

# Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2

Tuesday, June 17, 1947

## No Shells ...

In the Friday issue of The Battalion, four objectives of a non-state-supported college in Texas were discussed. ("Whither Bound?") Most objectives of a school are dull and ambiguous; these were not. They were far-reaching aims, planned to give students that kind of knowledge necessary in a Democracy, to develop world-mindedness, to combine thought with learning, and to offer as liberal an education as possible in all courses of study.

The objectives of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas can be found on Pages 6 and 7, of the 1946-47 General Information Bulletin. They are partially reprinted below:

1. To develop and maintain a state-wide educational system in accord with the recognized needs of the people of Texas and dedicated primarily to the broad fields of agriculture, engineering, and military science, with principal offices at the main college . . . for white male students only; with such authorized branch colleges.
2. To provide an environment for student bodies comparable to that which usually prevails in the substantial Texas homes from which these students come; superior instruction, including requirements in the study of the national and state governments under which we live.
3. To provide a strong and effective system of military training.
4. To develop leadership in agriculture, including veterinary medicine, forestry, and wild game; in engineering.
5. To provide for such graduate instruc-

## Breathes There A Man ...

As long as the cattle barns are in the center of the campus, flies will always be a menace to the City of College Station!

For the sake of students, faculty members, and other residents of the community, we advocate the removal of the cattle barns to a more isolated spot across the tracks.

When the cattle barns were erected in the middle of campus activity, no foresight was used. Evidently a greater A. & M. College was not predicted. A. & M. still has not reached its peak in expansion, and plans include even further spreading of campus activity.

Dr. J. C. Miller, head of the Department of Animal Husbandry, stated Friday that rebuilding of the middle cattle barn would take place in a new location as soon as funds are made available. He realizes that A. & M. has grown too close to the barns. With him we must agree, and further state that we hope the thought of replacing the ertawhile barn of June 4, in its previous location has not entered anyone's mind.

Flies, a menace to the health and welfare to all cities, breed in and around such places as cattle barns. The number of flies will never be greatly reduced on the campus as long as the barns are permitted to stand

## Popularity Contest ...

**Editor's Note:** The following editorial is not intended to cast a bad light upon Thomas D. Tankersley, Jr., valedictorian of the class which graduated May 30, nor upon any other past valedictorian. It is directed entirely at the system which A. & M. practices to select a valedictorian.

Each spring around graduation time the ten graduates with the highest scholastic averages are placed upon a pedestal and voted upon by members of the senior class. From those ten high-point men, the graduate receiving the largest number of votes delivers the valedictory address at commencement exercises.

He is, therefore, termed the "valedictorian."

But is he? In the true sense of the word is he "valedictorian"? Is that system of selecting a valedictorian ethical? The Battalion not only believes that such a practice should be abolished, but also that there is no need for an election. There is only one valedictorian, and he is the graduate with the highest grade point average.

Last semester 35 out of 692 graduates were present to elect a valedictorian. First on the list of high-point men was a person who had been selected as a Rhodes Scholar to attend Oxford University in September, 1947. His grade point ratio was 2.9718. (Some time during his college career he had posted a B in a sophomore English course.) Yet that Rhodes scholar was not the valedictorian.

The system which used to be called "hat-cording" was practiced. It was somewhat changed, since most of the graduates were veterans not in ROTC organizations. Agri-

tion and such research facilities and personnel in agriculture and engineering as may be required for the maintenance and advancement thereof, or to provide any level of instruction or research needed.

6. To furnish state-wide extension services and other state-wide work in the broad phase of agriculture and engineering.

There you have it . . . as narrow an education as you will ever see or get!

There you have as faulty a bit of advertising as we ever hope to see. Speaking of advertising, those objectives remind us of a story we read the other day.

It is a little shop on a side street around the corner. Guns, hunting equipment, rods and tackle and related paraphernalia of the sportsman are its only stock. And what do you suppose the proprietor advertises?

"No Shells!"

Probably he doesn't consider it an advertisement, but there it is, clumsily pencilled on a large sheet of white paper, taped to the plate glass of his door, where no shopper, no passer can miss it.

And it packs quite a message, too, in its restricted space. "Don't come in to bother us," it says, "We have no shotgun shells, and we won't take your name and address so we can notify you when we do get some. No, sir, don't you come into this store unless you know exactly what you want, and know that we have it, and you'd better have the right change out and ready to lay beside the cash register. Don't mumble when asking for what you want, either!"

near dormitories and classrooms—regardless of the number of anti-fly campaigns.

A national anti-fly committee has been appointed by Science Service to assist local communities in their home-front fight. In our own backyard we have a member of that committee, Dr. H. G. Johnson, entomologist for the Extension Service. Without too much persuasion he would aid in a local anti-fly campaign which is in the offing. Monday night at a public hearing of the budget for the city is heard, plans will be made to spray areas with DDT. Since such a measure is so temporary, we urge that the city get behind a plan to remove the cattle barns.

There are those who might ask, "Are you trying to hide the fact that you are an agricultural school?" To this, we must admit that removing the cattle barns would not harm the looks of the campus, but we feel that the public benefit would greatly outweigh that angle.

Since the barns are meeting places for some agricultural students' labs, they could be placed conveniently on the other side of the tracks, some place within walking distance for students, but far enough away to dispense with the fly menace and nauseating stench.

cultural graduates put their heads together; engineer grads decided on their candidate; and so on down the line. Politicking was done before the meeting, and everyone knew who he would vote for before he went into the Assembly Hall. There happened to be more agricultural seniors present among those 35 than any other group, and the sixth place man, with a 2.7727 grade point ratio, was elected valedictorian.

The Battalion believes that selection of a valedictorian is the duty of the registrar. Figuring should be simple mathematics, accomplished by an adding machine and a problem of long division.

Nevertheless, A. & M. chooses its valedictorian by means of a "popularity contest."

No other college can make that statement!

## Fake Pressure Groups ...

Phoney pressure groups, claiming to represent millions of citizens, are flooding Congress with propaganda on various kinds of legislation. Senator Elbert D. Thomas (D., Utah) discovered that one such organization claiming a large membership had merely copied the names out of telephone books.

But his prize story concerns another group that had been selling memberships all over the country to patriotic people on the claim that it was a guardian of their constitutional rights. A Congressional committee, questioning the head of this outfit, found that he had never read the Constitution—and had no idea of its length. When Senator Thomas asked him to quote one sentence from that revered document, he said, "All men are created evil." When asked to name at least one outstanding defender of the Constitution, he spattered around a bit and finally said, "Well, there are several Senators who know about the Constitution."

## Truman And His Loyalty Purge Order

By A. D. Bruce, Jr.

Official Washington is having the jitters. It is convinced that in this country there are many disloyal and dangerous persons bent upon overthrowing the government by unlawful means, and that some of these are now officers or employees in the service of the government.

Most of us will agree that any such disloyal federal employees should be discovered, disciplined, and dismissed. We will also agree that measures should be taken to prevent disloyal persons from getting governmental jobs. To accomplish this, however, is an extremely difficult task; difficult not merely because of the mammoth size of the job, but because there is no sure way of defining accurately and precisely the word "disloyal" and because the really dangerous fellows naturally are the most difficult to identify.

The President's Executive Order of March 21 is a direct and conscientious effort to grapple with this problem of the loyalty of federal employees. It reflects a desire to create and set in motion a sort of giant tabulating machine into which federal employees and applicants for federal jobs may be fed, and from which they will emerge like so many punched cards sorted into groups marked "loyal" and "disloyal."

On November 25, 1946 President Truman created by executive order the President's Temporary Commission on Employee Loyalty composed of six officers drawn from the departments of Justice, State, War, Navy, Treasury, and the Civil Service Commission. It began work promptly, and reported to the President in late February of this year. On March 21, the President released the commission's report together with Executive Order No. 9835, which had been drafted by the Department of Justice to implement it and followed closely the proposals made by the commission.

It would be neither accurate nor fair to describe the President's Loyalty Order as an intentional assault upon the civil liberties of federal employees, present and future. In fact, the President's Order may forestall congressional action far more drastic and objectionable. While the rights of employees are not as fully safeguarded as they could be, it is worth noting that this is the first time in the history of the federal service that an open, orderly, and reasonably fair procedure, with suitable appeal, has been made mandatory throughout the entire service before an employee may be dismissed on grounds of disloyalty.

While it is reassuring that the President and his advisers meant well in setting up the new loyalty program, and that their aim is to see it wisely, temperately, and justly administered, the fact that there is no guarantee whatever that it will be so administered, or that its administration may not seriously deteriorate as time goes on, must be faced. Even with the best possible administration, the program has some ugly features.

**THREAT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE:** There is grave danger that the new program will have a shattering effect upon the morale of the federal service. It will create an atmosphere of constant surveillance and suspicion. This deadening atmosphere of repression will be increased by the creation inside the government of a large force of investigators whose duty it will be to ask endless questions, sift accusations, trace rumors, sort out gossip, hunt down suspicions, and—since this is what they are paid to do—produce something to show for their efforts. The very existence of this undoubtedly large force of loyalty investigators is ominous. An economy-minded Congress is going to demand some return for the enormous sums (responsible estimates run as high as \$50,000,000) these investigations will cost, and those who do the investigating are going to be under heavy pressure to turn up some victims. A further blow to the morale of the government service is going to be the encouragement and the opportunity lent by the loyalty program to those who wish to "get even" with a fellow worker or with the "boss." There are already reliable reports of the growth of this sort of malicious "informing."

**THREAT TO THE INDIVIDUAL:** A second danger lies in the procedure by which the federal employee's loyalty is to be determined. There has been an obvious effort to make this procedure fair. But when "derogatory information" is turned up regarding him, the employee inescapably assumes from that point on the full burden of proof of showing that he is not disloyal. In doing so, he is not allowed to know and confront those who may have accused him or questioned his loyalty. The most serious indictment against the loyalty program is based on the vagueness of the standards set up for measuring disloyalty. It is reassuring that the Order requires that an employee may be removed only when, upon all the evidence, there is reasonable ground for the belief that he is disloyal. "Sympathetic association" with the

wrong kind of organization may be evidence of disloyalty. It is not stated that the sympathetic association must be with that part of the organization's program and activities which make it "subversive." The Order takes no account of the fact that a loyal and patriotic federal employee may have joined an organization which at a later time became "infiltrated" with Communist or other subversive elements, or that the same loyal public servant may have associated with an organization bearing an impressive name with no knowledge whatever that it was a "front" organization, and with no way of finding out. The Order issues a plain invitation to judge this man, not by his own conduct, but by that of the organization or group in question.

**THREAT TO ORGANIZATIONS:** A final danger lies in the vast creation placed in the Attorney General to determine with finality just which organizations, associations, movements, or groups are "totalitarian, fascist, communist, or subversive." There are no standards by which he is required to be guided in making these decisions; the organizations thus branded have no right to defend themselves in a public hearing, no right to a statement of the reasons upon which the Attorney General acts, and no right of appeal. Nor is the Attorney General required to make public the list or organizations and groups which he thus brands as disloyal.

Certain changes could be made in the Loyalty Order which, without impairing its effectiveness in identifying genuinely disloyal federal employees would more fully protect the civil liberties of the millions of loyal employees and at the same time reassure the public that a giant man-hunt is not being set in motion. A statement adopted on April 7 by the Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union includes a number of constructive suggestions that would serve the purpose:

(1) The power of the Attorney General to blacklist an organization should be exercised under a procedure which would give a fair hearing to the organization and an opportunity to defend itself against the accusations made. Also, the blacklisted organizations should be publicly named so that persons need not join them without full knowledge of their subversive character.

(2) The use of the doctrine of "guilt by association" to establish disloyalty should be discarded. An inference of disloyalty should not be drawn from such association unless the employee had knowledge of the subversive character of the organization. The extent of his activity in the organization rather than mere membership, should be the crucial test of possible disloyalty. Past membership should not be regarded as prejudicial if it occurred a substantial number of years ago and was later abandoned.

(3) A number of procedural safeguards might well be extended to accused employees. The employee should be entitled to a bill of particulars which would make explicit the charges against him. He should be allowed not only "to be accompanied by counsel" but also have the right to be represented by counsel. He should have the right to subpoena witnesses in his behalf and also to subpoena relevant documents when security considerations do not forbid this. The government should provide him stenographic report of the proceedings, and the findings and decision

## Letters

WHITHER BOUND

Dear Editor:

Your editorial, "WHITHER BOUND", Battalion issue of June 13, is timely. I wonder if your discussion may be boiled down to the following philosophy:

1. Teach the student to THINK.
  2. Implant the importance of intellectual honesty, character.
  3. Provide for the education of the whole man—not for just a part.
- The following quotation from Confucius is to the point: "Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous."

FRED HALE, '22

AH Department  
Exp. Sta. Bldg.

of the loyalty board should be in writing. He should be assured an adequate time to prepare his appeal and be allowed to file a brief on appeal.

Finally, it cannot be too strongly urged that men of the highest character must be drafted for this disagreeable job. The only thing that can possibly make this loyalty purge work in a nation which values civil liberty is to place its administration in the hands of able and fair-minded men who can be neither bullied nor seduced into deviating from the rigid demands of justice and fair play.

## Development Fund Fiscal Year on Calendar Basis

Beginning January 1, 1948, the fiscal year of the Development Fund of the Former Students Association will be changed from June 1 - May 31 to January 1 - December 31. L. B. Locks, assistant secretary of the association, stated that this measure will help prevent misunderstandings among donors.

### WATCH REPAIRS

**FAST WATCH REPAIR SERVICE**

**R. L. McCARTY**  
JEWELER  
North Gate

## FLY PIONEER for an A-plus vacation!

**A**ctive hours sooner

**A**dd fun-time to your visit

**A**ll the services of transcontinental airlines

**A**ir-point connections

**A**lways a convenient flight

CONVENIENT DAILY FLIGHTS TO 17 KEY TEXAS CITIES! Pioneer's new Texas-Wide Network gives you fast flights, with schedules planned for excellent connections and tickets all the way to all points in the U. S.

**PIONEER Air Lines**  
FLYING PASSENGERS—SO AIRMAIL—EXPRESS

## Cleaning and Pressing

Fast Service on Wools and Khakis  
DAILY DELIVERY SERVICE

### SMITH'S

North Gate Phone 4-4444

## Shoes Repaired

PROMPT WORK and QUALITY WORKMANSHIP  
24 Hour Service

### HOLICK'S

## COMMERCIAL and SOCIAL ENGRAVING

CALLING CARDS OF ALL TYPES  
CARDS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN  
WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS and INVITATIONS  
THANK YOU NOTES — and ENVELOPES  
BABY ANNOUNCEMENTS  
SYMPATHY CARDS  
BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Orders taken by Representative of Southern Engraving Co. of Houston

## TAYLOR'S Campus Variety Store

### Guion Hall

Tues. — Wed. — Thurs.

### "King's Row"

### PALACE

BRYAN, TEXAS  
WEDNESDAY — THURSDAY  
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
VAN JOHNSON  
and JUNE ALLYSON  
in  
"High Barbaree"

COMING PREVIEW SATURDAY NIGHT, SUNDAY — MONDAY AND TUESDAY

### ANNE BAXTER

in  
"Blaze of Noon"

## The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, Texas, is published tri-weekly and circulated on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoons, except during the summer when it is published semi-weekly. Subscription rate \$4 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

**Members**  
Associated Colloid Press

Represented nationally by National Advertising Service, Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Editor: Don Engelking  
Associate Editor: Bill Brown, Maurice Howell  
Managing Editor: D. W. Springer  
Reporter: Ivan Yantis

Sports Editor: Advertising Managers  
Circulation Manager: Being Correspondent