

Battalion EDITORIALS

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1948

RESOLVED!

In 1948 Let Us . . .

Eliminate Railroad Hazards . . .

In 1947, two people were killed at the College Station railroad depot, in separate accidents. The dangerous condition of this station has long been recognized, but nothing has been done about it.

A raised-track Union Station, serving both railroads and allowing people to pass safely under the tracks, is the ideal solution. But unless this can be done soon, steps should be taken to equip the crossing at the depot, at the Easterwood Field road, and other important roads with proper lights and bells.

Will more people be killed at this depot in 1948, or will we save their lives by timely action?

Establish A Journalism Department . . .

For some years A. & M. has been training technical journalists by a left-hand method. These students have "syndicated" courses, majoring in some technical field, working on student publications, and trying to get enough English courses on the side. Results have been good, so far as a few individuals are concerned, but the number of students willing to study in such erudite fashion has been too small to fill the requests for technical journalists received here.

A. & M. could be the best school in the nation for training technical journalists in the agricultural and engineering fields, which are the very fields where the need for specially-trained personnel is greatest. But we can be the leader only if we establish a journalism department or option, with curriculum specially designed for such training.

Can A. & M. afford not to take the lead, where it has such a natural advantage?

Improve Athletic Bookings . . .

How many years has it been since A. & M. played an important non-conference game on Kyle Field? Can anyone remember?

By Southwest Conference rules, half the conference games are played on the home field. But except for a breather at the opening of the season, which is usually little more than a warm-up for the Mason and White, no other games are played here. Our inter-sectional games are all away, making it hard for many students to attend.

Fortunately, the athletic department is considering putting lights on Kyle Field so the night games can be played here. The 1948 schedule is already set, of course, but perhaps during this year some important northern or other distant teams can be persuaded to come to Kyle Field early in the season before conference play begins.

Also during 1948 we hope to see signs of greater cooperation between the athletic department, the Athletic Council, the Former Students Association, and the student body in raising the standards of all A. & M. athletics to new high levels.

Appoint Dorm Counselors . . .

Several major colleges which do prohibit living-fraternities and house all their students in dormitories have adopted the plan of having a counselor live in each dormitory, to assist students with their studies and personal problems. Why not at A. & M.?

Such a man would have to be of top-notch calibre—broadly educated, sympathetic, and understanding, and a bachelor. Can such men be found? Other schools have found them.

These men would not serve as "spies" or proctors, but would be teachers without specific class-room assignments, giving their full time to counselling and tutoring.

If it is impossible to assign one to each dormitory (our dorms are smaller than those in the college practicing this system) it might be possible to assign one counselor to each group of dormitories. Nowhere is such a service needed more than at A. & M. where contact between faculty and students is so limited.

Present A "Sully" Award . . .

Many awards are now given at A. & M. for athletic prowess, scholarship, and military proficiency. But we need a basic source of achievement—citizenship.

Once we had a president at A. & M. who was the embodiment of high principles of citizenship, by the name of Lawrence Sullivan Ross. We pride ourselves that Aggies today still are "soldiers, statesmen, mighty gentlemen" as taught by Sully Ross.

Why not award, each year, a small reproduction of the Sully Ross statue to three people who best exhibit the traits of Aggie citizenship—one to a student, one to a faculty member, and one to an Aggie ex? They could be selected by vote. Ballots could be printed in The Battalion for student and faculty nominations, and in The Texas Aggie for the ex-student.

This is a resolution we can do something about ourselves, and we intend to.

Enlarge Campus Entertainment . . .

Students who stay around A&M on the week-ends invariably appear in their Monday classes with wild, glazed looks in their eyes, simply because the boredom of a College Station week-end is so maddening. The Battalion joins with these wild-eyed creatures in seeking a fuller recreational program so that the aforementioned eyes may have some surcease.

The quality of the Town Hall presentations can and should be improved. Other schools in this neck of the woods boast a star-studded agenda of artists. Why not A&M?

The problem of first-run pictures at Guion Hall is clouded with politics and legislation, but headway has been made and more should be. Already Guion Hall is on a bid basis for MGM pictures. The coming year, we hope, will see us seeing all first-runs.

In the field of classical and semi-classical music A&M is a desert island. There is ample talent here, but it is unorganized. The Battalion makes a motion that a symphonette be formed during 1948 to fill the musical void.

The recreational gap can be appreciably bridged with a continuation in quantity of the shows already presented here by entertainers from other schools. An exchange system, such as the University Orchestra playing here in return for our sending a group of entertainers to Austin, would be one solution.

The eyes have it, or have had it. A full and well-rounded recreational program is resolved.

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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Table with 4 columns: Name, Title, and other details for staff members like Vick Lindley, Farris Block, etc.



AP Editors Select Top Texas Stories of '47

Aggieland Rates 6th

A. & M.'s student-administration fight which raged through the spring semester was overwhelmingly selected the Number Six Texas story in 1947, editors of Texas Associated Press member papers voted in the annual poll to select the year's top ten stories.

The Texas City disaster was overwhelmingly selected the Number One story, with only one AP editor placing Texas City anywhere but first.

Briefly, here are the highlights of the top ten stories of 1947:

- 1. TEXAS CITY EXPLOSION—April 16, 1947, burning tanker loaded with ammonium nitrate suddenly exploded, caused chain of other explosions and fires, caused 368 deaths during almost week of horror unequalled in Texas since Galveston hurricane and flood at turn of century.
2. THE 4-DAY TELEPHONE STRIKE This was preceded by a local strike at Odessa (in March) which spread over Texas but was settled within a week. The major strike, a sympathy strike with national unions, began April 7, ended May 17, and paralyzed communications except in cities with dial systems (including all long distance calls).
3. FLYING DISKS This phenomenon, occurred in the heat of summer and every tenth person in Texas seemed to see strange, flying disks shooting through the sky. It was a national craze, not confined to Texas, and died out quietly in August. There was no satisfactory explanation except that people just thought they were seeing things, or were mistaking real objects for unusual objects.
4. DR. ROSS MURDER CASE Four persons of one family were murdered on a lonely country lane near New Braunfels May 25. Dr. Lloyd J. Ross, San Antonio surgeon was arrested, later tried convicted, given death sentence. Trouble arose over finances.
5. WEATHER The year started with blizzards in January, progressed to tornadoes in April, May and June, to hurricanes in August.

4 Students Attend Christian Meeting

Four Aggies attended the North American Student Conference on Christian Frontiers held on the campus of the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas during the Christmas holidays. Aggies attending the conference were Jimmy Cashman of College Station, L. E. Winder Jr. of College Station, Allen Eubanks, of Dallas, and J. W. Robinson, of Hereford, accompanied by Gordon Gay, assistant secretary of the YMCA.

Melloh Cited For Service in Navy

Dr. A. W. Melloh, vice-director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, has recently received a certificate of commendation from the secretary of the navy through the chief of the Bureau of Ships.

Freshman Debaters Elect Hearne Head

Douglas Hearne, electrical engineering freshman from San Antonio, was elected president of the Little Aggie Discussion and Debate Club at the last meeting of 1947.

Board Member May Direct Neches Valley Authority

John W. Newton of Beaumont, member of the A&M Board of Directors, may also serve as head of the Lower Neches Valley Authority, Attorney General Price Daniel announced during the holidays.

Neither of the two state positions are enviable jobs.

Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

Suspenders Hold Up Man As Well As His Trousers, Saving Life After 57-Foot Fall

Thanks to his suspenders, Robert Robinson is alive in a Hinton, W. Va. Hospital after a 57-foot fall from the top of nearby Bluestone Dam.

His wife said the workman's fall was broken when a suspender strap on his overalls caught a protruding bolt half-way down the side of the big flood control barrier. He swung for a moment before a button ripped loose, then fell the rest of the way to a lower level.

He was taken to the hospital with a broken leg, a fractured elbow and chest injuries, little enough penalty for a 57 foot mistake.

BOTTLE EDUCATION

A course in beer-brewing may be offered soon by New York City's public school system.

A program for training brewer's apprentices in the evening vocational schools, approved by a committee of school officials, has been submitted for adoption at a meeting of the Board of Education.

A board spokesman said the course would be open only to those already employed in the brewing industry.

HE LIVES, BUT HE'S THIN

Fifty-year-old John Anderson was thanking his lucky stars today that he has kept a narrow waistline all his life.

Anderson fell off the platform of the I.R.T. subway station at Broadway-West 157th Street in New York City recently but rolled into the trough and lay so flat that he was untouched by the two cars of a train that passed over him.

An ambulance attendant from Mother Cabrini Hospital examined him, found no injuries, and sent him to his home at 451 East 137th Street in the Bronx.

SHARK PILOT

A man calling himself the world's champion ocean swimmer has unveiled his plan to harness shark-power at Palm Beach.

Paul Chotteau said recently he plans to "pilot" a shark harnessed to a pontoon-like craft from Florida to Bimini, 114 miles away. Said Chotteau: "It isn't as crazy as it sounds. After all, if a man can swim the distance, it ought to be easy for a shark."

And Chotteau says he has swum the distance. He backs his claim up with a certificate from the Florida Association of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States.

The certificate also states that the swimmer battled sharks along the way.

Chotteau explained that this time he intends to make a shark pilot the craft. He told reporters that he is confident he will be ready to start his trip within a couple of weeks.

Only hitch at present, shrugged off by Chotteau as "merely incidental" is finding, then harnessing a shark of suitable size and shark-power for the trip.

Leap Year Will See Skirts Hit New Low; Necklines Next

By LARRY GOODWIN

heralding another leap year, a presidential election and new wonders in the field of science, 1948, less than a week old, also carries the promise of bigger things both good and bad, on the home front.

For women, it means another look at the "new look", another 12 months that promise to see skirts continue to drop, inch by inch, over the protests of a hardened male public. And, the new year also offers possible precedents in the field of education with the familiar term "educational aid for education" again crumpling up in the news.

On the pessimistic side, 1948 looms as 52 more weeks of steadily rising prices unless favorable weather conditions allow farmers a chance to harvest a record, price-lowering crop of consumer goods.

The issue of the "New Look", simmering at the turn of the year after reaching a white hot pitch when legs first began to disappear from view early in 1947, may flame anew in 1948. But it's all in vain, say the fashion designers. The new look has definitely become the old look and the demand in knee-length skirts will look as out of place as a bobby soxer at an embassy ball.

Skirts are approximately two inches longer than in the fall when the dropping hemline created a fashion furor, unmatched since the dawn of the hobble skirt.

But, (it ain't all bad, mates) as skirts grow longer, necklines will go lower, some being slashed clear to the waist, with only the finestst veiling of lace. Others are designed to be pulled down to reveal the shoulders, as low as the law allows.

1948 may see vast changes in higher education—not in the method of teaching—but in the number of people getting it. Tentative new federal financial grants to colleges may allow lower entrance fees, lower living costs. Moreover, if the GI Bill allotment is raised, many veterans, forced to drop from college because of lack of funds, may be able to return.

But, at year's outset, these measures are still tentative and very much in the future.



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Advertisements for PALACE and SINGAPORE theaters, featuring movies like 'The New Look' and 'Singapore'.

Large advertisement for GUION HALL featuring the movie 'LES MISERABLES' with Charles Laughton and Fredric March.