

Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2 MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1947

Walk, Don't Ride, to the Hospital . . .

Brought to light again by the unfortunate death of a freshman student this past weekend in a traffic accident was the absence of an emergency ambulance and trained personnel to operate it on the A. & M. campus.

Though the case mentioned above was too severe to have had any chance of recovery, there is a possibility that sometime in the future an ambulance and trained personnel might provide the difference between an Aggie dead or alive.

Many editorials have been written and numerous protests have been made during the past years, but so far as The Battalion has found, no one has made the first move toward securing an ambulance.

Lack of funds and no authority are among the various excuses made for inaction

on the part of responsible officials. Someone has not taken the initiative and secured funds, nor gained the necessary authority. Who it is we do not know. We are merely pointing out an unhealthy and wholly unacceptable situation that is in definite need of immediate remedy.

We have seen sick animals—hogs, cows, and sheep—being carried to the veterinary hospital in college-owned trucks. It seems rather strange to us that a hog can ride to the veterinary hospital at college expense while our students must either walk or beg a ride to the college hospital.

It is often inconvenient for the dying to arrange their own transportation to the doctor. . . .

Lights, Camera, But No Action . . .

We have followed with interest, amazement, and jealousy the recent advertisements and articles on the new policy initiated at the Bryan's Queen Theater.

Bryan, it seems, will now have two theaters showing first-run movies while College Station sits back on its haunches and watches. In an outdated law of yesteryear, the Palace Theater had the authority to monopolize all first-run movies for Brazos County. Since that law went into the trash can, other by-laws have been put into effect by the entertainment company. Such a law as "the movie must have been in Bryan at least 90 days ago before College Station can show it" is an example.

In 1940 a student boycott of Bryan theaters reduced the time limit to ONLY 30 days. That was when the Assembly Hall served as a movie house for College Station theater goers.

Get that, gentlemen, College Station, with some 8,000 students and 2,000 residents and faculty members cannot show a movie until 30 DAYS AFTER it has shown in Bryan!

On the other hand, Bryan with 3 movies and about 15,000 people has Two FIRST-RUN THEATERS!

Anything for a Laugh . . .

There hasn't been a man living or dead who could seriously admit that he knew what is funny—and why.

Yet, today, the world is writhing mirthfully from unsuspected situations and conversations which seemingly are funny; funny to some, sad to others. Moreover, the same circumstance which brings a laugh today, may bring a frown tomorrow.

Humor is funny, but when one opens it up to see what is funny there is disappointment. It is not funny anymore. It is like that old anatomical mystery: where does your lap go when you stand up? (It passes to the rear, where it pops up under an assumed name).

The whole thing that gums up the works is that no one group of people can agree on what is funny. This would be a sad world, however, if no one could find humor in everyday life.

Shakespeare said that humor lies in what one thinks about something, not in the thing itself. What is it that makes one feel he wants to laugh? A review of what some of the authorities have had to say about it might help.

"The pleasure of the ludicrous originates in the sight of another's misfortune," Plato declared.

"Every amusing story must, of necessity, be unkind, untrue, or immoral," proclaimed Jowett, master of Balliol.

Webster defines humor as, "The mental faculty of discovering, expressing, or appreciating ludicrous or absurdly incongruous elements."

Milton Wright, in his book "What's Funny—and Why," explains, "For something to be funny it must bear a resemblance to something that is wholly sensible. This resemblance may be utterly artificial, but it must be there."

"Furthermore, the resemblance must be a new and unexpected resemblance. There must be a similarity—a ridiculous one, to be sure—that we have not realized before. The sudden realization of the artificial resemblance constitutes humor."

It all boils down to one thing—a laugh. If a correct definition were to be attempted, this one might do: "If you think it is funny, it is funny."

After all, this would be a strange world if someone did not try to have a little fun.

—Oregon Barometer

The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, Texas, is published five times a week and circulated every Monday through Friday afternoon, except during holidays and examination periods. During the summer The Battalion is published semi-weekly. Subscription rate \$4 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444) or at the editorial office, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209, Goodwin Hall.

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

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

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STILL HOLDING THE BAG



The Nation Today . . .

Explaining Loyalty Checks Of 1,600,000 Government Workers

By JAMES MARLOW
 WASHINGTON, Oct. 13 (AP)—Here's an explanation of the check being made on the loyalty of about 1,600,000 government employees.

They're the ones working for the government executive branches, like the labor, treasury and commerce departments.

(There's no checking being done on people working for Congress or the federal courts). The purpose of all this is to fire persons considered disloyal which means tied up with communist or fascist.

President Truman asked for the check. Congress voted \$11,000,000 for it last July. The checking officially started Oct. 1.

(Other very special checks are being made by the State Department and by the Army, Navy, and Atomic Energy Commission. They will be explained later in this series.)

Who decides in this search for disloyalty in the executive branch, who is disloyal and what is disloyalty? Government boards.

Mr. Truman said the No. 1 standard for testing loyalty shall be that:

"On all the evidence, reasonable grounds exist for belief that the person involved is disloyal to the government of the United States."

Attorney General Tom Clark has drawn up a list of about 70 organizations which he considers communist or fascist, or subversive.

The government agencies checking on loyalty will use Clark's list as a guide. The question arises: Why should a man be fired from the government service for being a Communist when the government permits the Communist party to exist here?

This is the government answer you'll get:

1. The Communist party can exist because the constitution guarantees the right of free speech to every citizen.

2. But working for the government is a privilege, not a right.

Therefore, the government can fire a Communist or Communist sympathizer.

Here's how the check goes: All 1,600,000 workers are fingerprinted, even though many of them have been fingerprinted before. And they must fill out an "identity" form:

Name, date and place of birth, places where they're lived and worked in the past 10 years and what organizations they've belonged to, other than religious or political.

The FBI gets these two forms and checks them against its fingerprint file and its list of "subversive" people. For example: Names of members of the Communist party or organizations in sympathy with Communists.

The case is closed if the FBI finds nothing in this check of its files and if there's no "tip" that a man's disloyal.

Two-fifths of Ceylon's great tea crop is shipped abroad, mostly to London, and the remainder is disposed of domestically.

Letters

MARSHALL PLAN

(Ed. Note: The following letter, written by Ripley B. Harwood Jr., Box 703, College Station, was sent to President Truman, a copy of which was forwarded to The Battalion for publication.)

My dear Mr. President:

This letter does not presume to advise or instruct you as to what action should be taken at this time, but it is intended only as the discharge of the duty of an American to keep his national administration informed as to the opinions of its constituents.

In spite of the all-too prevalent ignorance and apathy towards the Marshall Plan for aiding European nations, there are those of us who are convinced that it is the most vitally necessary action this nation has called on to take since the end of World War II. And the need for immediate action is terribly urgent. The European winter, like the processes of starvation, waits for nothing man-made—not even for the regular session of the United States Congress.

As one who has witnessed a tiny segment of the misery in postwar Europe, I cannot conceive how the leaders of this nation can let any consideration whatsoever come between themselves and action on this Plan.

We will accept (and some of us will welcome) a return to whatever economic controls may be necessary to implement the salvage of Europe.

Rogers Returns To Experiment Staff

John S. Rogers, agronomist in corn investigations for the A. & M. Agricultural Experiment Station, has just returned from a year's study in biology in the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Rogers holds two degrees from A. & M. In the eight years he has been in research activities he has assisted in the development of corn hybrids adapted to Texas growing conditions which are now planted on over 20 percent of the state's corn acreage.

I have no personal axes to grind in writing this letter, and represent no one except to the extent that I may be a representative of the thinking American public.

Yours respectfully,
 RIPLEY B. HARWOOD, JR.

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From the land of joy and romance to the "laughing place" of your heart!

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SONG OF THE SOUTH
 IN TECHNICOLOR

including uncut tales of
UNCLE REMUS

TUES. — WED. — THURS.
 FRI. — SAT.

MOTHER WORE TIGHTS
 TECHNICOLOR

BETTY GRABLE
DAN DAILEY

QUEEN

—TODAY—
 TUES. & WED.

Shameless?
 Blameless?
 Nameless?

BETTY GRABLE
DICK HAYMES

THE Shocking MISS PILGRIM
 IN TECHNICOLOR

with ANNE REVERE • ALLYN JOSLYN • GENE LOCKHART
 Written for the screen and Directed by GEORGE SEATON

FRIDAY — SATURDAY

Peter Lawford — Bu/ch Jenkins

"My Brother Talks to Horses"

—Plus Second Feature—
 Zachary Scott — Betty Field

—In—
"The Southerner"

—COMING—

THE LOVE/AFPAIR OF THE YEAR!

CLARK GABLE DEBORAH KERR
 M-G-M's
The HUCKSTERS

THAT BOOD MAN...

TOWN HALL
 PRESENTS
FRANCES GREER
 Soprano

FRANCES GREER

IN CONCERT
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 13
 8 P. M. GUION HALL