

Battalion EDITORIALS

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TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knighly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Who Makes the Best Student? . . .

The question has often raised whether or not A&M would profit by stricter entrance requirements. Certainly a great number of students come here in the fall poorly qualified or just not college material, only to fall out within a few months.

But a recent experiment at Brown University shows how careful one must be in setting minimum standards. A minimum, good in theory, in practice may strain out some good material while keeping the bad, according to results at Brown.

Brown pondered the question of giving a chance at college to veterans who had been disqualified theoretically by low high school grades or lack of credits from admission to other schools.

So they set up a special project for such veterans in their area—on an experimental basis and somewhat pessimistically—with the expectation of shifting a select few after two years to the established college. Actually

these mature GI students, who lacked the accepted educational background for college entrance, have demonstrated such remarkable capacity that one-third of them have already been transferred. Fifty percent stand as high in scholarship, or higher, than 75 percent of the "highly qualified" regular college students.

With so many colleges arbitrarily raising their admission "standards," these results are important. They throw doubt on the whole philosophy behind college admissions and indicate that a large proportion of the nation's best talent is being lost and many capable and deserving veterans are being unjustly shut out of the colleges.

It would be a good thing if A&M had better standards for entrance, but the Brown experiment shows clearly that a mechanical reliance on high school or other grades is not enough.

United States of Europe . . .

The "United States of Europe" may be just around the corner. This is the one piece of good news that has come from that continent since V-E day.

Unfortunately, much of the credit must go to the hapless Czechs. Their fall to Communist domination has made others see the need for union. It is a pity that such steps couldn't have been taken 12 months ago.

The new union may cover considerably less than all of Western Europe and it may fall considerably short of a European federal state which the name implies, but it probably will be in action soon.

At first it probably will be a loose organization including Great Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg designed as a working model of a union meant to be strengthened and extended to all or

most of Western Europe as an antidote for Communism.

Such a union has been the dream of some statesmen for 30 years or more. Failure now of the big powers to co-operate in peace, the West's fear of Communism and the increased need for joint action to keep people eating and working in war-battered nations are spurring on the planners.

Blueprints of the union's foundation are on the drawing boards at a Brussels meeting of diplomats from the five nations and diplomatic sources feel sure the eventual size and authority of the Western European union will be clear before the U. S. financed European Recovery Program ends in 1951.

Keep your fingers crossed and pray for success of the "U. S. E."

Spread Out the Dances . . .

VE and VJ Days have come and gone their alcoholic ways and the people of the United States have returned to pseudo-normalcy. But is A&M still fighting the Battle of the Bulge in continuing to follow the war-born system of crowding the entire Social Season into one short semester?

This may have been the proper answer to the soon-to-be-drafted Kaydet's desire to cram the most eating, drinking, and being merry into the brief period before he waded farewells to college joys. Now, however, Local Board No. 3 has lost its Frankenstein aspect and we are wont to relax and enjoy the social whirl more fully.

This Spring's calendar is more packed than a five o'clock Bryan bus. If one were, for instance, an Infantry junior belonging to the Hillel Club, there would be a total of five major balls to attend in six weeks. Need-

less to say, the average Aggie's wallet just can't take it.

In days gone by, when the Social Season was spread over two semesters, regimental balls were held on Friday nights before Saturday home football games. This gave the little woman the chance to attend two balls, partake of a midnight yell practice, and see the game—a rather full week-end. By the time the typical cadet's financial status had improved, Spring had come and he could afford bringing the one-and-only to his class ball.

Already this semester one regimental ball has had to be canceled because it fell between two class balls. As the situation now stands, the gay blade minus the cash necessary to be getting gay must pick the one event he can attend and spend the rest of the year hitch-hiking it to the side of his beloved. Gad! How arrogant that can make a female!

Big Deal . . .

You know how publicity men are—they like to get their stuff in the papers. Well, the flacks of the American Broadcasting Co. were out in force during the Gold Rush Centennial Celebration in Colma (Calif.) and so were lots of luminaries, from ABC and elsewhere. At one point in the proceedings, a couple of alert operatives for the network noticed that some newspaper cameramen were working away at California Governor Earl Warren and an assemblage of movie stars, so they lost no time in hustling Don Searle, ABC vice-president, right into the scene. Searle got his picture, taken several times which was the whole idea, but one of the shots, in the *Sacramento Union* has lots of faces red. It shows Searle with two other men and the caption reads: "Left to right, Governor Warren, Alar Hale and an unidentified radio announcer."

A technical transfer of the first order would be moving the shade of a blue serge suit to its owner's shoes. —Arkansas Gazette

Unfortunately, it seems that rich men are the only ones who ever see the blessings of being poor. —Arkansas Gazette

The Battalion

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O-Ooops! . . .

Early last month John B. Stetson Co., the hat people, ran an ad showing Bing Crosby dressed two different ways, for traveling and for dinner. The idea behind the whole thing was simply that being well dressed means wearing the right clothes at the right time, including hats. And to hammer home the idea a little further the ad stated baldly: "Bing Crosby is one of Hollywood's best-dressed men."

Among those who know Bing Crosby best that would be good for a laugh anytime. But that isn't the worst thing. While the magazines carrying this Stetson ad were still circulating, Crosby closed his Wednesday night radio show with a phrase approximately to this effect: "I will now put on my snapbrim Cavanaugh and leave."

The ideal of the free enterprise system, we are told, is a pot-roast to fit any pocket-book. These days most of them do—spatially. —Arkansas Gazette

A writer says there will be no such thing as kissing in 100 years. So what? There will be no such thing as us, either. —Arkansas Gazette

WELL, WHAT D'YA KNOW!



Letters to the Editor

AGIN THE BONUS

Editor, The Battalion:

According to A&M the veterans at A&M may soon be polled for their opinion on a possible state bonus drive. This inventory will probably lead to many arguments for and against such a drive. Jumping the gun, may these few words be thrown on the small fire some "children" have started.

1) The poll taken at T. U. resulted in something like 24 percent against and 66 percent for, I think. Hats off to the 24%. To possibly half of the 66%, I give credit for having no back bone, one way or the other.

2) If the main reason for demanding a bonus is because other states have given their veterans a reward, then hand us a T. S. card. They received a bonus simply because their states had surplus funds in the treasury and some thoughtful person suggested that the vets should receive the dough. In a recent report from the Capitol it seems the State of Texas has spent so lavishly that, at the present rate of squandering, the state will be in the red four months before the year is up. Where will the money for the bonus come from? Right out of our own pockets, of course. You don't think you will get money that the state does not have, do you? It can be had, if you insist.

3) The drive is actually nothing more than a bread line filled with pan-handlers who are saying in a round about way that they are: a) too lazy to work for a living; b) ungrateful for being in school (thanks to a generous government); c) selfish, egotistical, forgetful characters who are so short minded that they are not thankful for even being alive.

What about the poor devils who sleep the only sleep of true peace in some jungle covered or stinking muck hole of a grave. For shame!

4) Lastly, consider the source from whence the drive commenced, on the campus of dear ole T. U. See even the vets there have been water-logged by the lazy, feminine ways of a co-ed institution. Haven't we of late had enough dictation issued from that campus?

Besides the sound reasoning that the already over taxed state just does not have the money, do the veterans of Aggeland have to play Mary's Little Lamb to a bunch of T. U. zoot -sooters? Isn't being back home, being alive, and getting a free education enough? If not, vote suckers.

JERRY P. BREEN, JR.

PAROXYSM OF HATE

Editor, The Battalion:

Many an indignant statement comes from the uncontrollable pen of an unintelligent editor (tragic-



OPENS 1 P.M. PH. 4-1181 TODAY & WEDNESDAY A FIRST RUN SHOW -Features Begin- 1:30 - 3:40 - 5:45 - 7:50 - 10:07

A Gripping Story of Sacrifice! WALTER PIDGEON DEBORAH KERR in

If Winter Comes



News-Short-Cartoon

WATCH FOR THESE BIG ONES

THE BIG CLOCK

ALAN LADD in 'SAIGON'

HIGH WALL

IF YOU KNEW SUSIE

'GONE WITH THE WIND'

Would 'Pay-As-You-Go' Family Style Answer Mess Hall Needs of Veterans, Cadets Alike?

(This is the seventh in a series of nine articles concerning the mess hall situation on the A&M campus. The eighth article, entitled "No Fee Increase" will appear in Wednesday's Battalion.)

By LARRY GOODWYN
If the current study of the A&M Mess Hall situation has produced one sure-fire fact, it is that (1) veterans are getting enough "passably good" food, but it costs too much and (2) cadets are getting enough food at a reasonable price, but it is anything but "passably good."

To sum up the situation, veterans want lower costs, for the present food, cadets want better food for the present costs. And J. G. Peniston, chief of subsistence, would like to see a uniform system of feeding, rather than the present plan of cafeteria and family style both.

Apparently, then, the whole question probably could be cleared up and everybody made happy if some system could be introduced that is (1) uniform as far as Mr. Peniston is concerned, (2) cheaper as far as the vets are concerned, and (3) capable of producing better food as far as the cadets are concerned.

How about a pay-as-you-go family style method? It could work something like this. Serve the entire student body family style for five days a week, with the students paying on a monthly basis as at present. Then, on weekends, discontinue the family style method and serve the food on a profit basis, just as a commercial restaurant would do.

Real he-men never like to retire from active life, and a soldier's last resort to potency is to be of some use to society. Personal inhibitions direct that in being of use whether we should serve as national leader or county clerk. I grant that the ability to run our country is not one of MacArthur's inhibitions and that only on the basis of being of service to society is he a candidate for the presidency.

Sincerely,
JAY RUSSELL

Vet Transferees Notify Waco VA

Student veterans planning transfers to other schools are advised by the Veterans Administration to give at least 30 days notice of their plans, if they wish to avoid possible delay in payment of subsistence.

To enroll at a new school, the veteran will need a supplemental certificate of eligibility from the VA regional office. This requires both a notice to the VA and a statement from the present school showing satisfactory progress in studies.

QUEEN

TODAY THRU WED. "Out of the Blue" with George Brent

PALACE

TODAY THRU THURSDAY NEW! TERRIFIC! MICKEY ROONEY BRIAN DONLEVY ANN BLYTH in M-G-M's Thriller "KILLER M'COY"

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY WALTER WANGER presents JOAN BENNETT MICHAEL REDGRAVE Behind a locked door... the relentless evil of his past!

in FRITZ LANG'S Secret BEYOND THE DOOR with ANNE REVERE Produced and Directed by FRITZ LANG

Screenplay by SILVA RICHARDS • Based on the Story by Rufus King A DIANA PRODUCTION • A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL RELEASE

This plan would have the following advantages: Standardize the method of feeding, which in turn, should produce a more efficient basis for serving quality food economically; satisfy those cadets who forfeit the meals already paid for when they leave on a weekend; enable veterans to get more wholesome food at the same price they are paying under the cafeteria system.

Such a plan would, of course, cost more than the 40 cents a meal charged cadets under the present family-style system. But this loss would be offset to a large extent, if not completely, by the loss now sustained when students leave on weekends. For the veteran, the plan offers more food than he is presently getting in the cafeteria, (because he "can come back for more" under family style) at what should be about the same cost, per meal as can be obtained cafeteria style.

The only question would be the quality of the food. Peniston has pointed out that food served cafeteria style is better than the same food served family style. At any rate, if it developed that

the quality of the food couldn't be raised, without a corresponding increase in prices, it would be left up to the veteran whether he would be willing to sacrifice some degree of quality in order to get more food. If the majority of veterans favor such a plan over the present cafeteria style system, the plan should be acceptable to the student body as a whole. Samples of opinion indicate the Cadet Corps is favorable by such a five-day-a-week plan.

The only group that stands to lose by a change would be those veterans who prefer quality to quantity and can afford to eat heartily cafeteria style and those cadets who religiously eat in the mess hall, weekdays and weekends. These students, who actually are eating for 40 cents a meal, would suffer the proposed plan, by getting the same food at an increased cost.



LAST DAY ERROL FLYNN ELEANOR LUPINO-PARKER in WARNER BROS. "ESCAPE ME NEVER" A TALE OF WILD TEMPTATION!

GIG YOUNG directed by PETER GODFREY produced by HENRY BLANKI with GIG YOUNG directed by PETER GODFREY produced by HENRY BLANKI

WATCH FOR THESE BIG HITS - COMING SOON -

JACK H. SEIBERL and BRUCE MANNING Ginger ROGERS David NIVEN

Magnificent Doll and Burgess MEREDITH with PEGGY WOOD • HORACE McNALLY • ROBERT H. BARRAT

A MAN OF VIOLENCE! A WOMAN OF SCORN!

The pages of a best-seller pour their excitement onto the screen!

The FOXES OF HARROW FRANK YERBY

The Foxes of Harrow REX HARRISON • MAUREEN O'HARA

Directed by JOHN M. STALL • Produced by WILLIAM A. BACHER