

# THE BATTALION

Student weekly publication of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.

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## CORRECTING A MISCONSTRUED STATEMENT

In his address of welcome President T. O. Walton made a statement, more in jest than in seriousness we hope, which has been taken all too seriously by members of the faculty, residents of the campus and visitors from elsewhere who heard the address. In this statement, given as an illustration in a plea for more considerate treatment of freshmen at A & M, Dr. Walton told that it was the opinion of one of our recent visitors that freshmen were not allowed to use the library.

In our three and a fraction years as inmates of this institution we have never seen a freshman refused admittance to the library, nor have we heard anyone tell a first year student that the use of the library was not included in his privileges. In fact, we have seen the reverse situation several times, an upperclassman suggesting to a freshman that he use the library as a source for reference work.

There may have been a time when the traditions of the student body included excluding freshmen from the portals of the college library, but that tradition must have certainly been discarded, if traditions ever are discarded at A & M, before we entered the college. We know that as freshmen we frequently used what facilities the college library afforded and we saw other freshmen doing the same thing. At no time were we told we were in a place reserved for others.

What puzzles us more than anything else is how any freshman ever completed his freshman English course without resorting to the library occasionally. An answer to this question would no doubt be welcomed with open arms by freshmen of this year and of coming years.

A & M has long been accustomed to suffering from remarks made by the uninformed. Apparently the remark made by our visitor was just another case of a judgment based on misinformation, the same type of tale-bearing which is used by one scandal-mongering woman in speaking of another, and the same label should be applied to it—muck-raking.

Truly, we are convinced the ducking stool should never have been thrown into discard.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

This is our-the staff of The Battalion-publication and we want no outside literary aid! Our literary education is complete and abundant and any attempt in the way of contributions for the paper will be considered an infringement on the rights given to us at election last year. This is the staff's traditional attitude and the present one has no desire to change it!

No Battalion or any other staff has ever assumed such an attitude, but the rest of our gang has saved us the trouble: they have assumed and perpetuated it for us. Each year's staff starts determined and illusioned: determined to put out more and better and illusioned to think they will put out a student publication instead of an individual expression. Instead of being the assemblers of student ideas and jokes, we are statues for student optical notoriety. We are agricultural, liberal arts and engineering students just as most of the registered inertness in the dormitories who never appear with their ideas except to comment en-masse on some meaningless Aggie tradition, but we are not looked at as such.

Although all outside material presented will be accepted and printed, if legible, this year's staff is starting with no foolish illusions on outside contributions, but with a desire to put out an interesting paper, and with the customary whole hearted support of the rest of you, we expect to live up to standards set in previous years by The Battalion. No better can be expected! Nothing can be exceptional unless you, yourself, have an interest in it. Look forward to those Wednesday night editions.

## THE FRESHMAN'S POSITION

Fourth year, third year, second year and a beginner, the difference is their respective abilities for reasoning in terms of his college activities and problems, the freshman being the youngest and possessing the least of this ability.

Logically, it should be the upper classman who should let the newest thing on the campus know his traverse and insist on

some things undesirable to the firsts so that the experience of it all may help him later in a reminiscent period to choose his course and the course which he is to influence others into taking. In most schools fraternities take this job of making the man but some of the more unfortunates list from side to side, absorbing that information most obvious to all, and living even to the diploma act in an ignorance stimulated by indifference.

All A & M customs are not desirable; in fact, some are disgusting, but when men of high school fame are picked off their roosts for a more sane life, they have been greatly befriended. Excessive hazing, which includes the act for the mere fun of it, is detrimental in any case and encourages severance of friendship, but hazing promoted to still the cockiness of some impersonators of the educated gives benefits traceable even to our general welfare.

Remember: you are a part of the largest fraternity today existent; you are a member of the U. S. Army, and if this signifies nothing to you now, you will later learn to appreciate its meaning.

## STUDENT COMMENT

Texas A & M is now entering upon its fifty-fourth year as an institution of higher learning. Being a melting pot, so to speak, it has again taken in a new class of freshmen. A group of fellows that represent a cross-section of modern youth; a group that represents almost every part of this state, some of the other states of the United States; and quite a number of foreign countries. They are fellows who have, more than likely, some ambition in them—fellows who have come here for a definite purpose, in many cases. They have come seeking an opportunity to better themselves and to prepare for the game of life.

In such a large number, one will always find a variety of personalities which reflect all types of environment. The majority of those react normally to new situations such as they find themselves in at present; but there are many who, for reasons not easily discernible, find it difficult to orient themselves to the new tradition. The latter are the ones who suffer at the hands of an unscrupulous few who find pleasure in preying upon the ignorance of fellows lacking in knowledge of the ways and customs of this institution.

The editions of the college year-book for many years past, present, as mute evidence, the continuity of such an outrage as mentioned above. The "Fish" Sergeants and "Fish" Corporals stand out as the disgraceful examples of such a practice—a practice that has long been a source of pleasure to many of the old students. It is a situation that does not seem so comical when we stop to think how easily we, ourselves, might have fallen victims of just the very same fate—being disgraced in the eyes of your fellow classmates and lowered in the estimation of all those with whom you may chance to associate with in later years. All who read this will recall some special case, known to you, where some fellow, possibly one out of your own organization or class, has had the misfortune of being made one or the other. There is no doubt as to the after effect that such has upon a fellow. Being of a sensitive nature (and that is usually the case, unfortunately), those freshmen, who fall victims to

such, have an inferiority complex forced upon them which they carry with them through the entire four years—if they don't lose courage before then because of the initial set-back received in being made either a "Fish" Sergeant or "Fish" Corporal.

Looking at this situation as it is prevalent today on this campus, in this institution which is supposed to offer an equal opportunity to all who enter it, no one can show where such a practice benefits the fellow whose misfortune it is to have such a burden thrust upon him. No one, who is willing to give a fellow a half chance, will agree that such is "shooting straight," figuratively speaking.

This "TIME HONORED" custom is one that the college authorities are certainly aware of; it is one that has been tolerated in a "good humoredly" fashion; it is one that has made no friends

and many enemies; it is one that should be STOPPED.

Ed. M. Carl, '30.

John Masfield, poet laureate of England, who used to be a New York bar tender, and whose poetry frequently sings the praises of wine, is a teetotaler.

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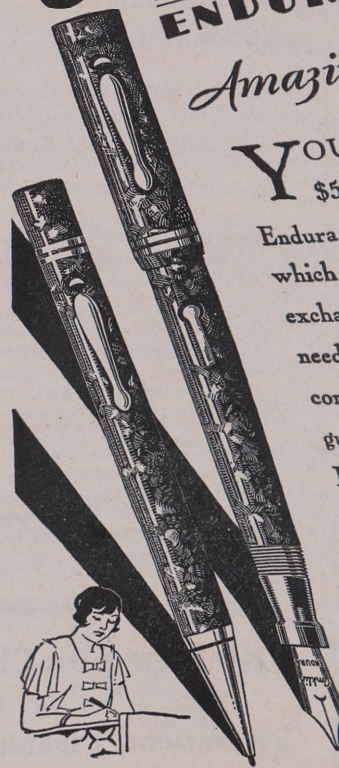
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