

Battalion EDITORIALS

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TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1947

Still a Military School . . .

1. "Announcement that the Board of Directors, in their June session at Texas A. & M. College, had decided to make no change, at least for the present, in the military system which has obtained on the Campus for many years, was received by thousands of Texans, friend of the institution through the years, and former students, with a definite degree of satisfaction.

2. "It has been intimated that some change might be made, at least to the extent of doing away with the present military system and substituting a modified ROTC plan, and some suggestions had gone so far as to suggest that the college be turned into a co-ed institution as the only remedy for a disturbed Campus condition that has been given perhaps wider publicity than was warranted, and which has been marked by more or less careless comment and some misrepresentation.

3. "As a matter of fact fundamental changes in the system employed at Aggie-land have been discussed in the editorial columns of recent issues of the Battalion, the student newspaper. Whether these were written by Aggies or others has not been made known, but their tenor would indicate they were not the writings of men who were well grounded in their love for the history and traditions of the College.

4. "It was stated, in one of these, that

the demands of the time imposed the responsibility of those administering the affairs of the College to enlarge and improve it to the end that it might meet the steadily increasing demands made on it as an educational and service institution. The position was taken that to achieve this goal something more than tradition would be required.

5. "This may be admitted, but it might be pointed out, also, that success is more likely to reward what efforts may be made to expand and improve the educational and service facilities of the College if there is a foundation of fine and high tradition on which to build than if this were lacking.

6. "The friends of Texas A. & M. College, in Bryan and College Station, as well as throughout Texas and wherever the influence of this character-building, and manmaking institution has been felt, hope the fine traditions of the school will be kept green in the future, as they have been in the past, and that every possible opportunity to improve the institution as an educational and service institution and as a mold of men who stand the test, as the record shows Aggies have done in time of national stress, be taken by those in charge of administering the affairs of the institution. And the laurels that have been earned by Aggie-land in the past should not be forgotten or permitted to wither."

The above editorial was reprinted in its entirety from the Bryan Daily Eagle. We want it understood that this does not represent our views.

In an effort to be fair with The Eagle, fairer than it was to us, we have reprinted it so that you can see for yourself the portions with which we disagree.

The paragraphs have been numbered for convenience of reference. We believe that our previous editorials, four in number, answer all portions of the editorial with the exception of paragraph 3.

First of all we don't like to pick on ladies, but we think that the editor, Mrs. Lee J. Rountree, has stepped out of bounds in attacking our integrity.

We feel that the intimation that the editorials were not written by Aggie members of the staff is in poor taste. For the information of the Eagle, every word was written

by students now enrolled in A. & M. By whose "ringless" hand does Mrs. Rountree believe the editorials were written?

If we were to follow the same line of reasoning as that pursued by the Eagle, we might accuse some of those townspeople who have been publicly found "guilty of meddling in the internal affairs of the A. & M. College" with having written the editorial in the Bryan paper. We do not believe this to be true, however, and feel reasonably sure that the editorial expresses the views of the editor, Mrs. Rountree. In all fairness, we would like to point out that we are responsible to no Board of Censors or Board of Stockholders.

We would never question Mrs. Rountree's interest in and love for A. & M. just because she fails to agree with our proposals. We seek only the same consideration for ourselves.

The Editor and the Inquisition . . .

Friday night the editor of The Battalion was invited "to come before the council (VSA Board of Representatives) . . . so you can tell us your policies . . ." It was a meeting in Sblsa Lounge "to outline the summer program for the association."

This written invitation was supplemented with a personal visit to the editor by an officer of the VSA who declared that there were big things planned by the group this summer, including a barbecue and dance.

Around 8 o'clock Friday evening the editor and a reporter dropped around Sblsa Lounge, only to find the Court of Inquisition "ready for the kill." Surrounded by 14 representatives and officers, the editor was ready to be raked over the coals.

First subject brought up—in rather an out-of-order fashion—was the ruling passed by the Board of Directors to place next fall's freshmen at Bryan Field Annex. Talk along this line was quickly squelched by VSA President Buddy Brennan, who felt there were more important things to be taken care of. After all, there was a barbecue and dance to be given this summer.

The next five-to-ten minutes were devoted to a barbecue which was set for July 12, and an all-veteran dance, the date of which will be announced later.

Then the fireworks began.

Sam Williams, secretary of the VSA and treasurer of last semester's fight to oust President Gibb Gilchrist, brought up the Rep. W. T. Moore editorial, which appeared in the first summer issue of The Battalion. He inquired about the background of that editorial, as to the outside influence behind its publication.

Now might we ask, "Whose axe were you grinding, Williams and who was the outside influence which prompted you to bring that matter up at the meeting?" We wonder if you, Sam, supposedly speaking on behalf of the VSA, are opposed to passage of a bill supporting all state institutions of higher learning, including A. & M.

Further ado about Rep. Moore was checked when one of the quieter members decided that he was in agreement with the editorial. Editorials "Are We Blinded by Trad-

tion?" and "Living in the Past Is Not Enough" were the most severely criticized subjects of The Battalion.

One representative, who during the whole course of his dissertation held his Aggie-ring-clad finger aloft, asserted that the Aggie ring means more to an Aggie than the respective ring means to graduates of any other college. To the editor, this broad statement is doubtful.

Others joined in this angle, stating that they had worked hard for their rings. The editor questioned this last statement of "working hard", whether it meant "walking in the street as a freshman, doing extracurricular physical exercises, use of the board, etc." They, in turn assured him that such was the case.

Another veteran stated that such "tripe" that appeared in The Batt would have been expected from the Houston Press. Here, he erred, since in two meetings of the VSA last semester, the Houston Press was considered the "friend of the VSA" which would do them justice. When the editor pointed out this fact to them, the statement was rescinded and the Houston Post and Chronicle substituted therefor. The Press was their friend because, while other papers were harping on hazing, it was blaming the trouble on "Operation Subsistence", a Communist organization in Washington.

One point which came out at the meeting was the fact that the Cadet Corps taught men how to associate with others. Might be true, but does it teach men how to act in the "outside world?" How to serve in a democracy?

During the hour of interrogation about 6 members were quiet. The other 8 did all the talking. They were speaking on behalf of the veterans, and yet there had been no meeting of the entire organization up to that time.

From March 27, the date of the mass veterans' meeting, until the legislative investigation report, the word "intimidation" was the root of all evil. Someone was always accusing someone else of intimidation. Now, it seems that the Board of Representatives is trying to intimidate The Batt.

GI 'Business' Curtailed . . .

Mystery Of 'Red' Marks

By A. D. Bruce, Jr.

The great mystery of the money-making plates that the U. S. turned over to Russia can now be unveiled. Secrets of the engravings and their use, when brought to light, reveal that the plates for printing German marks were given to Russia in April, 1944, after Russia declared that otherwise she would print marks with plates of her own design. Originally money printed by the Russians from these plates was exchangeable for U. S. dollars when it reached the pockets of the U. S. soldiers. These soldiers garnered about two and one-half billion marks, worth \$250,000,000, and presented these marks to the Treasury to be exchanged for greenbacks.

Taxpayers need not worry, they probably will not be hooked for this two-hundred and fifty million. Ways and means have been found to use up many of the marks. To date, the bill has diminished to \$150,000,000. It is believed that by the end of 1948 all of the marks collected will be used up without loss to taxpayers. This money is being used to pay German prisoners and to buy German goods and services that otherwise would have to be paid for in dollars.

Unraveling the facts it is found that occupation money was printed by the United States, under rules that extended their "hospitality" to the G. I. This money was used to pay U. S. troops as well as to pay some of the other costs of occupation. In Germany's case, Russia at first insisted upon doing her own printing of money. To avoid the confusion of having more than one kind of occupation currency, the U. S. supplied Britain and France with actual marks and turned the plates for printing over to Russia.

Russian soldiers being sent home, and not allowed to exchange their marks for rubles, looked for ways to spend their pay in Germany. Loaded with this back pay, they offered fabulous prices in marks for gadgets peddled by U. S. troops. These troops traded watches, clothing, candy, cigarettes, and other things for marks. Then they converted the marks into dollars.

After a while the Army supposedly nipped this little racket in the bud by lifting the number of marks that a soldier could turn into dollars and send home. However, this plan did not pan out. They had to resort to paying in a new form of scrip instead of marks and stop the conversion of marks into dollars.

One mystery still remains: Just how many marks did the Russians print from the U. S. plates? So far, the "Russians ain't talkin'."

Applications For Terminal Leave Pay Due Sept. 1

Applications for terminal leave pay must be submitted before September 1, 1947 or payments will not be made, according to Olin E. Teague, Congressman, Sixth District of Texas.

Application blanks may be secured from the post office or from service officers of most veterans' organizations. Payments for terminal leave will be by five-year interest-bearing bonds in multiples of \$25, with any balance being paid in cash.

"I believe," stated Congressman Teague, "that there is a good chance of Congress, authorizing the veteran to cash his bonds before the expiration date if he desires to do so. Interest on these bonds costs the government \$50,000,000 each year, and it would be a definite saving to allow cash payments now."

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'Rats' Says Sleepy Yantis . . .

Boulders Down Chimney Keep Rover in State of New Mexico

By Ivan Yantis

A fitful sleep is almost worse than none at all. And don't anyone tell me it's conscience that keeps me awake night. I know what it is—it's pack rats!

The temporary roof on this enchanting hovel where I live is paper-thin, and the patter of little feet on it gives off sounds like unto thundering herds of elephants. Every time another rodent of the "I'll-trade-for-whatever-you've-got" variety scampers across, I grab for my .22 and the bleak comfort it affords. Needless to say, I'm a nervous wreck.

Last evening I left three matches outside when I started the fire for supper. After I had retired, I heard the little monsters playing around, and I knew for sure they were gnawing on the incendiary tips trying to kindle a forest fire. Through a hole in the back wall a piece of phosphorescent wood glowed at me. Too cold and lazy to check on such a flimsy hunch, I lay awake for hours waiting to smell smoke before starting a one-man bucket brigade. The smoke did not materialize—nor did sleep.

By far the most electrifying sounds of the mountain night are those produced by the pebbles rolled down the chimney by the varmints. With uncanny aim each one bounds into a kettle making enough noise to wake the dead. Guess I'll be forced to move that kettle.

I've counted all the sheep in the Rocky Mountain, tried every breathing exercise the authorities recommended and a few of my own, tried complete relaxation of the mind and body, tried Yogi, and I've experimented with reading text-books which used to be a sure-fire soporific results. Tomorrow I'm going into town for some dope.

: Letters to the Editor :

Dear Editor:

Since you are apparently setting yourself up as an authority on education, why did you choose to attend this school when you, as such an authority, knew before entering that it failed to meet the minimum requirements such an authority as yourself deemed necessary?

When did the requirement come into effect that a school must be co-educational before it may consider the education furnished by students up to or above some standard which you have failed as yet to define? I know of a number of co-educational schools whose graduates have made less of a mark in this world than have the graduates of this school.

Why is it not possible for a military school to attain your ranking? On this same subject, did it ever occur to you that the military program of this school might be instrumental in drawing many of the students who enter here? I, for one, came to school here in 1940 with the two-fold purpose of obtaining an education in engineering and an education in the basics of military science. As a well prepared citizen of a democracy, such is a requirement if one is to be well educated.

When I leave this school in a few months, my success as an individual member of society will be a measure of how well I have used those implements given me by school, by home, and by experience. I hope that I shall never be so small as to blame someone, or something else for my own inability to use those implements.

Education is not alone what one may learn from texts. It is, rather, the sum total of all one has encountered together with one's understanding and application of such. If you are going to denounce so harshly a system such as we have here, you must first demonstrate the worthlessness of that system. I contend that you have failed to demonstrate such.

When I came to school here, I



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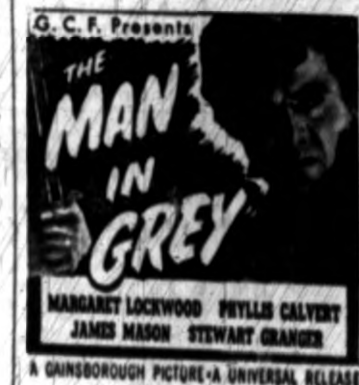
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The Battalion

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