

THE BATTALION

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All undergraduates in the College are eligible to try for a place on the Editorial Staff of this paper. Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors who are interested in journalism for its own sake, are urged to make themselves known to some member of the Staff.

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THE "JUNIOR-FISH" PROBLEM

The "junior-fish" question, as was predicted, has aroused quite a bit of agitation among the student body. What is surprising is that the most heated discussions were not among the seniors, but among the "junior-fish." These men have not hesitated to say that they want recognition, not as juniors, but as freshmen. Many of the men concerned have "big brothers" who finished school at A. and M.; they know that the invaluable experience a freshman receives here cannot be gained anywhere else. They have thought seriously over the question, and they know that they cannot hope to command, with any degree of success, men who were freshmen here while they themselves "sat on the fence."

The "junior-fish" demand the chance to gain the respect of the men with whom they are to be associated for two years of their life; they do not believe they can have this chance unless they served as freshmen during their first year here.

On the other hand, these "junior-fish" do not realize what a gulf they must cross in the sudden jump from freshman to senior. They have not visualized what their position will be in their senior year when they will command the men with whom they were either on equal or inferior terms only a few months before.

Obviously the time has come for a bit of constructive, clear thinking. The seniors must take the lead; they must impartially weigh sides of the situation and strive to attain a solution that will satisfy the "junior-fish", the upperclassmen, the freshmen, and the faculty.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK PROCLAMATION

"Year by year, the destruction of property by fire in America has been mounting until the total annual loss is now more than \$500,000,000. This means a waste each day of an average of \$1,370,000 of resources that we can ill afford to lose.

"But far worse than the destruction of valuable property is the toll of human life through fire. The average number of persons burned to death each day in the United States is stated to be forty-eight.

"In our own great State of Texas last year there was more than twenty million dollars worth of property and 284 lives destroyed by fire. A most conservative estimate is that 85 per cent of fires are from preventable causes.

"NOW THEREFORE, I, Miriam A. Ferguson, Governor of Texas, do hereby designate

OCTOBER 3RD TO 9TH, 1926

as

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK."

As a result of Governor Ferguson's proclamation, city officials, civic and economical organizations, school officers and school teachers are planning to arrange meetings and exercises for the study of fire prevention problems, and for impressing upon the public the seriousness of the waste caused by fire and the need of the utmost care in protecting life and property from this danger.

The cadets of the college will have no exercises in observation of fire prevention week, but at the same time it is well that we give the danger of fire a serious thought. Our fire fighting apparatus is not nearly as complete as it could be—in case of a large fire, it would be inadequate in the work of subduing the conflagration. Our greatest asset in fire control is prevention.

The students of the college can do much towards reducing the possibilities of fire. Especially should the occupants of such housing systems as Hollywood, Alpha, and Beta, guard against such danger. A. and M. has had her disastrous losses from fire in the past, and such losses as that of the old Academic Building, the old Mess Hall, and the old M. E. Shops are still vivid

in the minds of the older members of the college family. A reasonable amount of care and forethought will do much to prevent another impairment of this sort.

THE NTH COMMANDMENT

Thou Shalt Not Deface the Walls of Thy Halls. This is the order issued by the powers that be.

A pleasant and totally unexpected surprise awaited the old men when they began to arrive this year. The main building had not been moved, neither had a hall been built in place of our own exclusive Hollywood. No, but the rooms in the various halls had been decorated until they fairly shone with new paint and varnish. Works of arts, family histories, and the scars of battle have been removed.

Hence the order issued above! Is it to be obeyed or not? When the college authorities have seen fit for a large expenditure of time and money making the rooms livable is it our part to tear down what has been done for our convenience and help? Why not do our bit by refraining from defacing the rooms this year as has been done in years past?

Park your gun behind your ear, expectorate in a "gobboon," buy an address book for all your phone numbers and enter all your bright thoughts in a diary.

With a little work and some few decorations the rooms now can be made attractive. Take pride in doing your part so that when we come back next year we need not don the old clothes and redecorate.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship has not the depth of meaning held or implied in friendship. A friend is more than simply—not an enemy. Even fellowship does not drop to this small attitude.

Robert Browning called the Summum Bonum, trust. Trust, one in another, can be possible only when the parties concerned instill confidence in one another by an evident and simple regard for Truth. Fellowship demands that there be no cool caution, no picking of words, no circumvention with another fellow.

We have a healthy example of fellowship in our yell practice. It may not be so with the freshmen as yet, but all of the old fellows can confess to a peculiar hankering to get out to the next yell practice in front of the Y. M. C. A. steps. What is the explanation? They have fellowship there. Class distinctions are dropped; junior, senior, freshman, sophomore, alike, rub shoulders in the friendliest good feeling, raillery—fellowship. Considered seriously from one point of view, probably the way an onlooker would feel, yell practice seems a big show of nonsensical actions, noise; the yell leaders preach hate, by turn they commend then reprimand the corps for their response at yell practice. Taking only one little point on the serious side, the individual should not take the idea of hating your rival school too seriously. The yell leaders really only wish to create a keen dislike for any unfair practice. They want you to see the smallness, the ridiculousness, in your rivals. A. and M. has always played the game fair in all things, in our football games particularly. To understand the bigness of your college, to pull loyally together in all things for her welfare, that requires fellowship. Don't you just feel immensely thrilled, proud of A. and M., each time you enter into the spirit of yell practice? If you don't you had better ask yourself what is wrong, and get right.

Just one more thing. Freshmen in particular have a signal opportunity to make the acquaintance of hundreds of boys this first year. Take this opportunity as a privilege, ever make new contacts, you will profit, you will enjoy their fellowship all through your college years and perchance after. A. and M. is a big brotherhood, a place where fellowship flourishes.

"AMBITIOUS"

Long and loud has been the cry of "ambitious" directed at the student who tries to do his best in his work and to obey the college regulations. As soon as some conscientious student, who prides himself in fairness, the desire to do right, and the desire to make the most of his college years, tries to take advantage of his opportunities, he is immediately beaten down by the lazy few, who themselves are the jealous-hearted, envious men who ruin a school. These men launch a verbal attack against the student who tries, and by accusing him of trying to get a "drag" with the military or college authorities, make it impossible for him to do his duty and still hold his head up. If the fellow who wants to learn asks the professor a few questions, he is trying to get a "suck," especially if he stays after class to ask these questions. If he makes all the military formations, he is ambitious, and especially so if he tries to get others to do their part; and if he once gets the name of ambitious then he is an outcast to a great extent.

What, then, is the conscientious student to do? Is it fair to keep a good man from learning and doing just because there are a few lazy fellows? The fellow who wants to do his best should not be made to suffer, for in the end it will be found that he is the one who had enough sense to take advantage of his opportunities.

NEW Y DIRECTOR MAN OF WIDE EXPERIENCE

M. L. Cashion, successor to W. H. "Pa" Matthews as secretary of the Y. M. C. A., is already familiar to most of the students of College by his assistance at the opening exercises and his ready hospitality at the Y. Mr. Cashion came to Sherman Texas, from South Carolina to take the position of secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at Austin College. During the

war he went overseas with the Y, but held a position on a committee of inter-racial affairs on his return. He then returned for a short while to Austin College, before taking charge of the Y here.

Mother—Didn't I see you sitting on that young man's lap last night?

Daughter—Well mother, you told me that if he ever got sentimental to sit on him.