

Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1947

To Round-Out Engineers...

Harvard College, oldest in the nation, has been teaching young men for 309 years, but it has not grown so old that it thinks it knows all the answers.

One question to which it does not know the answer is how to turn out an engineer or other specialist who is well-rounded, well educated, adequately prepared for life. (We don't know the answer here at A. & M. either, and are trying to find one.)

According to a report from James Marlow of the Associated Press, Harvard College—not Harvard University but the undergraduate college which forms the core of the university—is now trying an experiment.

Included in Harvard University are the business school, the medical school and other special training grounds for men who have graduated from college.

Harvard College is a four-year course for men looking for a Bachelor of Arts degree before going on to the university schools for graduates.

The University itself seems pretty sure that it knows exactly what is necessary for graduate students.

It's the college which is trying to prepare students for the life they'll have to lead once they leave college or go into the graduate schools.

The question Harvard College is trying to solve is one which bothers a lot of schools:

A specialist in one field—such as engineering—is not necessarily an educated man. But how do you turn out a rounded-man who has a broader vision of the world than his own speciality?

Last year—other colleges started it years

ago—Harvard tried to find the answer by this method:

Let a man concentrate in one special field but at the same time let him study things fairly general such as:

1. The humanities—studies of things like Homer's Iliad, the Old Testament, Plato—to give him a view of the ideas which helped shape western civilization.

2. The social sciences, which would include things like economic and philosophic and political thinking as it was developed in western civilization.

3. The natural sciences, which would include the principles underlying sciences like physics and chemistry. A man taking the natural sciences wouldn't come out a scientist but he'd know the thinking behind science.

It would work like this: A man could specialize in engineering. But, instead of taking a side study like economics alone, he'd take a general course which included economics but gave a broader view of the world than just economics.

The Harvard experiment is one that could well be repeated here. Of course, we are trying to cram much work, both undergraduate and graduate, into four years. There is barely time to crowd in a single "side course" in economics—Eco 403 is that course—let alone a broader view of the world.

But we've got to do it, or we will most certainly fall down on our task of becoming educated men.

Harvard's experiment should be watched most carefully by all departments at A. & M., technical or liberal. Some day soon this school will have to do likewise.

Continued from Yesterday...

Yesterday we were discussing what is wrong with Texas education. We are still at it today, for disturbing word has come from Austin, where the Texas Association of School Administrators has been meeting.

Charges that the State Board of Education's practice in selecting textbooks is "intolerable" were made by W. T. White, superintendent of Dallas city schools. White pointed out that only professional educators are fully qualified to choose books for use in public schools, but that the State Board habitually ignores the recommendations of its self-appointed text-book committee.

"Textbooks are adopted because people are presenting the books through friendship" White said. "The textbook committee is a statutory organization, but its members are selected on a personal basis by members of the board."

"This wouldn't be so bad if the board followed their advice."

The Dallas educator urged school leaders to back a change in the law so that textbooks for elementary grades could be chosen from multiple lists as is now done in high schools.

"We are one of eight states that still follow the law of basal adoptions restricted to one book," White continued. "This outmoded method holds down the most progressive schools system to the pace of the most nonprogressive."

Is it any wonder that Texas secondary schools are rated so low nationally? Is it any wonder that Texas high schools have trouble building on inferior secondary training? Or that colleges have tragic difficulty building on weak high school foundations? That so many drop-out cards at A. & M. read "insufficient preparation"?

Certainly text-book selection is one of the problems that needs to be solved before Texas schools can hold up their heads with pride, as every Texas surely wishes.

Alcoholics Synonymous...

A source with which newspapermen are supposed to have at best only a nodding acquaintance last week produced sobering statistics on the hard-drinking newspaperman of Hollywood legend. The Keeley Institute of Chicago reported that of 12,012 drunks treated between 1930 and 1946, only 95 were newspapermen.

This put newsmen in fifth place, a notch above clergymen (40) and a notch below saloonkeepers (133). As if this weren't enough to convince city-room romantics that newspapermen have gone to pieces, the Keeley figures showed farmers in the lead with 1,347 cases; salesmen next with 1,138, and doctors third with 280.

Newsweek, July

The hard-working staff of Springfield (Mass.) Daily News was proud of the parade edition, prepared for the national convention of the Yankee Division Veterans Association. But street boys hawked it under a scorching sun: "Get your late Daily News. Swell for a sun shade, good to fan yourself with. Great for sitting on. Get the Daily News!"

Hot weather personal in the Muncie (Ind.) Morning Star: "Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Blackburn of Decatur, Ill. are visiting friends in Muncie this week."

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, 1919.

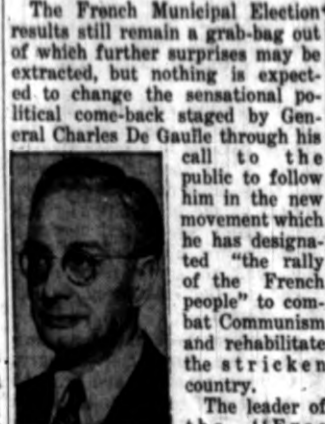
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As MacKenzie Sees It...

French Now Tired of Reds; DeGaulle Comeback is Proof

By DEWITT MacKENZIE
 AP Foreign Affairs Analyst



DeWitt MacKenzie

The French Municipal Election results still remain a grab-bag out of which further surprises may be extracted, but nothing is expected to change the sensational political comeback staged by General Charles De Gaulle through his call to the public to follow him in the new movement which he has designated "the rally of the French people" to combat Communism and rehabilitate the stricken country.

The leader of the "Free French" during the dark days of the German occupation again is making a powerful bid for the generalship to lead them out of the wilderness. Naturally his votes haven't come from the Communist party, but rather from the Socialists, the popular Republican movement and various other parties. Thus we have the extraordinary circumstance of De Gaulle commanding a large public following which represents a new group that has not yet appeared in the national parliament.

From this it is clear that a considerable portion of the anti-Communist section of the public, and this represents the majority of the people, is seeking for additional leadership in France's life and death struggle. It isn't particularly surprising that they should call again on the man who during the bitter days of the war against Hitlerism became the symbol of French resistance. Apropos of this, it is interesting to note that election night, Sunday, the battle cry of the Free French in the world war was being chanted in the streets of Paris—"De Gaulle—De Gaulle—De Gaulle."

Should the complete vote show that De Gaulle's "rally" represents the strongest party, we shall have the highly interesting situation of a new anti-Communist leadership against a Communist party which apparently hasn't been weakened at the polls. The question then will arise—whether De Gaulle can command the support of the other anti-Communist elements.

New Siren Lights Pipe, Kills Mice

By A. C. MONAHAN
 Science Service Staff Writer
 STATE COLLEGE, Pa., Oct. 22

Sound too high-pitched for the human ear to hear, given out from a lantern-shaped siren developed here at the Pennsylvania State College, contains enough heat energy to light a pipe, pop corn, or to kill a mouse, it is now revealed.

The device is called an ultrasonic siren. Details of its construction, together with some of the biological effects secured with it, will appear soon in the Journal of the Acoustical Society. The report is by C. H. Allen and Dr. Isadore Rudnick who developed the siren under the direction of Dr. H. K. Schilling, director of the Penn State acoustics laboratory.

In the siren, compressed air in a small chamber escapes through 100 small holes shaped like cones and spaced equally on a six-inch circle. As air escapes, a wheel with 100 teeth chops the air into pulses. Each pulse then becomes a sound wave. When the wheel spins at 18,000 revolutions per minute, the sound has a pitch of 30,000 cycles, and is too high for the human ear to hear.

White mice placed in the sound field died after one minute of exposure. Another mouse, exposed a half minute, appeared normal eight minutes later. The following day, however, its outer ear had deteriorated. The silent siren also was found effective in killing insects. Mosquitoes died in 10 seconds but a monarch butterfly caterpillar lived 215 seconds.

Possible uses for the device include the sterilization of foods, medical treatments and surgery, treatment of seeds to increase germination, elimination of the smoke menace, and speeding up chemical reactions.

When the human hand is placed over the siren, the heating is felt at those part of the fingers that are close together but not quite touching. Temperatures were measured with a thermocouple attached to the hand. They were also measured with the thermocouple attached to soft rubber tubing in place of the fingers. Increases as much as 45 degrees Centigrade were noted. With stiff rubber tubing the temperature increases were slight. The heating, therefore, seems to be produced by the damping of vibrations set up in the fingers by the intense sound field in the region between them.

Letters

FREEDOM TRAIN

Dear Editor,
 I noticed in the Thursday Batt that the Freedom train will be in Waco on the first of February, and on the second it has an open date in Waco.

I think it would be a good idea for somebody to see if the train couldn't be brought here. It isn't far, and Lord knows, there are enough fellows here who were told the things they fought for are the things on the Freedom Train. I would be interested in seeing those precious documents, inspecting my heritage, so to speak. We are, after all, the ones who have the immediate future of the country in our all too incapable hands.

JACK TIPPIT
 (Ed. Note—According to Dean Bolton, President Gilchrist has already telegraphed the American Heritage Committee asking that the Freedom Train be brought to College Station February 3, the day after the Spring session starts.)

Dr John S. Caldwell

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Hollywood Roundup...

Filmland Talks Taxes Instead Of Communists

By BOB THOMAS
 HOLLYWOOD, Oct. 22—(AP)

Contrary to opinion in some quarters, the most common conversational topic in Hollywood is neither sex, Communism nor the weather. It's taxes.

The No. 1 economic problem for movie stars is not to make an honest dollar, which comes easy to most of them, but to keep it. Listen to the experience of William Holden.

"I hired a business manager when I was making \$50 a week," Bill told me on the "Rachel" set. "By the time I went into the army we (wife Brenda Marshall) had saved \$25,000, which we thought was pretty good." But apparently it wasn't good enough.

"Today, I am making twice as much as I did before the war," he continued. "Yet we're just about breaking even."

The Holdens are no frivolous spenders, but it's all they can do to keep paying expenses and taxes. Bill said he's careful not to go into debt because, "once you get behind on this kind of salary, you never can get even again."

That's the kind of story I hear over and over. Greer Garson once told me the only thing in the world she owned is her house. Last week Charles Bickford said he was doing "Johnny Belinda" for nothing, because taxes would consume his profits.

Maureen O'Hara accepted the role in "Sitting Pretty" which was previously turned down by Loretta Young and Ailee Faye... Philip Dorn leaves for his native Holland next month... Add Oscar Derby entries: Robert Ryan in "Crossfire"; Tyrone Power in "Nightmare Alley"...

Errol Flynn cancelled his 1948 African Safari. He won't finish "Don Juan" in time for the good hunting... Sight of the week: Clark Gable painting his Encino ranch house on his day off from work... Louis Hayward was set to do "Cagliostro" until Orson Wells stepped in and took over the role.

What's Cooking?

ABILENE CLUB, 7 p. m., Wednesday, YMCA.
 AGGIE WIVES CIRCLE (College Station Methodist Church) 7:30 p. m., home of Mrs. R. M. Pinkerton, College Hills Estates.

AICHE PICNIC, 5 p. m., Wednesday, Hensel Park, Transportation at Petroleum Building.
 AUSTIN CLUB, 7:30 p. m., Monday, Room 108, Academic. (Originally October 23.)

AGRONOMY SOCIETY, 7:30 p. m., Wednesday, AI Lecture Room.
 AGGIE RODEO, October 24-25. BATTALION STAFF, 7 p. m., Wednesday, Room 201, Goodwin.

COOKE COUNTY CLUB, 7:30 p. m., Thursday, Room 207, Academic.
 DENTON COUNTY CLUB, 7:30 p. m., Thursday, Room 203, Goodwin.

EPISCOPAL STUDENTS CANTEBURY CLUB, 7 p. m., Wednesday, Parish House.
 ENGLISH STAFF, Annex English staff to entertain campus English faculty, 7:30 p. m., Thursday, Annex Student Center.

FALLS COUNTY CLUB, 7:30 p. m., Thursday, Room 128, Academic.
 HEART OF THE HILLS CLUB, 7:30 p. m., Wednesday, Room 225, Academic.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION CLUB, 7 p. m., Wednesday, club room of M. E. Shops.
 JOHNSON COUNTY CLUB, BARBECUE 6 p. m., Friday, Hensel Park, Contact A. R. Bucker, S-L Purysart, before noon, Thursday.

LITTLE AGGIELAND DISCUSSION AND DEBATE CLUB, organizational meeting Monday, October 27, 6:30 p. m. in building 347, room 1, Annex.
 NAVARRO COUNTY CLUB, meeting Thursday night after yell practice in Room 34 Academic Building.

PALESTINE A&M CLUB, 7:30

p. m., Thursday, Room 307, Academic.
 RIO GRANDE VALLEY CLUB meeting in YMCA at 7:30 Thursday, Oct. 23.
 TEXARKANA CLUB, 7:30 p. m., Thursday, Room 204, Academic.
 VETERANS WIVES CLUB—YMCA Cabinet room, Thursday, 7:30.



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