

Battalion EDITORIALS

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TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

A Sinking Memory . . .

On Texas college campuses, there seems to be little love for the Battleship Texas project, which aims to endow the rusty hulk of what was undoubtedly once a fine ship, and set it up as a perpetual eyesore in front of the beautiful San Jacinto Monument.

The Battalion has frequently explained its view that the money would be much better spent on some such living memorial as cancer research. A T. U. student in the Daily Texan recently burlesqued the battleship project by asking that old GI garbage cans be placed in a spot of honor in the Texas State Capitol rotunda.

But the most serious protest has been made by the Campus, SMU student newspaper. The editors in an open letter request Governor Jester to "halt the falsified patriotic appeal being made by sponsors of the movement." They enclosed a Campus editorial, "A Sinking Memory," which reads in part:

It is true, perhaps, that a few Texans have the habit of saving all their old tin cans and keeping them in the backyard for all the neighbors to see, but we would hardly advocate that as a state policy. Old tin cans are expensive to have around, and the navy's slowest hatterlagon is no exception.

Supporters of the "Save the Texas" campaign point out that the Texas bears the name of our proud state and should not be abandoned to the scrapper. They also explain that many Texans served aboard her, and that we should keep the overgrown rowboat as a monument to those Texans who fought and died in the recent war; if we are to follow this line of reasoning, let us bring all the ships of the United States Navy into

permanent anchorage in Galveston bay. It would be hard to find one which didn't have a Texan on board.

Then, too, although we don't wish to repeat the mistakes of Gov. Jester, we seriously doubt if anything near a majority of Texans veterans favor the proposed move. Most veterans can think of better uses for our inflated dollars.

People have been building monuments to war all through the history of man, and all through the history of man we have been plagued by wars. Why erect or maintain monuments to something which we all profess to hate? If we must build monuments, why not erect monuments to men like Mohandas Gandhi, who freed 400 million Indians without firing a shot, preaching the gospel of love rather than hate? Or better still, let's build a living monument by cleaning up social cancers such as West Dallas.

We offer these suggestions:
Sink the Battleship Texas in the deepest part of the Gulf of Mexico, or sell it for scrap.

If we must make the old tub into a monument, then let us bring it to the most visited portion of our Texas coast. Sink it stern first into the ocean bottom, with the bow remaining out of the water. Thus arranged, the Battleship Texas would be a real monument. It would remind us in a more realistic fashion of the men who fought and died in the United States Navy. It would remind us of what wars mean to the men who fight in them.

Perhaps it would serve to kill the romantic notions concerning war and its "glory" which have always seemed to live longer than the memory of the horror and futility of it all.

Not 'Tired of Texas' . . .

Have you ever suffered while a veteran who trained in Texas held forth on the theme "What I don't like about Texas?" We have, and are greatly pleased at the action of our neighbors over in the next county, The Madisonville Sidewalk Cattleman's Association, for starting a campaign to clear the Texas name of opprobrium thrown on it by Yankees and others who think Camp Hood and Camp Swift are all there is to Texas.

After all, we can't let people run around writing hit songs like "I'm Tired of Texas." Recognizing that out-of-state men who trained in Army and Navy camps in Texas during the war went away denouncing the state, fluently and bitterly, the association is launching what it calls a national corrective campaign." So says H. B. Fox of Madisonville.

To the offspring of a Texas-trained, out-of-state veteran who writes the best letter on "Why My Daddy is Wrong About Texas," the Cattleman's Association will give a free trip to Madisonville, and a week's visit on a nearby ranch, climaxed by the designation

of honor guest at the association's annual barbecue, May 27.

"Just sit down and write us a letter, explaining why you know your daddy is wrong about Texas," the association says. "Get the letter to us by May 1. The writer of the best letter will receive a round-trip plane ticket and the cattleman will do the rest when the winner lands.

"No strings are attached. You don't have to send us any bottle tops, old horseshoes, belt buckles, saddle blankets or your father's service patch—and we certainly wouldn't want any facsimiles."

Fox said officials of the Sidewalk Cattleman feel that "the opinion of out-of-state veterans is a warborn neurosis that would have developed equally against Rhode Island, West Virginia or New York, had a soldier trained there. The contention that Texas is a dull, flat, wind-swept, north-bitten, sand-corroded, sun-blasted, insect-ridden place—designed to train men so battle areas loom attractive in comparison—is an unfortunate aftermath of world conflict."

Gossett's Amendment Good . . .

An improvement in the Electoral College system has been suggested by Rep. Gossett of Texas, and we hope it goes through. As the judiciary subcommittee of the House has already approved, there is some hope.

Gossett suggests a constitutional amendment which would split electoral vote of the states among the various candidates in proportion to the percentage of popular vote each received.

A constitutional amendment has to be approved by both branches of Congress and ratified by at least 36 states before becoming effective. So Gossett's proposal is just beyond the starting line.

If finally written into the nation's basic charter, it would abolish the present system of block voting by states in the electoral college.

For example, in a state now having 12 electoral votes, the candidate receiving the largest popular vote gets all 12 votes. Under the Gossett proposal, if one candidate received 75 percent of the vote he would receive only 75 percent—or nine—of the electoral votes. The candidate receiving the remaining

25 percent of the popular vote would get the other 3 electoral votes.

The effect of the proposal, members of the subcommittee explained, would be to nullify the "balance of power" now held by third parties or organize minorities in close states and to give some representation in the electoral college to the supporters of candidates who didn't have a plurality in a given state.

"The proposed amendment," Gossett said in a statement, "would remove the overpowering incentive in the present system to coddle and corrupt organized minority groups in the pivotal states. Campaigns no longer would become sectional and the general welfare would become a party's paramount interest."

Gossett said that under the present system many voters do not actually have a chance to influence the electoral college vote for the man of their choice. For example, in the South, all the electoral votes usually go to the Democratic candidate, although the Republican ticket may be supported by a considerable number of individual voters.



Survey Will Measure Influence Of Schools on Public Opinion

The influence of education on political attitudes and predictions is primary among the factors to be measured in an unprecedented international survey of public opinion, sponsored by Time magazine.

The polling, which has just been completed, was conducted by Elmo Roper in the U.S. and by eight other research organizations in Britain, France, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Brazil, Mexico and Canada. Tabulation of answers is now underway and results will be published in the April 12 issue of Time, James A. Linen, publisher of the magazine, said today.

Results of the survey will provide the basis for speeches by world leaders at an international forum, "The Future of Freedom," to be co-sponsored by municipal, civic and commercial groups in New Orleans and by Time, April 14 through 17.

Survey questions concern the differences existing among nations outside the Russian sphere. Interviewers sought answers from people of all educational and economic levels in the 11 countries. Attitudes toward the Marshall Plan and individual reasons for favoring or opposing it were polled, with a notation of the formal schooling of each person interviewed. Respondents were asked to estimate the chances of the United Nations to maintain peace, and were called upon to evaluate concepts of a "United States of Europe" and a "United States of the World."

People in the 10 countries under survey were asked which side they believed was gaining ground in the present conflict between Russia and America, and to predict which side they would be on 20 years from now. Survey results will also chart individual estimates of the existence and relative importance of political, economic and civil rights in the various nations.

The survey seeks to define specific areas of disagreement among the western nations. "The arbitrators of international disagreements must deal with millions of individual attitudes—some based on misconceptions and other on genuine differences of opinion," Linen said.

"Results of the poll, which was offered to grade school graduates and Ph.D.'s alike, will help to distinguish between misunderstandings and factually-based attitudes, thereby clarifying those areas of disagreement which might be eliminated through greater educational opportunity."

"World-known speakers from Europe and the Americas will meet in New Orleans in April," Linen added, and will discuss the survey findings in an effort to reduce misunderstandings which bar full cooperation and progress."

Garden Club Meeting Is Friday

The regular March meeting of the A&M Garden Club will be held at 3 p. m. Friday, March 12, in the YMCA.

Mrs. Norman Dansby, president of the Bryan Garden Club, will show colored slides of southern gardens she has visited, including pictures of Bellmeath Gardens in Mobile, Alabama. This garden is known throughout the world as the "Charm Spot of the Deep South."

Schedules for this year's Flower Show which will be in April will be handed out by Mrs. Sam Hopper, Flower Show chairman. Arrangements of new divisions listed will be made and discussed by club members.

Mrs. Hopper will also show colored slides of the blue ribbon winners of last year's show.

Bar Association Admits B&A Prof

S. C. Hoyle, Jr., instructor in the business and accounting department, has been elected a member of the American Bar Association, according to T. W. Leland, head of the department.

A former attorney for Brazos County, Hoyle has practiced in Bryan for the last twenty years. He graduated from the University of Texas with a bachelor of laws degree. Hoyle joined the department as law instructor in February, 1947, after serving in the army in World War II.

Food Prices Doubled Since 1941

Losing Battle Against Rising Food Costs

(This is the third in a series of nine articles on the current mess hall situation at A&M. The fourth article, entitled "Family Style and Tradition," will appear in Wednesday's Battalion.)
By LARRY GOODWIN

The A&M subsistence department, like everyone else, has had its troubles with rising prices. Since the outbreak of the war in 1941, A&M's mess halls have been waging a steady but losing battle against rising prices.

Today, prices for food in the college's mess halls are almost double what they were in 1941. And the food is not as good.

Commenting on the changing conditions, J. G. Peniston, chief of A&M subsistence, said, "The caliber of the food has decreased; there's no doubt of that. The breakfast menu is the one that has suffered in that bacon and other pork products are no longer served as frequently as before."

While seeking the whys and wherefores behind the "mess hall gripes" that are prevalent on the campus today, it was learned that the subsistence department has been knee-deep in difficulties since the day the 11-cent loaf of bread and 10-cent quart of milk tumbled from the American grocery scene.

Figures released by the subsistence department show that food costs have risen well over 100% and labor costs are right at the

100% increase mark. Chuck beef that cost 20 cents a pound February 1, 1942, brought 45 cents a pound February 1, 1948. Pork skyrocketed from 19 cents to 38 cents during the same period, while milk climbed 140% during the six years.

It all adds up to misery for subsistence department, budget-balancers, poorer food in the mess hall and general dissatisfaction from all quarters.

In defense of the subsistence department, Peniston pointed out that "the price of food in the mess hall hasn't increased as much as costs have. Food prices are up 138% approximately and labor 100% since the war."

"Nevertheless, a better grade of meat is being served than before the war."

Peniston went on to say, "Another fact which people seem to realize is that every cent we get is from the students. A lot of people are inclined to believe that the

mess halls are subsidized in some way. This is not true. We run strictly on what we collect from the students as board fees."

Tossing a few more facts into the issue, Peniston pointed out that "the mess halls last year operated on a budget of approximately \$1,400,000. This money was spent in the following manner: 60% for food; 28% for labor; 10% for such things as cleaning, as cleaning and laundry, milk bottle loss (to be covered in a future article), insurance and garbage collections, and the other 2%, \$34,300, no small figure in itself, was spent for heat, light, power, fuel, and gas.

Those are the facts; I have figures here to cover every phase of mess hall operation," Peniston said, indicating with a sweep of his hand an entire room full of files.

"What interests the average student is, of course, not figures, but better food. In regard to this Peniston said: "We realize everyone is not happy, but we are doing the best we can under constantly changing prices."

But since we started charging \$1.20 cents a day last September, meat costs have risen 28%.

Prom Tickets Go Off Sale Monday

Ticket sales for the Junior Prom and Banquet will be discontinued Monday, March 15, according to J. W. Robertson, chairman of the arrangements committee.

Tickets may be procured from the following dorm representatives: Dorm 2, Lawrence Sexton; Dorm 4, Jim Burroughs; Dorm 6, Fred Hambricht; Dorm 8, Wallace Cox; Dorm 9, Richard Denny; Dorm 10, Tommy Splitgerber; Dorm 11, George Edwards; and Dorm 12, A. D. Salmon.

Anyone who desires one of the few available programs should see Robertson in Room 120, Dorm 10.

3 Aggies Leave For TSCW Forum

Three A&M students left today for Denton to take part in a two-day Family Relations Forum sponsored by the department of sociology at TSCW.

Representing A&M at the panel discussions are Bill Edwards, William Weatherford, and Bob Weyland. All three are presently enrolled in Professor Daniel Russell's family relations course.

A panel composed of Aggies and TSCW students will discuss with Dr. Reuben Hill, sociologist and author of "When You Get Married," the factors influencing success in marriage.

WSSF Has \$750 As More Given

Contributions to the World Student Service Fund reached \$750.94 Monday afternoon. N. R. "Jug" Leatherwood, Student Senate president, announced. The three student senators from the annex delivered \$93.37 and Elmo Livingston, student senator from Dorm 9, turned in \$14.54.

Holcomb to Read Engineering Paper

A paper, "Classical Methods of Structure Analysis," will be presented by Bob Holcomb of the chemical engineering department in the Structures and Materials Seminar to be held Thursday afternoon at 4 in the Petroleum Lecture Room.

This paper should be of great interest to all concerned with machines or structural analysis. Holcomb said. All interested faculty members and graduate students are invited to attend.

Roller Skating Begins Thursday At The Grove

A skating rink will be opened Thursday afternoon at 3 at The Grove, C. G. "Spike" White, director of student activities, announced today.

The rink, Bill Hart in charge, will be the first of its kind ever attempted at A&M and will tentatively open between 3 and 8 p. m. daily, seven days a week. However, skating parties can be arranged for other hours by contacting the Student Activities Office, White added.

"The skating is free and the rink has about two dozen pairs of skates to rent at 10¢ per hour. Music over a public address system and a student concession, selling ice cream and sodawater, will be other features of the skating rink."

"Depending on the use, the hours may be lengthened or shortened as necessary and suggestions as to features or facilities will be appreciated," White concluded.

SUBPOENA BOARD MEN IN CONDON AFFAIR

WASHINGTON, Mar. 9.—(AP)—The House Committee on Un-American Activities today subpoenaed two members of the American Department Loyalty Board in its investigation of Dr. Edward U. Condon.

SPECIAL NOTICE

When checking your mail at the main P.O., don't forget to give—

JOHNNIE
... a ring on his cash register

QUEEN

TODAY & TUESDAY

"The Exile"
with
Douglas Fairbanks

PALACE

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FLAPPERS AND "IT" GIRLS in a WHOOPIE-MAKING ROMANCE THAT WAS MEANT FOR YOU!

Jeanne Dan
GRAIN-DAILEY
in
YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME
OSCAR LEVANT
Percy Kilbride

Guion Hall

FRIDAY - SATURDAY

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MERLE GEORGE
OBERON BRENT

CHARLES PAUL
KORVIN LUKAS

YOU CAN'T RESIST IT!
Temptation

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LUDWIG STOSSEL
ARNOLD MOSS

Directed by IRVING PICHEL
Produced by EDWARD SMALL
Screenplay by ROBERT TRUNKEN

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1:20 - 3:05 - 4:50 - 6:30 - 8:15
10:00

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LARRY PARKS
EILON DREW
The Swordsman

in TECHNICOLOR!

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WATCH FOR THESE BIG ONES

Big Show THE BISHOP'S WIFE
Big Show If Winter Comes
Big Show THE BIG CLOCK
Big Show ALAN LADD in "SAIGON"
"GONE WITH THE WIND"

GUION

TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY

HUMPHREY
BOGART
TREASURE OF SIERRA MADRE
WARNER BROS. NEW TRIUMPH

WALTER HUSTON-TIM HOLT-BRIDGE BENNETT
DIRECTED BY JOHN HUSTON
SCREENPLAY BY JOHN HUSTON
BASED UPON THE PLAY BY TRUMAN HENRY BLANKHE
MUSIC BY MAX STEINER

NEXT WEEK - SUNDAY - MONDAY - TUESDAY

UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL presents
Claudette Colbert MacMurray
"The Egg and I"
From the Best-Selling Book by Betty MacDonald
MARJORIE MAIN LUDWIG ALBERTSON PERCY KILBRIDE BILLY HOUSE RICHARD LONG

The Battalion

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