

Battalion EDITORIALS

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1947

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Politic Vs. Statesmanship . . .

With the President's anti-inflation and European aid message to the eightieth Congress now several days old, opposition has rapidly taken place. Unfortunately, some of the opposition seems to be based on political rather than statesmanlike question questions.

The program consists of what the President calls "ten drastic measures" concerning consumer rations and price ceilings on scarce commodities, an extension of rent and export controls, and a regulation of speculative trading on commodity exchanges. Also in the drastic class, he requests continued allocation of transportation facilities, an inducement of livestock and poultry marketing to obtain more efficient use of grain, and an Agriculture Department expansion program for encouraging conservation practices at home and food production abroad.

The rapidly formed opposition, headed by Ohio's Senator Taft, takes exception chiefly to the portion of the plan involving price ceilings and consumer rationing as well as Mr. Truman's often maligned grain conservation measure.

The Republican Senator insists there is no serious congressional objection to the half billion dollar stop-gap proposal to furnish food and fuel to Europe, but deplores the omission of reference to aid for China, as well as heavily criticizing what he calls "the Police State Methods" of the control and rationing measures.

From the color of both parties' statements, it seems likely that we will soon see some forms of rent and export curbs and an increase in power for our warring Department of Agriculture. The President's "preparedness" steps however may be in for a more rugged reception from a none too sym-

pathetic Congress, which has been known to halt bills not only because of the tone of the bill itself, but from disapproval of attached riders, stemming from such major programs.

Whatever portion of the plan eventually reaches the statutes, there is one facet of the furor which reserves attention. The rapidity with which the two factions took up their cudgels bespeaks far more of politics than of genuine concern over a rather serious situation. While the approaching national election is a dim, distant thing to the average voter, it is a matter of present day concern to the population of Capitol Hill, and any legislation to aid a starving Europe and money-floated America must be garnished to attract the taxpayer's vote.

Landscape Highlight . . .

Our Washington man reports the latest bit of goofiness out of radio row. It seems that Ray Henle, Ned Brooks and Felix Morely, the commentators who recently took over Lowell Thomas' chores for the Sun Oil Co., are spending liberally to furnish their office suite in the Commonwealth Building. For instance, \$75 mahogany waste paper baskets. But the crowning touch is the lobby mural. An artist was commissioned to paint a beautiful landscape, with a winding road and fields and trees, and everything else that is appropriate to rural scenes, but he was instructed, first and foremost, to paint prominently in the foreground—a Sunoco gas station.

—Tide

Want Readers' Opinions

Here's a chance to play editor:

When The Battalion went on a daily basis the first of this school year, many new features were added and the staff wants to know what readers think of them.

This coupon can be mailed in an unstamped envelope if addressed to The Battalion, Campus, and mailed at the Faculty Exchange, campus slot, in the rotunda of the Academic Building.

(Please submit this completed form to The Battalion before Friday, November 21.)

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The Battalion

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"DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT--"



On The Screen . . .

That Famous Voice Bringing You 'Mammy' - Jolson Story

By DAVE SELIGMAN

THE JOLSON STORY (Campus, ThFS), the heart-warming story of the life of Al Jolson. While the audience sees Larry Parks as the flesh of Jolson, they are given the treat of hearing that famous voice of the master himself.

Taking up Al as a small boy, the movie carries him through his struggle to fame and on to his retirement. The roles of Al's mother and father and his lovable childhood sweetheart are outstandingly portrayed.

Of course the high points of the show are those times when Jolson sings such old favorites as Mammy, April Showers, Swanee, and California, Here I Come.

PHILO VANCE RETURNS (Guion, FS), an interest-holding programmer for action fans. Except for the famous detective title, the film has no name value. While William Wright lacks some of the punch needed for the role of Vance, Leon Belasco gets laughs in the stock part of the detective's blundering assistant.

Guion Hall

TODAY - WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY



FRIDAY & SATURDAY - Big Double Feature -



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: Letters to the Editor :

FISH "CORPS TRIP"

Editor, The Battalion:

It is the opinion of this unworthy soul that, according to deep-rooted tradition at A. & M., the week preceding the annual Teahound versus Aggie game was set aside for the purpose of building the bonfire. Correct? It was also my understanding that freshmen were "allowed" to participate in this spirit-raising operation.

Stop me if I'm wrong, but according to reliable information, the Bryan Field Fishermen are being awarded this year a high honor which is not to be offered to anyone on the campus—that of a corps trip (I use the term loosely) to Austin for the purpose of "cementing relations" between the two "great" Texas schools. I don't blame those fish for grabbing the opportunity to take advantage of an "open" Saturday and hiking to Tealand or (???) but I wonder what will become of the bonfire.

Will the minority of students (pertaining to dewdrops, sergeants, and seniors) be able to gather enough material for a bonfire which can be used to produce spirit in us, our team, and our AWOL fish?

Sincerely yours,

BOB BRIDGES, '49.

(Ed. Note: The freshmen at Little Aggie are being permitted to attend the Shrine football game at Austin on November 22 upon the request of the Ben Hur Shrine Temple. Proceeds from the game will be donated for the benefit of crippled children.)

According to information received from Assistant Dean of Men Bennie A. Zinn, the Shrine Temple asked that the Freshman Band and units of the Annex regiment participate in a pre-game parade and at the game. The Temple felt that Aggie participants would add color and boost attendance for the Little Thanksgiving Day game.

Zinn also stated that during the past month freshmen at Bryan Field have been gathering material for the bonfire, and that B&CU trucks had already begun to transport the firewood. Not all freshmen from Bryan Field will be going to Austin, Zinn felt. Since only several best drilled units will participate in the parade at Austin, many freshmen will remain at the Annex during this coming week-end. Zinn believes with close coordination and cooperation between upperclassmen and the freshmen who will remain here over the week-end that progress on the 1947 bonfire will not be hindered.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Editor, The Battalion:

Mid-term grades having been posted seem to have made many of our boys most unhappy. To quote an example, out of thirty veteran students in one class, 3 made C's, 3 made D's, and 24 made F's. This will give the respective percentages of 10%, 10%, and 80%.

Basic principles of education tell us that one may expect to find in a random sampling of students 7% A's, 18% B's, 50% C's, 18% D's, and 7% failures.

College students usually come from the upper 25% in intelligence of our population. This would indicate that even a greater percentage should make "C" and above.

It is generally accepted that most of our veteran students are in earnest about getting an education, and have set aside a sufficient amount of their day to be devoted to study. Along with this we will assume that 50% of the fault for low grades belongs to the student. This may be due to poor study habits, low intelligence, lack of time for sufficient study, etc.

This leaves another 50% of the fault to be accounted for. It could perhaps lie with our teachers. Knowledge of subject we will assume that our teachers have. However, knowledge of subject matter is not sufficient; a teacher (See LETTERS on Page 4)

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