

Battalion EDITORIALS

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New Student Government . . .

With the approval of a new form of student government by the Dean of the College, A&M has emerged from a mire of confusion and bewilderment in the realm of student affairs. Drifting along not knowing exactly who was responsible for what, students have had little sense of self-government. Things apparently "just happened," with no obvious motivation or guidance.

Now, however, with the new student representative type of government, school politics should be more directly in the hands of the student body.

This plan differs from previous forms of student government employed at A&M in that it will work on three different levels, and will be built around a group of 34 student representatives elected from campus dormitories and student housing centers.

Five standard committees and one guiding or senior committee to be known as the Student Council, will be selected from and by the 34 student representatives at their first meeting. Basic problems will be handled by these standard committees, but those items lying beyond their scope will be referred to the Student Council. Matters pertaining to policies of the college and finance, will be referred through the Student Council to the Student Life Committee.

This committee will be made up of the cadet colonel, the corps executive officer, senior and junior class presidents, the Battalion co-editors, ten faculty members and four members elected from the student body in a general election.

With these three main branches functioning in harmony, there should be no need of overloading any one person; one of the worst faults of previous student governments.

Through the five standard committees, which will work constantly, the mess hall, hospital, and Exchange Store will be checked from day to day for irregularities which

would infringe upon student rights. In addition, a reception committee will operate for the purpose of greeting visiting delegations to the campus, and an election committee will be set up to supervise campus elections.

One difficulty in the set-up has already been pointed out, but it is a difficulty that can be corrected.

Committee members will be chosen from a small group, which may not include those best suited for the particular task. Again, if there are two men, capable, willing to work, but both living in the same dormitory or area, only one can be elected a student representative, and the college cannot make use of the talent of the other.

So we suggest, that each standing committee, be allowed to choose from the school at large one other student who will also become a full-fledged committee member. This would certainly help in making sure that manpower was not wasted, and that the committees really function.

Students will have the right through their student representative to submit their own ideas on campus affairs to the standard committees, Student Council, or Student Life Committee for proper action. This is a condition that has never before existed on the A&M campus, and which will tend to place all students on a more equal footing, insuring a fair representation to many groups, who prior to this time have had no voice in the student body.

On paper, this student government looks superior to any we have had previously. Soon we will be called upon to select the men who will make it work. If good men file for office; if the best of the candidates are chosen; if the representatives when elected take their responsibilities seriously, we should have at A. & M. a student government of the highest calibre.

Too Much Ragweed in Austin . . .

With regret, the Battalion reads the dispatches from Austin telling of the Dobie fracas.

Not too many years ago, the University of Texas had a substantial academic reputation and was climbing fast into the "golden dozen" of the top U. S. schools. Two men contributed more than any others to this reputation; J. Frank Dobie, teacher of English, founder of the "Southwest School" in literature and Pulitzer Prize historian, was one of them. The other was Dr. T. S. Painter, now president, bio-geneticist who had carried further the work of his former colleague Muller, who last year received the Nobel Prize in genetics.

This past week, Dobie and Painter have stood on either side of a line drawn in sand, defying each other to "draw me over." This should have been a battle of titans. But what happened? Read these statements to the press:

Dobie: "I told President Painter that I did not want to resign from the University and did not want to be fired, also that I was not going to teach this fall."

"I told him that only once during the last 10 years or so have I taught in the University during the fall; that I never expected to stay in Austin again during the hay fever season and that I would not consider it fair to either my colleagues or students to start in teaching and then pull out for the last six weeks of the fall term."

"Under date of June 26, the president of

the University transmitted to me through the budget council, a letter disapproving the application. In this letter the president suggested that I try some of the "new drugs developed for the treatment of hay fever."

"I had said that I have tried, without avail, all sorts of serums and nostrums."

Painter: "I am informed officially that Mr. J. Frank Dobie, professor of English, has refused to report for duty this current semester. By this action, his connection with the University of Texas has terminated as of September 15, 1947, and I am accordingly notifying the auditor to drop his name from the payroll of this institution."

Dobie, who has been with the University of Texas since 1914, has been on leave the past four years. If he had retained his status one more year with the University, the 59-year-old professor would have been entitled to modified service, permitting him to teach one semester and to lay off one semester.

With the firing of Dobie, the University severed connections with the second outspoken campus critic of its administration. Dobie had frequently sniped at Painter and regents in the administration of University affairs ever since the firing of Dr. Homer P. Rainey from the institution's presidency in 1944.

Seems a pity there is so much ragweed in Austin!

Overseas Assignment . . .

Richard King, first male society editor of the University of Oklahoma Daily, will not get to cover Princess Elizabeth's wedding.

When her Royal Highness walks down the aisle, King may be trudging over the campus here, looking for a new job.

It all started when Sports Editor Leon Bert asked the student Senate to finance his coverage of the Sooner's game against the University of Detroit—in Detroit next Friday.

King, a student senator as well as society editor, said if Bert got a free trip to Detroit, he should go to England to report the royal nuptials.

The senate turned them both down and

Pigeon English . . .

This sounds suspiciously like a number of variations on the same theme that we've heard before but, for what it's worth, American Airlines received this pidgin English message from an irate Oriental: "Mr. Baggage Man, American Airline, United States of Los Angeles Gentleman dear sir: I damn seldom where my suitcase are. She no fly. You no more fit to baggage master than for crapesakes that's all I hope. Whats the matter you?"

Quenton Peters, general editor of the daily, fired King—allegedly for inefficiency. The faculty is considering the matter.

The Battalion

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FALL GUY



As MacKenzie Sees It . . .

Bow to Verdict or Stand Alone Is Russia's Poser

By DEWITT MacKENZIE
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst



Dewitt MacKenzie

One tumultuous week has passed since the western democracies, paced by America, opened their major offensive in the United Nations to focus world attention on the threat to peace produced by Russia's tactics for aggressive expansion of Communism—and already global opinion as represented in the U. N. has rendered a vehement verdict condemning Red methods.

Barring the support of her satellites, the Soviet Union stands virtually alone in this great issue among nations who would like to be its friends.

Of course the ultimate objective of the western offensive is to force Russia through public opinion to abandon the methods she has been pursuing, but it remains to be demonstrated whether she will bow to the verdict.

There are doubts on that score. Yesterday Britain, the last of the Big Five to mount the assembly rostrum, declared her position through Minister of State Hector McNeill and ranged herself solidly with the United States, who previously had been joined by France and China. So the Big Five lineup on this issue is America, Britain, France and China versus Russia.

The other nations—barring the Soviet dominated countries—also have been flocking about the banner of Democracy. McNeill, 37 year old Scotsman who is a protégé of British foreign minister Bevin, lined up his country with America in a dramatic address which was directed mainly to Russia. This quick minded, tough talking world statesman—whose two-fisted methods are rather reminiscent of Bevin's—first hammered the Muscovites and then appealed to them to drop what he described as their unyielding attitude toward world problems.

Meantime the Marshall plan.

Cowboy Song America's Only Genuine Music

EDGARTOWN, Mass., Sept. 24 (AP)—The cowboy song is the only genuinely American music at the present time, says Bernard Wagenaar, New York composer.

The Dutch-born musician, however, says that the outlook is promising for the creation of serious music "essentially American."

When an authentic American style comes, he says, it will not be based on folk music, as is the national music in Europe.

"Aside from the cowboy songs," he claims, "there is no genuine folk music in this country."

Although he describes cowboy music as "attractive and interesting," Wagenaar adds, "it is hardly the background for serious music in the larger forms."

"Negro music is not American folk music," he explains. "It is African in origin. Our Indian music is Indian rather than American. Kentucky ballads are an inheritance from England. Creole songs are French."

Out of such ingredients you can't make a genuine American salad—something must be added. Wagenaar believes that such music will arise from "the fusing of nationalities in this country, adding, 'it is not something that can be attained by desperately striving for it."

"That spirit which will be called typically American will most likely be marked by two very strong American characteristics—a healthy exuberance and a charming sentimentality."

Wagenaar, who has lived in the United States for 27 years, is working on his fourth symphony,

Hollywood Round-Up . . .

Borrowed Time Can Prove To Be Profitable

By HOWARD C. HEYN
(For Bob Thomas)

HOLLYWOOD, Sept. 24 (AP)—Some of the promising young players around Hollywood are beginning to wonder if biographical films are the kiss of death. More than one potential star introduced to fame by the life-story medium has gone into at least partial eclipse thereafter.

Larry Parks and Robert Alda were heralded with much drumbeating in "The Jolson Story" and "Rhapsody in Blue."

At the moment Parks is chewing his fist and growling at Columbia's Harry Cohn. He went from \$75 to \$750 a week, but now he is singing the saddest song Hollywood ears can hear: he wants more money.

Alda's debut, as Gershwin, was delayed almost two years. After finishing "Rhapsody in Blue" he went into "Cinderella Jones," which was held up until after "Rhapsody" was released. And thereafter he got a series of supporting roles, in "Cloak and Dagger," "The Man I Love" and "Nora Prentiss," until finally his Warner Bros. contract was terminated by mutual consent.

I asked Alda what he thought of such situations as his and Parks'.

"There are many reasons, of course, why things work out the way they do," he said. "I can understand why they held 'Rhapsody in Blue.' They wanted an unknown in the role of Gershwin. But I think it would have been smarter, in developing a star, to follow up 'Rhapsody' quickly with a really outstanding picture to support the personality they had introduced so loudly."

"Parks' case was a little different. His role as Jolson, after all, was impersonation—even to Blackface. We didn't see Parks. Mine as Gershwin, I think, was considerably more in the nature of characterization. Look how much better Cornel Wilde fared. He had a biographical role in 'Song to Remember'—Chopin. But he was one of those boys whose services were shared by two or three producers. Each tried to outdo the other. That sustained his prestige."

"However, I was one of the luckiest guys in the world, and don't think I don't know it. What happened to me happens to one actor in a thousand. I'd never been in a picture before I played Gershwin."

Italy, Athens, Palestine-- All Are in Texas

By JACK RUTLEDGE
Associated Press

It was probably just an uncanny accident, but pioneers who named Texas towns for European and Eastern cities have them placed on the map just about like they are originally.

For instance, says the Tyler telegraph: Athens, Tex., is south of Paris, Tex., Palestine, Tex., is southeast of Athens, and Italy, Tex. is west of Athens. That's the way they are abroad.

New York, Tex. is southwest of Boston, Tex., and Washington, Tex. is south of New York. And across an imaginary Atlantic (on the Texas map) London (new or old) is east of New York.

The telegraph admits that it's a little hard to explain what Canton is doing between Athens and Paris, or how Pittsburgh landed between Boston and New York, or why Carthage is east of Athens instead of southwest.

The mail continues to bring in explanations of how Texas towns were named and why:

C. P. Melton of Mercedes says: "Arp, Tex., was named for a newspaper editor—Bill Arp of the Atlanta Constitution. He's one of the few newsmen honored in Texas by having a town named for him. Melton said Arp was both established and named by his father after a previous name—Strawberry—had been turned down by the post-office department because there were so many others named Strawberry."

Iraan was named for Ira G. Yates and his wife Ann, on whose land the town is built, says Mrs. Mae Sammons of Midland. (Incidentally, there is a town named for Mrs. Sammons' husband—Sammams, Tex., near Mission.)

Pecos (pronounced Pay' Coss, as every good Texan knows) was named for a Spanish explorer.

Post, Tex., was named for C. W. Post, noted cereal manufacturer.

San Perlita was named for the wife of one of the founders of Willacy county. Her name was Pearl. Another valley town named after a woman is Elia. Another is Donna, writes Mrs. R. C. Rodriguez of McAllen.

Positions Open In Civil Service

The Civil Service Commission announces examinations for the positions of Vocational Instructor (Agriculture) and Instructors: (Culinary), (Dairy), (Truck Gardening), (Carpentry), (Electrical), (Painting and Decorating), (Plumbing), (Machine Shop), and (Power Plant). Entrance salaries range from \$2,895.60 to \$3,021.00 per year.

Employment will be with the Federal Correctional Institutions at La Tuna, Seagoville, and Texarkana, Texas.

Application forms and further information may be obtained from H. N. Yardley at the post office.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

"Select debris for all to see"

By DAVE BRUCE AND MACK NOLAN

The late Mr. Webster of dictionary fame intimates that Flotsam and Jetsam is the debris cast up on the shores of the ocean. In and among all this trash can sometimes be found articles of value and interest. In our daily life at A&M interesting and worthwhile articles are often cast up, but go unnoticed.

The two benchwarmers who write this column will attempt to glean the worthier material from the beach for your edification.

The LBTK Clubs seem to have lost their fight from the looks of the skirts the dates wore this week-end.

According to D. Fields most of the new dresses looked like a sack of potatoes with a drawing around the middle. Roy Lewis' version is that most of them looked like a little girl's dress that had dropped six inches and needed hitching up. Warning note: girls, if you hope to get anything better than a goal line seat in the anticipated rush for the T. U. game you had better get some kind of dress in which you can step out and not be restricted to little miming steps of eight or nine inches.

Spokesman of the Fourth Estate at TU assailed the A&M directive forbidding the "rebellious protests" which it claims is a "basis perogative." It would seem that in the citadel of our traditional rival that there is compassion for us, whether justified or not.

Word comes from Harry Boyer's Housing Office that incoming night communications from any quarter will hereafter be handled directly through his office.

Only 80 more shopping days till Christmas.

Wonder if someone is going to offer any prizes to the men of

Letters

SUGGESTIONS

Dear Editor:

The following are a few suggestions that we believe would be helpful at the football games.

First, there would be much less broken glass in the stands if everyone would pass empty bottles down to the front to be thrown out of the stands.

Next, to avoid after-game rush and congestion, why couldn't the gate on the east side of the stands be opened?

Last, if everyone would refrain from standing on the seats, more people could watch the game and the yell leaders.

BILL LONDON, '49
LAURENCE SEXTON, '49

DeLUXE CAFE

— Bryan —

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GUION HALL

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