

Administration Busts...

In all the charges made by the VSA and the Cadet Corps, we failed to detect a well-grounded grievance that certainly should be brought to light.

It is possible to trace back through the record of the entire controversy and find numerous instances where the Commandant, the President and the Board of Directors have fumbled the ball in the precise job of student relations.

Start at the beginning—January 27, 1947. A new order was released to the Cadet Corps, prohibiting room or dormitories, use of the board, freshman walking in the streets, humping, and allowing fish to sit in booths at campus confectioneries without fear of penalty.

But here's why the seniors decided to turn in their commissions—neither the senior class as a whole, nor individual members had been consulted for advice in framing the Articles. No one had even been notified, officially, that a change in discipline was contemplated.

The first complete dope anyone had on the subject came out in The Battalion the night the switchover from dean of men to commandant was to be announced.

All the bickering, distrust, and unrest might have been prevented by the simple democratic procedure of sitting down around a table and discussing the proposed change in discipline. That would have been tactful, skillful diplomacy.

Instead, a new and galling change in the Cadet Corps was thrown in the face of the seniors, and the administration was foolish enough to believe they would take it lying down.

Bust No. 1

President Gilchrist met with a senior committee late one afternoon during the January ruckus. He listened to their plea, then dismissed some of their grievances as trivial.

Could this have been prevented by tactful handling of the committee? Perhaps so.

Bust No. 2

Here's one that very few people know about or understand. Col Meloy felt the seniors' vote of "no confidence" in Brandt and Nelson was unjustified.

In the same speech, Col. Meloy ordered all seniors to go to Ross Hall, and, if present at the meeting when the "no confidence" vote was taken, to "repudiate their vote."

The fifth mistake, made by President Gilchrist himself in a statement to the board answering the VSA "questions", was in laying the blame for the veterans uprising to administration attempts to stop hazing.

To those living at A. & M., his mistake was readily apparent; to the people of the state, it looked like a smoke-screen to cloud other more fundamental issues.

The unbiased eye, it is evident most of the vets don't care a whit about hazing, either in their dorms or in the corps, and don't participate either.

The Board of Directors made this one. In a statement released after last week's special session, the board stated: "The presidency of this institution is not an issue of controversy between this board and the student body of this college.

The obvious fallacy in this reasoning is that the students of A. & M. are people of Texas, a majority having the right to vote.

Perhaps the board committed this error of logic through ignorance of valid thinking processes. If so, it is a startling reflection on the men responsible for the education of thousands of Texas citizens.

The Battalion

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Two Strikes on Vets...

The Veterans Association goes before the Senate-House investigating committee in Austin tonight with two strikes against it.

Strike One

The association called newspapermen from all over the state to attend a mass meeting at which sensational charges were apparently to be hurled.

So what were the questions leading to? Charges of financial skulduggery? Mishandling of funds? Or just challenging the judgment involved? No one has yet said, and the questions have only confused the issue.

The explanation that the questions were being asked honestly in hope of informative answers does not ring true.

Obviously, the charges made at the mass meetings, and the demand for Gilchrist's ouster, had little to do with each other.

Strike Two

When the officers of the Veterans Association went before the board of the college, they refused to amplify their charges on the grounds that they had no faith in the board.

There is no reason whatever to expect the Senate-House committee to be any more favorable than the board of directors.

Only facts—major facts—will impress the investigating committee. Only facts—unimpeachable facts—will impress the Texas public.

Education Factory...

(This editorial was written before Dr. F. B. Clark's speech in Dallas.)

In all the dispute between the administration on one side, the cadets and the Veterans Association on the other, little has been heard from the faculty.

Maybe it's the nature of the school. Maybe professors of engineering and agriculture just aren't given to speaking out the way teachers of English or economics do.

There is no faculty club on this campus, where teachers could get together and hold their own "bull-sessions."

Not so many years ago, most of the A. & M. faculty was housed on the campus itself.

Times have changed. A. & M. has grown into one of the nation's larger schools.

Several generations ago, colleges were run by the faculty. Policies were set by the academic council, consisting of full professors.

Now the board of directors has taken over most of the functions of the academic council.

The board believes that education is a business, as stated by John Newton at the last meeting.

IT'S AN IDEA

Says the "Baylor Lariat" in regard to dismissals of Aggie cadets from the corps, "If the purge were conducted on a Reguar Army basis, all these cadet officers would be fined 15 cents, reprimanded, and recommended for promotion."

"MISS, MRS., MS. OR MSS.?"

Miss?—Or Mrs? That is the question. Probably into your life there has come the problem of how to address a letter to a woman of whose marital status you are uncertain.

(Ed. Note: To make her plan practical, Ms. Kasko would first have to get rid of the standard meaning of the abbreviation Mss. At present, according to dictionaries, Mss means not "Misses" but "manuscript"!)

First Composite Regiment Broken Up; Units Reassigned

The First Composite Regimental staff was deactivated by order of Col G. S. Meloy last Wednesday, leaving A. & M. with three regiments—the Infantry, Field Artillery and Second Composite.

The step was made necessary, according to officials, by the number of officers dismissed from the corps during the cadet officer trials.

Letters

THE LAST MAN

Dear Editor: May I congratulate you upon the editorial, "The Last Man", in the Battalion of Saturday, March 22.

We are truly living in a fool's paradise, giving much enthusiastic and aggressive attention to problems not nearly so much significant as the one discussed in your editorial.

TEACH RUSSIAN!

Dear Editor: Due to the present world situation in which Russia plays such a prominent part, I feel that the language of this country should be included in the curriculum of this institution.

What are the proper channels through which such a request could be considered? Yours truly, WILLIAM F. NICOL

Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, Fourth Army commander at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, stated last week that the army was not involved in the panel-board trials of A. & M. Cadets.

Wainwright Says U. S. Army Not Involved in Case

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Hey, Advertisers!

The Battalion needs two men who are interested in writing advertising. Men who will be in school during the summer and throughout the 1947-1948 school year are preferred.

The Cavalry Squadron was attached to the Infantry Regiment as Third Battalion. The Engineer Battalion, with Company "A" Chemical Corps attached, goes to the Artillery Regiment as Third Battalion.

The Signal Corps is already in the Infantry Regiment. The Second Composite includes two flights of Air Corps, and three companies of veterans.

Barbecue-Dance On May 3 Highlights Newman Activities

Social plans for the spring semester were announced at the Monday night meeting of the Newman Club in the basement of St. Mary's chapel.

Herman Neusch gave the preliminary plans for the Province Conference of Newman Clubs to be held here on April 18-20.

What's Cooking

WEDNESDAY, April 9 8 p.m.—Town Hall, Houston Symphony Orchestra. THURSDAY, April 10 7:30 p.m.—Communication and electronic personnel of Naval Reserve meets on second floor Pfeuffer Hall.

Houston Clubbers To Meet Wednesday

A Houston Club meeting will be held Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. in Room 129, Academic Building.

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'37 Ford Pick-up
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