

Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1947

'Howdy' Faces Extinction . . .

One of A. & M.'s oldest and most creditable customs is rapidly sinking into oblivion. The custom of greeting everyone with a friendly "howdy" is one of the most valuable assets of an Aggie, and yet the present student body, veterans and corps members alike have gradually let the practice slip into disuse without a single note of dissent.

Dyed-in-the-wood Aggies howled long and loud when criticism was directed against the "tradition" of painting the water tower, or discontinuing a yell which brought much unfavorable comment on the school. Violent and united condemnation has been showered upon Bryan Field freshmen for not allowing A. & M. traditions to a "T".

But, at the time these complaints were being voiced, corps members and older Aggies on the campus were neglecting one of the few original Aggie practices, and incidentally one which they have never had to defend, as they forgot completely the habitual, friendly greeting.

The tradition of speaking has been honored in press stories about us until it has

become an Aggie trademark. One of the Batt's roving editors wound up on the Virginia Polytechnic Institute this summer, wandering about, and was made to feel right back at home by the cheering "howdy" given by all VPI students.

As "howdy" is definitely not a Virginia expression, and quite as definitely belongs to Texas, it appears that sometime our greeting was carried from here to VPI and copied! We can't afford to loosen up on a tradition that other schools copy from us.

To be sure, A. & M. students still speak, but nowhere to be found is that friendly atmosphere that once existed on the campus.

Veterans who still sport a cheery smile and a greeting to all are few and far between. Corps members given but little better impression as they listlessly pass one another with a nod and a grunt or an occasional "Whatcha say?"

What is the cause of this indifference? Who is responsible?

Why, WE are!

General Gripes at Grippers . . .

Have "GI Gripes" driven off badly needed army service recruits, as charged by Maj. Gen. William J. Wallace in his Navy Day speech in Dallas this week? Wallace, commander of Marine Corps Aviation, Atlantic Fleet, warned that the United States must find men to man its fleets and garrisons or one day "face another almost-lost Guadalcanal."

We appreciate Gen. Wallace's concern, but wonder if his attack on "gripes" shows any appreciation of the cause of those gripes?

The enlisted man-officer feud referred to by Gen. Wallace, is not new to the United States. It showed up during the Revolutionary War, when independent colonials refused to consider themselves "second class citizens" somehow inferior to their officers. Only the leadership of such a level-headed man as Washington kept the colonial army together.

Tom Paine served through the Revolution as a private, despite offers of a commission, because he feared the rank-and-file might lose their respect for his writings if he were an officer.

Attempts to censor the Stars-and-Stripes Beacon as a result of World War II indicated the desire of some military personnel to suppress gripes rather than do anything about the cause of them. Fortunately, we had a Gen. Eisenhower at the top, to order

at least a temporary freedom for the Stars-and-Stripes and its gripe column.

Gen. Wallace suggests that it is not normal for so many gripes to be heard, and further suggests that some "isms" are responsible for the spread of complaints. If griping makes one an "ist" of any faction, a lot of us would have to be censured.

The Doolittle commission made some fine suggestions, but few of them have yet been put into practice.

There is probably less discrimination between American enlisted men and officers than in any other army. But Americans are not accustomed to any discrimination in civil life, and inevitably resent it in military service. This is especially true when officers take a patronizing attitude toward the men under them, as some did, regrettably, during World War II.

On the other hand, first lieutenants and captains have been forced to gripe about the conduct of some colonels and generals.

The entire Texas division made an official gripe about the conducting of the Rapido crossing. The War Department has not yet forgiven Texas veterans for speaking up.

Gripes—some good-natured and some bitter—are the natural result of war service. To ask ex-soldiers or sailors to "hush-hush" what went on during the last war would be a last straw, so far as many veterans are concerned.

'Where's Kyle Field, Bud?' . . .

The A. & M. campus is growing. Many temporary buildings have been erected, and other offices have moved to new locations.

When a member of a class from 25 years back returns to the campus, he is often confused as to the whereabouts of certain buildings or departments. This is also the case of week-end visitors, or even mid-week visitors, who are forever coming onto the campus to visit students or just see the sights.

Last week-end was a good example. Baylor fans crowded the campus, as well as Aggies of by-gone years. Many of them were in a complete daze. If the sun had not been high in the heavens, they would not have known the North Gate from the West Gate.

The Battalion feels that maps should be printed and kept on hand in the lobby of the YMCA, in the Aggie Inn, in the dormitory lounges, and in other conspicuous

places. In this way visitors have the "lay of the land" at their fingertips. Of course Aggies are only too proud to show guests the sights of the campus, but a printed (labeled) diagram of College Station would be a more permanent direction method. How many GI's who served in England remember having heard, "Go fifteen blocks south, ten blocks north, one block east, turn up the alley, and you CAWNT miss it!" But then you followed the not-too-clear directions, and you DID miss it.

The present map of the college used in the YMCA handbook would probably serve the desired purpose for the next year or two. But after that time a more up-to-date chart would have to be made.

The Battalion feels that the great benefit rendered campus visitors would offset the small cost of printing the maps.

We're Glad to Hear . . .

After surveying 89 colleges and universities in the United States, the Rev. Charles E. McAllister is convinced they "are not breeding places for Communism," according to Associated Press.

The President of the Associated Governing Boards of State Universities and Allied Institutions said at a meeting last night that Communism "is not even a serious threat" in colleges.

We're glad to hear some sense spoken on this much-abused subject.

On its masthead, the Atalla (Ala.) Etowah News-Journal, a weekly, carries this line: "The only newspaper in Alabama printed in an alley." Its office is on Folsom's Alley.

In the Raleigh (N.C.) Times recently: "Corses of gardenias marked the places of Mrs. Champlin and Mrs. Cherry, and nose-gays of panties were at the places of the other guests."

AP copy reaching the Marshfield (Wis.) News-Herald read: "LANSING, MICH. — With the deadline for filing nomination petitions, four candidates had their hates in the ring today."

Speaking about a radio quiz-down show, the Miami (Fla.) Herald said Jan Bart, the noted singer, "has come a long way since he was born in a hay wagon in Poland while his family was fleeing from a frightful program."

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 200, 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.

Associated Collegiate Press Member

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

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The Nation Today . . .

'Americanism' Hard Word To Define in Positive Terms

By JERRY KORN (For JAMES MARLOW)
WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (AP)—What is "Americanism?" You've seen that word — and others, like "un-American," "disloyal," and "security risk" — more and more in recent weeks.

Right now a committee of the House of Representatives is investigating Communism in Hollywood. Its name is "The Committee of un-American Activities."

"Un-American" — What does it mean? Webster's new international dictionary gives this definition: "not characteristic of, or consistent with American customs, principles, etc."

And for "Americanism," Webster's says: "attachment or loyalty to the United States, its traditions, interests or ideals."

But the dictionary doesn't say which customs, principles or ideals.

Back in 1939, the committee on un-American activities, reporting on its first year of existence, defined Americanism in several hundred words.

Here are some of the things the committee said then:

"In the first place, Americanism is recognition of the truth that the inherent and fundamental rights of man are derived from God and not from governments, societies, dictators, kings or majorities."

"Some people in this country don't believe in God. Are they un-American? The committee didn't say. But it continued:

"The essence of Americanism is class, religious and racial tolerance. Therefore, a man who advocates class hatred is plainly un-American, even if he professes racial and religious tolerance."

It is an un-American to hate one's neighbor because he has more of the world's material goods as it is to hate him because he was born into another race or worships God according to a different faith."

Recently, both President Truman and the State Department have added some definitions dealing with the same subject. The President, asking Congress for money to investigate "disloyalty" in the gov-

Letters

"IRON CURTAIN"

Dear Editor,

Referring to your editorial, "Iron Curtain in Washington?" it appears that the Washington Post must have been pretty hard up for editorials when it made its charges against Secretary Marshall. It would seem to me that, foreign relations being what they are, an "iron curtain" is just what we need in Washington for protection against the leaking out of vital secrets.

Robert M. Lane, Jr.

(Ed. Note: We suspect now that Secretary Marshall got caught in cross-fire over an attempt by some Washington officials to set up such an "iron curtain," which has since been repudiated by the administration.)

BALANCE BUDGET TO EUROPE

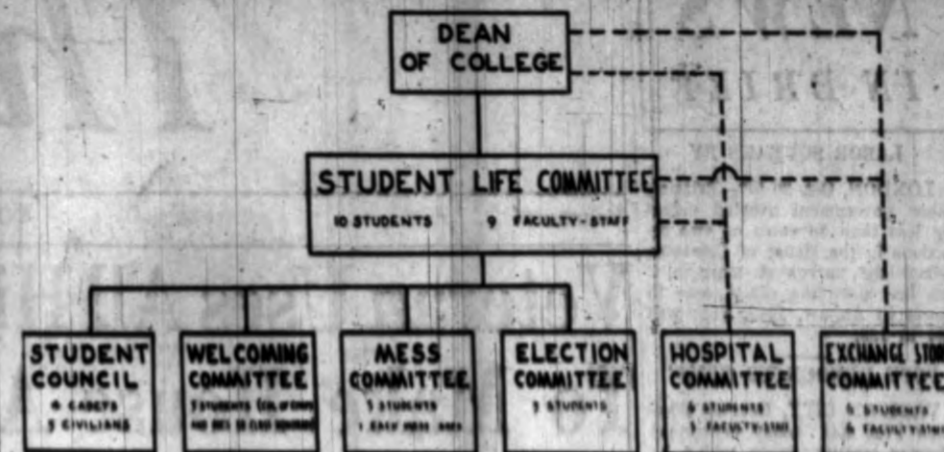
WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (AP)—Secretary of Treasury Snyder said yesterday the United States should keep its budget balanced in providing any aid for Europe under the Marshall self-help recovery program.

ment, defined "disloyalty" this way:

"Membership in, affiliation with or sympathetic association with any foreign or domestic organization, association, movement, group or combination of persons, designated by the Attorney General as totalitarian, fascist, communist or subversive."

Also members of groups which favor taking away the constitutional rights of others by force, or which want to change the form of the United States government in some way not allowed by the constitution.

Organizational Set-Up of Student Life and Student Senate



The Student Life Committee is composed of 10 students and 9 faculty-staff members, with Dean of Men W. L. Fensholt as chairman. The Student Senate is divided into six committees: Student Council, Welcoming, Mess, Election, Hospital and Exchange Store.

Chisos Mountains Vegetation On Upgrade, Reports Taylor

By RAY D. SIEGMUND

Removal of 40,000 head of livestock is resulting in the rapid recovery of the vegetation of the Chisos Mountains and their surrounding foothills and is proving beneficial even to the slow-growing vegetation on the desert flats.

This is the report brought back from the Big Bend National Park by Dr. Walter F. Taylor, of the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Unit of the A. & M. Department of wildlife management.

Dr. Taylor was one of a party who on the invitation of M. R. Tillotson, Regional Director, National Park Service, recently toured the Big Bend National Park to inspect the area taken over by the Department of Interior on June 12, 1944.

Other members of the party were V. C. Marshall, Executive Director, Texas State Conservation Board; Paul H. Walser, State Conservationist, U. S. Soil Conservation Service; Horace Leithead, District Conservationist, Marfa; Harold M. Ratcliff, Regional Forester, National Park Service, Santa Fe; Paul Balch, Regional Soil Conservationist; Ross A. Maxwell, Superintendent; and George Sholly, Chief Ranger, Big Bend National Park.

Dr. Omer E. Sperry, of the Department of Range and Forestry and Professor E. R. Alexander, head of the Department of Agricultural Education at A. & M., were to have been members of the party, but were unable to make the trip. Dr. Sperry has carried forward botanical studies of the Big Bend area over a period of several years and has prepared a manuscript on the subject.

During 1944 and 1945, Dr. Taylor was in charge of a party for

possesses species of considerable interest, including the mule deer of the flats, the flag-tailed deer of the Chisos Mountains, the javelina, the scaled quail, the mourning dove, fur animals, beavers, and others.

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