

# Battalion EDITORIALS

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1947

## A Word of Welcome...

You are at Texas A. & M. College... Welcome!

This morning you probably traveled a long, winding road to Texas A. & M. College. But, gentlemen, who have a much longer road ahead... full of crooks and curves, roadblocks and detours.

You have decided to come to A. & M.—a decision made by many Texans each year.

You chose A. & M. because you wanted to take Engineering, Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture, or one of the Arts and Science Courses. You might have picked A. & M. because your dad backed the "maroon and white." You might have come because of the military.

Regardless of the reason motivating your choice of A. & M., you will find that there are other reasons more fundamental for your desiring a college education.

In your stay at college, we urge that you remember to put "education" first. You are here to pass your academic work. Not only must you make passing grades in your studies, but also you must learn the applications of the laws of man and nature to the society in which you live.

Men are continuing with scientific discoveries without adapting them to society needs. You must determine to use your energy, your mind, and all of your faculties to make the world a better place in which to live.

You want a complete education. Men

## Doin' What Comes Scientifically...

We live in the "Scientific Age" and are justly proud of its accomplishments. We are healthier, better informed, and live longer than any of our forebearers. We extend the power of sight to the farthest stars and the power of hearing around our globe. We fly through the air and swim through the deep. We tunnel the earth and pass unharmed through fire. We do a thousand things each day which only a few decades ago would have caused us either to be worshiped as supernatural beings "In League with God" or killed as outcasts "In League with Devils".

The facts that have made these things possible have been discovered one-by-one by persons just like you and the man next to you. The steps are few and simple and consist of nothing more than plain common sense applied to the witches, black cats, moon signs, evil spirits, charms, wizards, portents, astrologers, fortune tellers, quacks, devils, saints, tea leaves, and all the other "hocus-pokus" that has been thought up to keep a man from using the divine spark of his own mentality.

Man succeeds when he puts a simple question in a form that can be answered by natural law. This is the form of an experiment. He then observes nature's reply in the form of results. From the conclusions, a course of intelligent action may be charted. The scientific among us follow such courses to higher ground while the unscientific waste their days gazing into crystal balls.

Those engaged in discovering new truths by use of the above scientific method are research scientists. It is to them that we owe

## What's Playing Here?...

One advertising medium that you seldom hear about are the little envelopes that Broadway show producers use to put the tickets in. They carry plugs for hose, whiskey and other things that playgoers are apt to use. Well, the other day the St. James Theatre, currently housing *Oklahoma*, got a letter from a lady in Hamilton (Ont.). The letter enclosed two tickets to the show and read as follows:

"Dear Sirs: Some time ago I wrote you to obtain two tickets for *Oklahoma* April 19. I received the tickets, but on the envelope containing them was written: 'Three Feathers—Hailed by the Critics!' Does this mean that *Oklahoma* will not be playing on that date but that *Three Feathers* will? Kindly send me a note explaining this."

—TIDE

have voiced varied thoughts concerning education. We think that there are many wanderers from the path of knowledge who choose instead to roam among the thorns.

### Here is our idea:

Become skilled in the use of the English language, both written and spoken. Remember, that is the only way you can be sure that others understand you.

Develop an appreciation for the best that has been written in books and in music. Develop an appreciation for the best that has been done in the other cultural fields.

Study our historical heritage and resolve to put our support solidly behind our democratic institutions. We believe that democracy can be saved only through the development of citizens who think more of their government than of their individual pocketbooks.

Take part in student activities. There are any number of clubs, societies, and extra-curricular activities which will broaden your mind, teach you to associate with others, and give you experience in every field. For instance, in the field of dramatics, there is the Aggie Players. For music, the Aggie Band, Aggieband Orchestra, Singing Cadets. In publications, The Battalion, Longhorn, Agriculturist, Engineer, Commentator. In addition, there are clubs in practically every academic field. Take your choice.

We believe that an educated man who doesn't take part in government affairs is no better off than the illiterate who can't participate in self-government.

our debt of gratitude for hybrid corn, 100 octane gas, penicillin, atom bombs, DDT, and all else that is known both good and bad.

You, too, may add your bit to the fund of the known and thus become a co-creator of a better world for all who follow.

From time to time, when one is in possession of a newly discovered truth, he alone of all men knows how to behave toward that certain thing. To all the world then, his actions or his beliefs seem strange. He is branded as radical, a queer, a heretic, or a crack-pot. In earlier times these were burned or hanged, and the ignorant murderers who professed to be leading the people went their way chasing spirits and prolonging the "Dark Ages."

Do not forget that ours is the Scientific Age. It differs from others in that some men now are FREE. Free to think and having thought to question, and from the answer, discern truth. Armed with the sword of truth, a scientist can successfully defend his facts against the doubt and ridicule of an unenlightened world. It is this follow-through in action that marked the final step in the Scientific Method.

For emphasis let us restate the steps. A person with an (1) inquiring mind, (2) asks a question and having received an answer, (3) draws a conclusion, which (4) he thinks worth following. Simple, isn't it?

This matter of scientific method and the fulfillment of its promise for man's well being and the curtailment of its threat of destruction is worthy of your best effort in college and the best thinking you can do throughout life.

—Lab Manual, Biology 101

## Surprise...

A young lady we know went to a big publisher's stockholder meeting last week. It didn't last long and nothing much happened except that a couple of elderly ladies kept asking why magazines had so much trouble getting paper. Our young lady left right behind the old gals and, by eavesdropping a little, heard one say to the other: "What a funny meeting! At first I thought it was the wrong room. Just those men sitting around that big table. The last meeting I went to wasn't like that at all. There were all sorts of good things to eat and it was lots of fun—just like a regular outing."

—TIDE

Headline in the Petersburg (Virginia) Progressive-Index: 3 MEN HELD IN CIGARETTE CASE.

## The Battalion

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## Record Rush to Classrooms

### You're Better Off Than Most

By A. D. Bruce, Jr.

The rush to go to college will again be a mad scramble this year. Demand for higher education has never been greater. Colleges expect a record-breaking registration of about 2,750,000 students in the 1947-48 season. They will be squeezing those students into an educational plant originally designed for about 1,600,000. Needless to say, much of that plant was out of date before the war began.

The result is that the living and studying conditions in many colleges may be worse than in the autumn of 1946. Yet those who do manage to get into any college may be counted as lucky. A. & M. has been more fortunate than most schools, for very few students have been turned down for admittance. This may be accounted for by the raising of entrance standards for out-of-state students. High school graduates from other states must be in the upper quarter of their class and transferees must have a grade-point ratio of 1.5. Veterans are getting a break on scholastic requirements. Those over 21 years of age without high school diplomas may enter A. & M. by passing an entrance exam. The Veterinary Medicine School at A. & M. has had to turn down approximately seven-eighths of those desiring entrance this fall.

In many universities fees have risen considerably. Here, the cost of board has increased and a required student activities fee has been added. However, the medical service fee and the cost of laundry have been slightly reduced. Veterans' fees are now a flat \$150 regardless of the number of hours carried, which was the basis of the costs figured for last year.

Like everywhere else, living costs are up at A. & M. Fortunately costs are not as bad as they are in the east, and it is possible for the A. & M. veteran to get by on his \$65 by carefully watching his expenses. Married veterans are experiencing a little more difficulty in figuring out ways to stretch their \$90.

Housing conditions are better than a year ago at most colleges. With the addition of the College View Apartments, A. & M. has 687 college-operated apartments and space for 120 trailers for married students. Since married veterans vacated Walton and Hart Halls, single veterans have been placed two to a room instead of three.

Although the new "barracks" classrooms and offices down at "hog-hollow" on the main campus are not ideal, they will help alleviate the difficulties encountered last year. Before the war, colleges had about 165 square feet of space per student for all instruction purposes. This year, they will have about 83 square feet per student.

Educators freely warn that classes now are too large for instruction of normal quality. Laboratory sections are so large that many students cannot even see the machines and processes the instructors are demonstrating. A. & M. can vie with any college for the all-time low in lighting, a condition which should be corrected. Army techniques, such as using a loudspeaker for lecturing to large classes, are being adopted. Several colleges are having their quizzes machine-graded—which may or may not be a disadvantage.

The old rule that freshman and sophomore classes cannot be less than 10 students is no cause for worry any more. The big problem is finding some way to keep classes below 30 or 35 students. Laboratory classes are limited by the amount of equipment on hand. Many sections are combined for lectures. Different departments set different limits on the size of the classes, and when registering, it becomes a case of first-come-first-serve.

On the bright side the textbook shortage of last year is not expected to recur at this registration. Books have been ordered since the first of August and there is no indication that they will not arrive in time.

Only 652 students had part-time jobs at A&M last spring. That means that about one-ninth of those enrolled were working, which is not a very large percentage. About 60% of those men were veterans. When war-time savings are depleted more students are expected to apply for jobs.

Competition for scholastic standing will continue to be keen. Veterans, older and in a hurry to graduate, seem to be setting the pace. However, with freshmen at the Annex, competition will be mostly among high school graduates. With the teacher shortage, students are more on their own. Teachers of college grade are too few. This causes a strain on both the college and students.

A great many colleges are asking the Government to help pay for at least part of the facilities they need, but do not have the money to build. Congress passed up that request for the time being. A. & M. however, can now put around \$5 million to good use—thanks to those who supported the college building amendment.

The jump in enrollments is forcing more colleges to herd students through, without individual treatment. That means many changes in the pattern of college life. Let us hope that the changes made at Texas A&M are for the betterment of all concerned.

## Never a Dull Moment At Annex Recreation Center

Life at the A. & M. College Annex revolves around the Student Center. Sponsored by the Office of Student Activities, the Student Center is under the direction of Mrs. Ann Hilliard. It is centrally located and houses varied types of recreational facilities for students and guests. It is open from 7:30 a.m. until 11 p.m. each day.

A reading room adequately lighted and equipped with comfortable chairs, lounges, current magazines, and daily newspapers from all over the state are provided for the enjoyment and information of students.

For the musically-minded students a piano and automatic record machine (juke box) are provided. This year, as an added attraction, a combination radio and record changer with a large selection of records has been installed. During the week all of these facilities are available to students, and on Saturday night when a dance has not been scheduled, small groups may gather for dancing.

Games of all types abound at the Student Center. Some of the many attractions designed to entertain and occupy a freshman's spare time are: ping pong, pool, dominoes, and cards. Plans are underway to sponsor free bingo games once or twice monthly. Should a student desire to study at the Student Center rather than in his barracks, he is free to do so. Study tables are provided for this purpose.

This year it is planned to form an organization of students interested in drama. Also, as an adjunct to the famous Singing Cadets of Aggieband, a glee club will be formed at the Annex. Top listing of extra-curricular activities planned by the Student Activities Office is the organization of an Annex orchestra.

Social life at the Annex is enhanced with week-end dances sponsored by the Office of Student Activities, by military organizations, and by the veterans' club.

One of the outstanding events



MRS. ANN HILLIARD  
Student Center Hostess

of the year is the Christmas party given by Student Activities at the Center during pre-Christmas week for all students, staff members, Annex personnel, and invited guests. The party is an information get-together, and usually consists of a Christmas program, refreshments, and group carol singing.

Adjacent to the Student Center is the Snack Bar, which is also operated under the auspices of the Student Activities Office. Cold drinks, ice cream, and sandwiches are available to all students, guests, and faculty members.

The Student Center is maintained and supported by the Student Activities Office at no cost to students. All equipment and entertainment, with the exception of dances, are free, and students and their guests are urged to take advantage of the facilities made available to them.

## Faculty Members...

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