationalism at this moment? How so we stand before Vietnam and our flaming ghettos?

YARBOROUGH IS FORUM'S CHOICE IN '68

On Tuesday, April seventeenth, Don Yarborough spoke at a fund-raising dinner in Lubbock. His message was clear, simple, and definite--something quite unusual.

Yarborough is the avowed liberal candidate. Here in the Plains area, the word "liberal" is often the kiss of death to aspiring officeholders. Yet Mr. Yarborough offers more than liberal platitudes and do-gooder panaceas. To be sure, he desires good for as many as possible. But he has a definite program of legislative goals, and in our estimation his program is far and away the most promising and comprehensive of those offered. It is promising not only in long-range terms, but also in more

immediate, tangible terms, in money-in-the-pocket and chicken-in-the-pot benefits designed to reach all the people rather than only those in the "higher" or more influential social levels.

Yarborough is no firebrand. He is rather an intelligent, pragmatic, concerned and enthusiastic person who wants to improve living conditions for all--to elevate the "general level of humanity."

Judging by the size and enthusiasm of the crowd he addressed in Lubbock, he is not without supporters even here in the self-satisfied heart of the Plains of Texas. Nor is he without supporters among the staff of The Activist Forum. We support Don Yarborough for the governorship of Texas.

Mounds Of Silence

by Peter Harris

This is the land of the free press and the home of the ? . So goes the story. Some say that the ? stands for inquiring, intelligent, persistent, and, above all, dedicated and honest reporting of any reliably-based news stories in the public domain.

Of course, we here on The Texas State campus frequently are given the opportunity to corroborate this idea. Only as recently as last December, the inquiring Lubbock Press's News Reporters swarmed over the campus, anxious to print the last known words of Alice Morgan, the brand of aquarium cleaner used by the Mad-Killer-who-is-still-Loose-on-the-Streets-of-Lubbock-so-bar-your-doors and, generally, any word that might carelessly slip from the lips of some confused and tired (and ready-to-be-retired?) higher official here as he was bombarded with questions about the killing. Yes, YOUR PRESS, citizens of Lubbock and of Texas State, was there-and here-and everywhere- to bring you (yes, little old you, friend) the TRUTH about the story of the Mad-Killer-who-is-still-Loose, etc. And just recently, the A-J BROKE (that's right, friends, BROKE Maybe) the case wide open. Even had the guy convicted before he got to the Grand Jury. That's our press. Inquiring. Intelligent. Persistent. And above all, dedicated and honest in reporting any and all reliably-based news stories in the public domain.

As another example in support of the above explanations of the ? we offer a more recent case: the intimidation, by a moderately highly-placed college official of remarkably high tolerance, of a student receiving financial support from the school. Remember the Wiegand Incident? Even the UD had that one. But of course stories like that don't boost the local police- or circulation- much. And the inquiring local press was there. Yes, hiding there in the corner. We of The Forum would like to think that this oversight resulted from sheer embarrassment. You see, the A-J has never re-

ported to Lubbock the existence of The Forum. And the Wiegand Incident, in some minor fashion, involved us.

But no doubt the Avalanche-Journal is holding off on this in order to research the case more fully and to present to us what really happened, a thorough exposé of the entire sordid incident perpetrated by a few long-haired militant left-wingers on the America-and-God-loving student body of Texas Technological University.

GENTLE THURSDAY

by Dan Bidwell

Gentle. It means an afternoon of whatever you want it to be. It means Thursday afternoon, Thursday morning. It means almost a religion creeping up on the nation. Young people, students, non-students, teachers, artists, humans. Even automatons can participate. Frats, Sorority chicks, cowboys, ROTC's, Peaceniks and war-mongers. If you come, you are part of it. Gentle Thursday, we think, is on the rise.

Tech's first Gentle Thursday was not advertised much. Only on small index cards hidden behind trees and under stairwells. Maybe it was aimed only at people who were not dazed; people who looked around, observed their environment. I don't think so, though, for its promoters (John Herbert, David Reece, Little Tony and Bigger Janet) shared thoughts that Gentle Thursday was for you, whoever you were.

This philosophical line is reminiscent of ideal Hippie thought, though that is not exercised anymore. You don't have to come high, you don't have to bring anything, you don't even have to Be Gentle. But you can if you like to. Besides, Gentle Thursday provides an atmosphere for relaxing that lets hostility, aggression, anger, rise from repression, and you can work it out by throwing sticks and grass and twigs at friends, or enemies. Or you can have a ketchup fight.

Non-political, non-ideological, with no codes of justice or morality, no dogmas. Very strange. Non-exclusive. Stranger still. You may want to ask, "Who are these people kidding, you can't be Gentle in Twentieth-Century America?" Perhaps you are right. Perhaps not. Come next time. Only if you want to. You may have to be observant to find the signs that tell you when. But it won't hurt to start looking at things anyway, maybe.

The architecture and, indeed, the university's overall atmosphere, color Tech a manure brown. The analogy stops here, however, because manure, at least, is fertile.

FRATS

Further spot samplings of individual frat. members confirmed the fact that it would indeed be difficult for a black man, a Jew, or anyone to join the Fred Frats and Susi Creamcheeses, regardless of what the national constitution said. Because of what is called the "blackball," any single active can prevent a person from pledging by casting his vote against the rushee.

Therefore, through provisions in the constitution of the fraternities and sororities and through the use of the "blackball" these organization remain, in effect, segregated. How long can such a system be allowed to stand? How long will this administration actively seek

See: Frats page 7

of the rules and grammarians
to whom we belong

by robert watkins

prose words hide
their darkness within the rigidity
of sentences and thought
is not a permitted sin
and freedom is just a word i once knew
if no man can stand alone
facing himself
he will not be and
words are not to be used
without meaning except when used
by people and laughter is known
to the pimp watching
through a keyhole and many birds
lie among many sheep
in peaceful brotherhood
for nerve gas is a good equalizer
and god will castrate you
if you dont sit down here
in this one place
there is not another
for the righteous man and if
you see me alone
i will be alone
for a person is something i find hard
to be
and uniforms of all kinds
flourish
when people fear each other
and children playing in the street
see no gutter
and grown men
finding no love inside
their lives do not weep
and the best excuse
is its someone elses job
and laws
made by men
cannot
judge
a
man

FRATS

more fraternities and sororities and therefore promote further tokenism and racism? How long will we continue to pay taxes and student union fees in order that such close-minded organizations may continue to meet and organize? Oh God, how long will it take to overcome?

After confronting the sickening situation we formed the following proposals. That campus recognition of social fraternities and sororities be revoked unless the following demands are met.

- a. That all fraternities and sororities at Texas A&M renounce all racial and religious discrimination and furthermore proclaim that they will invite members of minority groups to rush the individual organizations.
- b. That all fraternities and sororities abolish the "blackball" system.

Only after such provisions are met will we see any reason why such organizations should enjoy on-campus recognition.

The Crime of Heresy

John Doe
Tech College
Lubbock, Texas

Dear John,

I've been hearing about a small but vocal group at TSU who seem to have the utterly fallacious idea that they should have something to say about what affects them. The reasons for this utterly fantastic idea are not very clear, as the idea is in violent opposition to our American Heritage. Change from within has never been the American Way as any study of history will show. We have always tried to maintain the status quo even from colonial days. If those Communists had not caused that ridiculous revolution, we would still be a part of England as we wanted to be. When we got things to settle back down after that, we were all set to stand still again, but that Communist, Abe Lincoln, propagandized about all men being equal until he got us into another war. Of course, we were able to keep the Negroes from being free despite the results of the war, but they are being stirred up again by someone today. You can easily see that our history has always been one of others forcing change on us.

Now these Commie students want to bring about another change in the status quo; they want to improve the college by ending apathy there. Look at what dissent has done elsewhere: it has changed Berkley from an unknown school to a top-rated service-minded university with 27,000 students. They get millions of dollars worth of research grants annually and are forced to take an active interest in America. You must not let that happen at Tech. You have to keep the activists from changing Tech from an unknown college to a respected university where the students are more than just "livestock on campus" as the Encyclopaedia Britannica article states in reference to "Tech".

So my suggestion to you is to back up the members of the Administration who are fighting change and ignore the faculty members who think the situation there needs to change. Keep labeling the activists as communists so no one will listen to them. Support the system without questioning whether it is right or wrong, and put down anyone who asks intelligent questions. In this way you can help keep Tech a safe place for apathy and people who don't want to think. Tech has absolutely no reputation for anything except football and I'm counting on you to help keep it a fourth-rate unknown college somewhere in Texas instead of a first-rate university in Lubbock, Texas.

Sincerely,
Prudence Wisdom

Lach (Cont. from page 2)

Another of the circumstantial facts involved was Lach's similarity to the composite made by police from descriptions of a man seen in the Science Building the night of the murder. The A-J published the composite next to Lach's photograph in the March 14 morning edition, p. 6-A, with the outline "Amazing Resemblance." The use of the adjective "amazing" not only is poor journalism, but also it exaggerates the importance of the evidence just as "positive" exaggerates the validity of the identifications.

On page 10 of the March 15 morning issue of the A-J, similarities between the Tech murder and the Suffolk University killing are expressed, but the 'coincidence' is put in quotations to make it imply something other than coincidence.

Dragging in the suspect's previous criminal record (which has no specific bearing on the case) is another mark against the news media. While all the above pertains to definite, if circumstantial, facts in the case, Lach's previous record is an irrelevant fact. While proving that he was in the Science Building at the time of the murder could be instrumental in proving his guilt, proving that he broke into a professor's house to see his grades last year is completely irrelevant to his possible guilt in this case. The DA can bring it into court but the news media may not say "Well, that's one of the facts in this case." The only purpose it serves is to degrade Lach's reputation and prejudice further the public against his innocence. Yet, both the A-J and UD mentioned his conviction for breaking and entering.

Finally, presenting the DA's hypothesis for fitting together the facts has also prejudiced public opinion against the suspect's innocence or possible innocence. The March 14 issue of the UD repeated on the front page Griffin's statement that "police theorized Lach had been in the biology lab when Mrs. Morgan entered it at about 7:30 pm Dec. 4. He said this probably surprised Lach, considering 'previous offenses of breaking into offices.' When asked what Lach was doing in the lab, Griffin replied 'hiding.'" A similar statement of the DA's theory appeared in the Thursday evening A-J on page 14-A.

Accounts of the arrest sent out by local wire service correspondents were also condemning. On the front page of the March 14 edition of the Amarillo Daily News was printed "District Attorney Alton Griffin said that Lach had signed a statement admitting the slaying...." And later in the same article, "He gave a confession," Griffin said. The article also played up "Polish-born" and repeated the statement by Griffin, explaining why the accused was supposed to be in the lab at the time of the murder; all of this, and it hasn't yet been proven even that Lach was in the laboratory.

...Great guilt belongs to reporters. They know they help keep America slightly insane. - - Norman Mailer

On page three of the March 14 Fort Worth Press, more caution is observed than in the Amarillo paper. But the same statement is made: that Lach "signed a statement admitting the murder...." In this story also, "foreign student" is emphasized without further explanation until near the end.

The reporting of the examining trial was fair, if not thorough. But omissions are worthy of note. The quarrel over the acceptance of Lach's statement as evidence was completely overlooked.

Attorney Bill Gillespie tried repeatedly to question Lt. Carol Bartley about previous confessions made in connection with the case, but the witness was shielded by objections of the DA and the sustaining of these objections by Justice of the Peace LeCroy. Not until Lach's statement was accepted as evidence and read in full to the court with a copy given to the defense did Gillespie make any headway on getting information about the circumstances surrounding the other admissions of guilt. All that he was able to find was that there were three such statements: two which had come to the police (Bartley did not know how long ago) and one tape recording which the police received the latter half of February. After this there were a few sarcastic remarks from both sides, but it all boiled down to this question: Were the previous statements pertinent to the validity of the confession under consideration? The judge considered the confession irrelevant until Griffin proved its relevance. At this point, the defense attorney was allowed to question the witness about them.

The examining trial brought out another fact -- that the accused had been warned of his Constitutional rights but had not been taken before a magistrate after his arrest, either before or after he gave the police his statement.

The newspaper articles and radio and TV broadcasts revealing the facts about the arrest of and case against the suspect were in most cases in strict accordance with the law. Opinions were given in quotations, as were any statements of questionable validity. However, the spirit of the law--a true concern for keeping the minds of the public open--was absent from all but a few of the news media.

So far there are no federal or state laws against this kind of reporting. However, in many states, such as Mass. and Utah, bar and press associations have gotten together and formulated guidelines for themselves to keep such laws from becoming necessary. Many news media bigger and better than anything here in Lubbock have imposed codes of ethics on themselves and have managed to work within them and still thoroughly report criminal cases to the public. The offenses we have cited above have been included in most if not all of these codes. Many news services like those in Lubbock do not yet accept their responsibility for keeping the public open-minded in regard to the accused's innocence.