

THE BATTALION

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WHY A. AND M. NEEDS THE BLANKET TAX.

(By J. T. Martin)

Today the Athletic Council and The Battalion are operating at a financial loss, while the Business Manager of The Longhorn sweats blood in trying to finance the college annual. These things are run for the benefit of the students, and we are the ones that ought to guarantee their success. The coupon-book system for athletics, and the subscription method for our college weekly and annual as a means of financial support have proved to be a failure. We need a system that will put the financial burden of these activities upon all students. This can be done only by the Blanket Tax. It will be low enough, that it will not cause any financial inconvenience to any student, and it will furnish enough money for the support of athletics, of The Longhorn, and, of The Battalion. A tax of \$13.50 is not too much. It would furnish enough money for the support of all, if it was distributed as follows:

Athletics 68.5%, or \$9.25 of the \$13.50.

The Longhorn 22.2%, or \$3.00 of the \$13.50.

The Battalion 9.3%, or \$1.25 of the \$13.50.

Some of you may ask why we should pay \$13.50 next year when we get all that the Blanket Tax pays for at only \$11.50? In the first place, we cannot get what the Blanket Tax will pay for at \$11.50 next year; for the writer is authoritatively informed that the coupon books for athletics will sell for at least, if not more than, \$7.50 next year. This will make the difference only fifty cents in what we shall have to pay for a coupon book. The Longhorn, and, The Battalion from the Blanket Tax. The difference is so small in comparison to the many advantages of the tax system that it should not be neglected. However, this difference is taken up by the necessary of The Longhorn having to put on a minstrel every year; so in reality there will be no difference in the amount of money spent by a student with the present method and the Blanket Tax. The tax will do away

with the necessity of the minstrel. In the second place, it gives a fair and equitable distribution of the money to all three phases of student activities that are not suffering from a financial handicap, and, it will insure to them a firm business bases upon which they can operate and depend upon.

The tax will give sure return and help pay the Athletic Council out of debt. We feel sure in saying that there isn't 100 students in school who knows what heavy expenses that the Athletic Council has to bear every year. Most of you will not believe it, but it is a fact, that the expenses of The Athletic Council is between \$20,000 and \$25,000 per year. By permission, we furnish you with the following figures:

Salaries (eight people)-----	\$ 16,000
Football equipment -----	2,500
Sweaters, silver footballs, silver bars, etc., for "T" and all-company men -----	700
Football officials -----	500
Guarantees of football games except Rice -----	2,350
Estimated expense of Track equipment -----	500
Total-----	\$22,550
Estimated income exclusive of tax or coupon receipts.	
Gate receipts -----	\$6,500
Other sources about---	4,000
Total-----	\$10,500
Difference -----	\$12,050

The coupon system yields about \$5,000 or \$6,000. Where is the balance coming from? The Blanket Tax will yield about \$13,000 or \$14,000.

In the statement of the expenses of the Athletic Council, nothing is said about basketball, baseball, boxing, wrestling, tennis, and various other sports. On an average, baseball and basketball have been paying expenses within the last few years, so they are not to be considered in the expenses of the council. It would take at least \$2000 to build and maintain five or six dirt courts per year. A. and M. should have at least twelve hard surface tennis courts. It will take about \$500 each for the proper equipment of boxing and wrestling, if these sports are to receive anything like a fair chance in this College. With these new sports introduced it will make the expenses of the Athletic Council about \$25,000 per year. We can easily pay it with the Blanket Tax. In addition of the heavy expense of the Council, there is an indebtedness of several thousand dollars which the council members have given their notes as a guarantee that this indebtedness will be paid. Every student in this College should see that these debts are paid—and not by the members of the Council. Athletics are for our pleasure, and we are the ones to pay.

The Battalion is publishing the paper at a loss of about fifteen or twenty cents per annual subscription. With the advertising and a \$1.25 apportionment of this tax, will be enough to pay the expense of the Battalion. The same is true with The Longhorn, an appropriation of \$3.00 will enable us to receive a bigger and better Longhorn. This tax means a great deal to our College publications; for it will enlarge their circulation to such an extent that they will be able to get more advertising. It is astonishing at the number of students who subscribe and have their Battalion delivered to them on the campus. A college paper is judged by its circulation,

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the larger the circulation, the easier it will be for the Business Manager to secure advertising matter. The same is true about the College annual.

If we pay the Blanket Tax we shall receive in return

- (1) More and better athletics.
- (2) The best Longhorn in the history of A and M., and
- (3) A bigger and better Battalion.

LET US HAVE THE BLANKET TAX.

JEWELRY

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A. M'KENZIE