

THE STUDENT FORUM

This week we received two letters to Student Forum, neither of which is being printed. The reason they are not being printed is because the writers did not comply with one of the staff's requirements for accepting a letter for publication.

Letters sent to Student Forum must be signed with the writer's full name or they will not be used. If you have something to say, surely you think enough of it to allow your name to be used. And if you don't, we don't.

EDUCATION

It has been rather conclusively demonstrated that in public education the people get what they pay for, and no more.

There is no magic formula by which scholastic standards may be raised. It can be done only by spending money for—proficient instructors, and by providing proper educational equipment.

The people of Texas need to examine the financial structure of the 15 institutions of higher learning which are maintained with their tax money. If they have serious shortcomings, it is not difficult to find the reason.

Facts developed recently at a meeting of presidents of these colleges and universities at Austin need to be understood by all those citizens who are interested in placing Texas institutions of higher learning on a basis of equality with the most efficient systems in the country.

It was explained at the Austin meeting that Texas college and universities are given meager financial support in comparison to those of States where the most efficient machinery of higher education has been developed.

The State of Texas, during the year of 1936-37, spent 3.75 per cent of its total revenue for higher education. Missouri spent 8.48 per cent, Wisconsin 7.96 per cent, Iowa 6.58 per cent, California 5.76 per cent, Illinois 5.23 per cent and Minnesota 4.15 per cent.

It costs every citizen of Texas 89 cents for higher education per year. Missourians pay 78 cents, citizens of Wisconsin \$2.10, citizens of Indiana \$2.00, California \$1.70, citizens of Minnesota \$1.57, and citizens of Illinois \$1.07.

At the University of Texas, the ratio of students per teacher is 18.9, and at A. & M. college it is 15.3. At Cornell university, which maintains the highest scholastic standards in the country, the ratio is one instructor for each 6.5 students. The University of Illinois has one teacher for each 8.5 students, and the University of California one teacher for each 11.4 students.

The average cost of instruction per student enrolled in eight Texas colleges is \$182.79, while the average for a dozen institutions in the other States is \$368.56. The most expensive college in Texas costs the State \$201.60 per student, and the least expensive \$166.00. The most expensive of other States is Cornell, where it costs the State of New York \$714.40 per year for each student enrolled. The least expensive college outside the State of Texas is Louisiana State University, where the per student cost is \$379.60.

Per capita student costs in Texas have decreased steadily. Economical administration and conservation of State funds have made it possible to maintain the older institutions and increase the number of units in the State college system at an extremely low cost to the taxpayers. The State appropriation per student has decreased from \$509 in 1926-27 to \$145 for the present year at A. & M. college.

The Legislature now meeting in Austin soon will face the problem of making appropriations for higher education's support during the next two years. Educators and friends of higher education believe the system of making appropriations on a per capita basis, as was done during the past two years, is the fairest and most satisfactory financial setup yet devised.

The Legislature should follow that procedure in making appropriations for the next biennium, but its members should bear in mind two highly important points. One is that the per capita allowance now in effect is too low. It does not allow colleges and universities to employ a sufficient number of instructors. It does not allow them to pay salaries which will attract outstanding educators and keep them in Texas, which is necessary to assure outstanding scholastic achievement. The per capita appropriation should be raised as much as the State's finances will allow, at least sufficiently to place Texas on a parity with other States of comparable resources and wealth.

During the past five years there has been a 10 per cent increase in enrollment every year in Texas institutions of higher learning. Appropriations, however, have been made on the basis of enrollment during the year when the Legislature is in session, and not in anticipation of increases during the following two years.

Thus, the per capita appropriation has been

greatly reduced. The new appropriation should take into account this predictable increase in enrollment, since there is no reason for assuming the upward trend will be reversed.

—THE HOUSTON POST

THE NATIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION of America at its last convention voted not to back the annual nation-wide college peace strike.

BLUE KEY, NATIONAL HONORARY FRATERNITY will hold its 1940 national convention at Kent State University in Ohio.

THE "FOUR MOST VALUABLE STUDENTS" attending U. S. colleges and universities will be honored by the Elks National Foundation after a special competition.

THE FINEST COLLECTION OF ITS KIND in the world, the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University owns 994,704 plant specimens.

MARTIN SCHILLING, MIDLAND COLLEGE student, has traveled 12,000 miles "by thumb" in 15 states during the last three years.

THE FIRST AND ONLY LECTURE-SHIP on cancer in the world has been established at the University of Chicago.

Dr. T. F. Mayo's Column

The most universally respected men of letters in the world today, so far as I know is Thomas Mann, the German novelist, author of "Buddenbrooks", "The Magic Mountain", "Joseph and His Brothers", "Young Joseph", and "Joseph in Egypt", all of which are hereby recommended.

Herr Mann, driven from Germany by his anti-party toward the anti-democratic Hitler regime, has recently been delivering in the United States a lecture entitled "The Coming Triumph of Democracy". In the form of a little book of 65 pages this finest of all defenses of democracy is now available in the Library. It is a book which, I think, will be one of the famous documents of our time.

In the face of the apparent triumph of the "dictator" idea in contemporary world politics, Thomas Mann believes not only in the rightness of democracy but in its ability to win out in the long run over all other systems and political philosophies. Two or three points stand out in his little paper:

1. Democracy is the only system which is based upon respect for every human being. All other systems look upon man as means to some end, as raw material to be moulded by some person or group of persons. Only Democracy regards every man as an end in himself. Democracy alone values wealth, laws, theories, national power as merely instruments by means of which every man may be freed and stimulated for development into the best that he has in him to become.

2. Democracy values three principles: Freedom, Truth, Justice. Now Justice—Social Justice—happens to be the thing that our own 25th century is most concerned about. No movement can become widely popular with us nowadays without at least pretending to give a greater degree of social and economic justice.

Therefore, Mann writes, Democracy in our day, if it is to win back such support as it has recently lost to Dictatorship, must clean out of its own back yard whatever litter of plutocratic injustice may have accumulated there. Democracy, he thinks, will triumph over the dictatorship idea of providing to all classes that it can remedy, by its own democratic methods of reform, the glaring inequalities and injustices that exist at present in democratic countries like the United States.

This sort of democratic house-cleaning is what Herr Mann thinks the New Deal is trying to carry out:

"Franklin D. Roosevelt", he writes, is—a true friend and a genuine servant of liberty even when he limits and regulates it socially, for it is by such means that he takes the wind out of the sails of fascism and bolshevism also."

In other words (if one may venture to rephrase such a giant writer as Thomas Mann: The Dictator says to the poor and oppressed classes, "I will give you economic justice if you will surrender your liberty to me." The New Deal replies, "Let us arrange our democratic system so that you may have economic justice, and yet keep your liberty also."

Perhaps, in centuries to come, Communism and Fascism may be remembered by historians chiefly as the passing threats which forced a Democracy grown fat and sluggish to awaken to its economic responsibilities—to guarantee economic justice to everybody—to protect the weak against the strong in money matters, just as its police already protect the cripple against the bruiser, the unarmed citizen against the gunman.



CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

THE ARCHERY CLUB

All would-be Robin Hoods, attention! Here's your chance—if you take part in the activities of the Texas A. & M. Archery Club, one of the youngest organizations on this campus. Though started just this past fall, it has got off to a good start, with already a membership of more than thirty-five.

Anyone is eligible to membership in the Club. It consists of two groups, one of Aggies interested in archery, the other a general group of all other persons living on the campus or in its vicinity who are interested in the sport. Club officers and teams for collegiate matches are chosen from the student group, but all members may take part in local matches.

The purposes of the Club are, in general, the following: to draw together all those who have had an interest in archery; to provide, as a group, those elements that would be missing were the archers to act independently; to arouse an interest and bring into the organization those who now have little or no knowledge of the sport. At the meetings, held twice monthly on Monday nights in the

Physics Building, members are taught the fundamentals of marksmanship, proper care of archery gear, and construction of individual items of the gear. In addition to the night meetings there are to be other meetings of part or all the Club during the day; there are, for such purposes as practice in the handling of the bow and arrows, target shooting, roving, hunting, flight shooting, and competitive matches. The Club hopes to arrange matches with archers of other colleges, for the coming spring.

The Club is planning a number of worthwhile activities for next semester. Spring, the time for the most pleasant shooting, will soon be here, and it is hoped that many Aggies will take advantage of this opportunity; for archery is a fine sport, one that develops skill and manual dexterity and marksmanship in addition to being an enjoyable pastime.

The organization is sponsored by Dr. Nat. H. Godbold, instructor in the Physics Department and also operator of the College Archery Range at the North Gate. Club officers are Wesley Perkins, president; C. F. Hussey, vice-president; and Jack Walstad, secretary-treasurer.

COLLEGIATE REVIEW

ACCORDING TO THE SKIFF Texas Christian University newspaper, T. C. U. receives its greatest bundle of mail from A. & M. The postmaster there reports that the Aggies write long and often and that they also get answers.

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY HELD a "Corrigan Week-end" last Saturday and Sunday. In order for the girls to be able to show their "appreciation" and for the boys to be able to see how it should be done, the co-eds at Baylor reversed their responsibilities over the week-end. Boys were tenderly helped into cars by their female escorts, who carried their purses for a reason other than ornamentation. And cashiers opened their eyes when they saw girls pay for the entertainment.

LUNCHEON AND DINNER
COFFEE CLUBS 9 A. M. to 8 P. M.
ECHO TEAROOM
Highway 6 at College Virginia Dibrell

PREVIEWS and REVIEWS

Tonight and tomorrow at the Palace is showing Moulin Rouge Revue in addition to the feature picture. It will be the first appearance in this territory of the troupe, which according to advance notices is a good show in the vaudeville tradition.

Saturne Thursday, Friday and Saturday:

"Stand Up and Fight." A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture starring Wallace Beery and Robert Taylor with Florence Rice as the heart interest. Directed by W. S. Van Dyke II. Produced by Mervyn Leroy.

The Cast:
Captain Boss Starkey.....Wallace Beery
Blake Cantrell.....Robert Taylor
Susan Griffith.....Florence Rice
Amanda Griffith.....Helen Broderick
Arnold.....Charles Bickford

For this particular show, Hollywood's pretty boy grew hair of no mean length on his chest and became a meanie who would frighten even the Dead End Kids.

Fresh from being transformed from the dream of every anemic female into a swashbuckling prize-fighter and typical American young hero, R. T. goes to the extent of scrapping with the toughest who plays only one kind of role but does it well, Wallace Beery.

Based on Forbes Parkhill's novel, "Stand Up and Fight" is a story of the 1850's in light of the bitter rivalry between the railroad and stagecoaches.

The director is the guy who wasted \$2,000,000 on "Marie Antoinette."

The show is said by those who have seen it to be good.

KNOW YOUR COLLEGE

Did you know that A. & M. has the biggest indoor swimming pool in the South? Well, it does. Known officially as the L. P. Downs Natatorium, it is 100 feet long and 60 feet wide, greater than any other indoor pool in the Southern states. It was built about seven years ago at a valuation of \$90,000. The "New York Times" has stated that the pool is good for one hundred years more.

The pool varies in depth from 3 1/2 feet at the shallow end to 10 feet at the deep end, with an average depth of about 7 feet. It contains some 315,000 gallons of water which is actually purer than the water we drink. The water is regularly and frequently tested, both here and by the State Board of Health, in order that the water may be kept absolutely free of harmful bacteria. The water runs continuously through a filtering and chlorinating system. Both the water and the room are maintained at a constant temperature of about 80 degrees.

At the deep end of the pool are a low diving board about three feet above the water and a high one about ten feet above, both of the sturdiest construction. Around the pool are seating accommoda-

tions for more than 600 spectators. Here take place all the local swimming and diving matches and the water polo contests of the Aggie teams, and also the annual State high-school swimming and diving meet in May started by A. & M. in recent years through the efforts of swimming coach Arthur Adamson.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE riflemen have won 23 matches in 24 starts.

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