

Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1947

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Congratulations! Well Done! . . .

In the excitement of the Thanksgiving Day festivities, many of the 41,000 fans who saw the annual game with Texas may have overlooked what we thought was one of the best performances ever given by a college organization.

We refer to the half-time performance of the Aggie Band. All season—in Baton Rouge, Fort Worth, Houston, and here at College Station, the Aggie Band rendered its usual precise half-time drills. These have won for the 140 members of the Aggie Band wide praise from fans and alumni alike.

But Turkey Day, the band seemed to put forth the little extra effort that tabbed its

performance as superb. To many old grads among the spectators, the band "looked better than it ever has."

Certainly, the showing topped anything in the Southwest this year. The timing in the intricate criss-cross was perfect and the marching letters proved an innovation which attracted wide-spread notice.

Not only has the Aggie Band fulfilled its role as the backbone of the Twelfth Man, but its snappy formations have given the school wide recognition of which it has a right to be justly proud.

So to the members of the Aggie Band, and its Director, E. V. Adams, The Battalion says "Congratulations for a job well done!"

Two Years Behind The Times . . .

It was during one of those cold days last week and Mr. Clifford H. "Bump" Staffer was in a hurry.

He hustled into the Administration Building and hurried over to the directory on the bulletin board. His bony finger, sporn from punching typewriters in the newspaper offices that had enjoyed varying degrees of prosperity over the country for the past 20 years, ran down the list of names, stopping at "Student Activities, L. M. Collins, Room 3."

"Upon finding out where Room 3 was located, 'Bump' stepped into the office, a hot story on the line.

"May I see the director of student activities, please?" Bump asked innocently, "I believe his name is Mr. Collins."

"Why Mr. Collins left here in 1945," came the reply from the secretary. "He was replaced by Mr. Joe Skiles."

"Well, may I see Mr. Skiles?" Bump asked undaunted.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Skiles left in September," the secretary said sweetly.

Determined, Bump stuck his chin out and said, "Well, may I see the director of student activities, whoever he is?"

"I'm sure I couldn't tell you," she said, "you see, this is the Comptroller's office. Student Activities was moved to Goodwin Hall three months ago."

Slowed, but with the will of the reporter still burning brightly, Bump thanked the sweet young thing and disappeared into the street, still in quest of student activities. He gave a departing sneer to the bulletin board as he left the building.

The case of Bump Staffer was not a strange one, however. As Bump left the Ad-

ministration Building, a woman entered, went to the bulletin board to determine where she could find Byron Winstead, director of publicity. The bulletin board showed Byron Winstead was in Room 329.

In Room 329, the woman learned Mr. Winstead was no longer director of publicity, contrary to the bulletin board, "but could Mr. Shuffler, who WAS the Director, help her?"

Of course, Mr. Shuffler was down stairs in Room 210 (the bulletin board indicates Room 210 is occupied by the Dean of the College and the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences) and Winstead's office is occupied by Bishop Clements, assistant to Shuffler.

Within the space of ten minutes, similar incidents occurred. An ex-student, not familiar with the workings of the new order, walked into Room 5 (allegedly the offices of student publications) and asked the Comptroller's part young secretary for his copy of the 1946 Longhorn (Ed. note: He got his Longhorn all right—two days later when he finally stumbled on to the offices of student publications in Goodwin Hall) and a representative of the Southwest Paper Company tried to find the A&M Press in Room 19 as the bulletin board indicated but succeeded in obtaining only a demonstration from the employees of the photographic and visual aids lab, now occupying the office.

All in all, the fight to find anyone in the maze of misdirections in the Administration Building is a hard one, but front line reports indicate the battle may not be lost. Who knows? The bulletin board may not always be two years behind the times, even though a change bringing it up-to-date admittedly would provide a less entertaining, if more orderly, picture.

One More Word On Ratings . . .

(Last in a Series)

Before ending this discussion of student ratings of teachers' performance, there are several more points to be considered. The problem of evaluation is important as is shown by the fact the Association of Land Grant Colleges, at its last national meeting, set up a committee to investigate such suggestions on a country-wide scale. Their discussion, of course, concerns not only rating of teachers by students, but by department heads, administrators, and other means.

One feature asked by most teachers and administrators is that some safeguard be made against irresponsible reports by inferior students. One suggestion under consideration here is that though the reports would be unsigned, each student might be asked to mark his own grade-point average on the report.

Perhaps it would be well to include at the top of any blank for rating teachers these questions for the student to answer first:

"What do you understand to be the purpose of this course? (Mark only one)

"To learn fundamental facts for use in later courses"

"To learn specific technical procedures."

"To understand background of events"

"To practice creative thinking"

The student's appreciation of the purpose of the course would help evaluate his evaluation of the teacher.

Have we, as students, enough intellectual honesty to rate our teachers intelligently? That is the crucial question in the debate on whether or not we should ask to "Rate the Profs" at the end of each semester.

We presumably have the intelligence to make such a rating, or we wouldn't even be in college. But some teachers, reading this series of editorials, have asked if Aggies wouldn't so arrange their ratings as to distort facts, voting "good" on pipe courses which take little time and trouble, and voting "bad" for all courses which assign a full load of homework, outside reading or theme preparation.

No one can flatly answer to that accusation. We must look within ourselves, individually, and ask if we would vote honestly, given such a chance. If we convince ourselves that we would be honest, then we may legitimately press the "Rate the Profs" idea.

Delos Avery, writing in the Chicago Tribune, commented thusly on the Freedom of the Press Commission report:

It's Robert Maynard Hutchins' guess That nobody bawls out The Press; He'd never fall for such a tale If he read the Tribune mail.

A story describing weekend depredations read as follows in the East St. Louis (Ill.) Journal:

Other week-end police activities included the burglary of two stolen automobiles and theft of a car and bicycle.

P.S.—The police didn't like it.

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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DELIVERING THE GROCERIES



BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS . . .

Freedom of Press Defended By Harvard's Prof. Hocking

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. By William E. Hocking, University of Chicago Press, 1947.

Should a democracy, in the name of liberty, allow harm to be done in and to the community? Does liberty cover the right to lie, to defame, to issue distorted propaganda, to degrade?

Does the principle of toleration require tolerating the intolerant? Or should abuse be checked and confusion limited by firm communal action for the common good, with faith that a pruned liberty will repay the injury of the pruning by a stronger and more enduring growth?

Until the individual citizen and the press answer the above questions, our traditional liberalism will be on the prisoner's dock, says Professor Hocking in this new analysis of the principles of freedom.

In John Milton and John Stuart Mill, freedom of expression found two noble champions. Their philosophy became the basis for our own deep-rooted devotion to liberty, which was written into our body of law and underlined our theory of freedom of the press, holding that every man possesses an inalienable, unconditional right to utter his own opinion.

Today immense technological advances, the increased need for reliable news and services, and the extreme power which the agencies of communication wield have placed in this laissez faire notion of liberty under fire.

In William E. Hocking, liberty has found its twentieth century champion. The Emeritus Professor

of Philosophy at Harvard, seeking principles on which the Commission on Freedom of the Press might base its work, profoundly and brilliantly re-examines the foundations of freedom of the press in philosophy and law. He declares that in a modern state freedom is both a value and a conditional right; freedom of expression exists as a moral right only as the expression assumes responsibility to the needs of the consumer. For in a world of mass communication and global war, the consumer, no longer free not to listen, has a right to the facts reported fully and truthfully.

Professor Hocking develops a framework of principles for a free press, in view of experience, out of the very nature of man, society, law, and government. His book restates our claim to freedom.

MOLOTOV NAMES PRICE LONDON, Dec. 8.—(AP)—Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov Monday listed \$10,000,000,000 (ten billions) reparations and repeal of the economic merger of the British and American Zones as the price of Soviet agreement to the economic unification of Germany.

Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

Acute Case of Intelligence or Mild Case Of Baldness Question Raised by W. Va. Ordinance

An ordinance which a Huntington (W. Va.) councilman has introduced, limiting the price for cutting bald-headed men's hair to 25 cents, has brought up a question which can be argued back and forth as long as man keeps sprouting hair. Just what degree of absence of hair does it take to make a man baldheaded?

Edgar Saltus refers to the high foreheads which are said to denote intelligence by those who have them, but he does not say how far back and high forehead continues to be a high forehead and past what dividing line it becomes instead, active baldness. We have seen some high foreheads that went half-way back to the nape of the neck but we have not seen anyone who could say whether this represented a mild case of baldness or acute case of intelligence.

Among ineluctable questions, "When is a man bald?" ricks right in there with "Which comes first, the chicken or the egg?" If it has not been solved in the libraries and the universities—and it hasn't—it doesn't look like the problem has solution in the barber shops.

There will be, first of all, the customer who is not really bald at all, but who is very economical and, who will demand the 25-cent hair-cut. There will be first, last and always the really bald men who would rather pay any amount than be classified as bald, and who may be hurt terribly if the barber doesn't overcharge them.

For them, the difference is not the price of a haircut—it is the price of reassurance that they look O.K.

NO JUSTICE

Joseph Klus, 28, an attendant at a service station in Chicago, obeyed when two gunmen drove up and said: "Give us the company's money."

Mr. Klus took a roll of bills from his pocket, peeled off \$10 and gave the bandits \$65. "What is all this?" one of them asked. "The \$10 is mine," said Mr. Klus. The gunmen took it anyway.

MESS HALL MATERIAL

Mrs. Alfred Daoust of Rosellelaer, N. Y., was still in the best of condition following her Thanksgiving Dinner for twenty-three, prepared entirely by herself.

The dinner, for 16 children, six guests and herself, was composed of a twenty-five pound turkey, a peck of potatoes, twelve pies (four apple, four mince and four pumpkin), five pounds of grapes a pound of coffee and three pounds of nuts. There was also ice cream.

"It's a matter of routine," said Mrs. Daoust. "I just put a little more in each kettle."

WORLD PEACE VIA POLGAR

Dr. Franz Polgar, widely traveled Psychologist (his travels have carried him to A&M where he performed at Union Hall last spring), said in Chicago last week that we could have eternal peace and quiet if we were permitted to hypnotize world leaders for five minutes.

"If they would let me," Polgar said, "I could do it over the radio."

He believes that while he had the rulers of the world under a spell he could beat some sense into their heads.

The doctor is more than a hypnotist. He is a mind reader as well. He travels more than 100,000 miles a year giving lectures, shocking learned professors and going stunts that folks can't believe unless they see them.

At Guion Hall, he hypnotized a whole stage full of people within a minute.

Once he offered to contribute for free his evening's earnings of \$1,000 if the management could hide his checks where he couldn't find it among an audience of 2,000. They stood guard over him in his dressing room while they hid the check under a man's upper plate back in the middle of the theatre.

He found his paycheck in short order.

: Letters to the Editor :

TALE OF A SHIRT

Editor, Battalion: I am but one of a multitude who share the same gripe at least once a week; that is, when I untie my neatly bundled laundry.

Is it too much to ask of a laundry, even though it does a tremendous volume of work, to return a shirt in one piece? Couldn't they wash the dirt out with water instead of scraping it off with a sharp hoe?

An example of this is the case of the mangled sport shirt which was sent only last week. It wasn't an expensive shirt, only costing about \$3.00, but it was new—brand new. I excitedly opened the bundle and

retrieved my lost friend only to find two large, gaping holes which weren't the armpits. I can understand why an old shirt might meet with an accident after faithful service, but I could have played football in this shirt and not done it half the harm. Another example is a new khaki shirt which looked as if someone had starved the cuffs in concentrated sulfuric acid. Then a bed sheet with a ripped corner, coveralls with a torn shoulder, and if I thought hard enough I could recall many more cases.

We're not asking the impossible. We like our collars/ironed backwards then crushed, and our shirt

Guion Hall

TODAY — WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

"Lady in The Lake" with ROBERT MONTGOMERY

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY Double Feature:

Notorious Gentleman with Rex HARRISON

and LILLI PALMER

and HOPPY RIDES AGAIN!

Hopalong Cassidy Productions present

WILLIAM BOYD as "HOPALONG CASSIDY" in

The Devil's Playground

Released thru UNITED ARTISTS

ANNOUNCING

the 1947 HORTICULTURE SHOW

Dec. 16 & 17 — 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Sponsored by THE HORTICULTURE SOCIETY of Texas A. & M. College

to be held in the main dining room of SBISA HALL

SOLVE YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT PROBLEMS

Orders for gift boxes of Texas grown citrus fruit will be taken in the dormitories, and orders may also be placed with the secretary in the Horticulture Department.

Prices of these "Gift Boxes" are as follows, with shipping charges not included:

- "Executive Package" (12 Ruby Red Grapefruit) \$2.25
- Imported Bamboo Mexican Picnic Basket (mixed) 4.25
- Marsh White Grapefruit; Seedless
 - Bushel box 3.60
 - Standard crate 4.75
- Ruby Red Grapefruit, Bushel box
 - Standard crate 4.60
 - Standard crate 6.50
- Oranges, Texas Special, Bushel box
 - Standard crate 4.10
 - Standard crate 6.25
- Mixed White Grapefruit and Oranges, Bushel box 3.85
- Mixed Ruby Red Grapefruit and Oranges, Bushel box 4.35



RAY'S Snack Bar

Campus

Opens 1:00 p.m. 4-1181

THE LAST DAY



starring ANGELA ANN SANDERS • LANSBURY • DVORAK

with FRANCES DEE • JOHN CARROLLINE • SUSAN DOUGLAS • PEGGY HARRIS • PAUL WILSON • ALBERT HANSEN • KATHLEEN EMERY • RICHARD FRASER • WARREN MILLIKEN

Features Start 1:00 3:10 5:25 7:40 9:30

DISNEY CARTOON

WED. — THURS. "Temptation"

See! Miracle on 34th Street

Coming Soon!

COMING SOON!