

Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Preferential Primary Needed . . .

Texas needs a preferential primary law, which would give the ordinary citizen some voice in the choice of President of the United States.

"What?" you say. "Don't we have that now?"

We certainly don't. In an ordinary election, when most Texans are sure to vote the Democratic ticket, the lack of any such voice is hardly noticed. But this year, with the Democratic party split several ways, and many Texans apparently wishing to vote Republican unless they can get a Democrat they want, the creakiness of our election machinery is all too evident.

Fortunately Gov. Beauford H. Jester, has agreed to consult with the State Democratic Executive Committee on a proposed special session of the legislature to enact a preferential primary law.

He told a delegation of legislators who presented a petition asking for a special session April 5 that he would go into a huddle with the party leaders.

The delegation presented him with a petition signed by 80 house members, saying en-

actment of such law was necessary in the face of "abundant evidence" that right or left wing elements are plotting to take over the May State Presidential Convention of the Democratic party "to thwart the popular will of the people."

Under the present system Texans actually have their only direct say on the question of who their favored candidate for President is at the precinct conventions. Presidential electors and delegates to national nominating conventions are named in state conventions. The makeup of these conventions is largely determined at the precinct conventions. Factions that gain control in the precincts usually have the final word.

The petition clearly states its lofty aim of strengthening the Democratic processes by letting the people themselves decide who their party should support for president and vice-president," according to one of the backers.

He said the signers would all join in working for a preferential primary law if the governor called the special session. The petition asked that the session be limited to seven days duration.

Don't Play The Missouri Waltz! . . .

Amid threats of a break in the heretofore "solid south" comes an action by the Mississippi state legislature that might be the first indication of a serious split—perhaps it might better be termed a disintegration—on the part of the legislature, that is.

There is a bill pending on the Magnolia State legislature's controversial calendar which calls for all Mississippi radio stations to play "Dixie" at the beginning and end of each day's program.

A proposed amendment would bar the playing of "The Missouri Waltz." The penalty was set at not less than \$1,000 and a five-year prison term "except in such cases of violation where the piano is the instrument, when the felony shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$10,000 and imprisonment."

Is this an indication that the South is starting the long awaited revolt? Is the late Bilbo's stamping ground becoming shaky

under the threat of Truman's Civil Rights Bill? Will Missouri retaliate by barring the playing of any song referring to the Mississippi River?

Can you imagine what "Old Man River" would sound like if the words were re-arranged to read, "Let me go down to the Missouri?" What would the Missourians do with the extra beat that is usually given to "sippi"? What will other southern states do if the bill is passed in the Mississippi legislature?

Perhaps this is the beginning of something new in radio. Maybe in the not too distant future the first 15 minutes of every day's broadcasting schedule will be given over to the national anthem, the state song, a fast rendition of "Dixie" and a five-minute tirade against "The Missouri Waltz."

The legislators from Mississippi may have started something, although whatever it is will doubtless have little value.

Whistles That Shriek Or Moan . . .

Georgia Tech, that other Southern school where slide rules are the rule, is not happy about the whistles which regulate life there. Maybe we should trade them ours.

According to Jimmy Jordan in "Technique," the whistle at the Atlanta school shrieks with a wild raucous roar. Ours just moans. In fact, there is nothing so mournful as the whistle on our power plant, trying to get up courage—or steam—enough to announce that it is now eight o'clock, or twelve noon, or five.

This is what Technique says about the Tech whistle:

A wild raucous roar shatters the surrounding atmosphere, and the mill hands stumble mechanically out of the dirty red brick buildings. The screaming whistle slowly subsides, while the men quickly disperse themselves over the small grass-covered area to eat their home-made lunches.

After an hour, the whistle shrieks again. The men wince at the sound, then file robot-like back to their work. As each one starts through the door, he glances at the whistle with bitter hatred. Not hatred for the whistle but hatred for what it represents. Long hours of drudgery, of pain, of hopelessness; of course they get paid for it, but cold thankless pay. The kind of pay one gives an automobile by putting gasoline in it. The whistle is the personification of the feeling of the higher-

ups for the men. Cold, impassive, impersonal, indifferent, driving, and mercenary. The feeling that the men are just like parts to a machine, not warm breathing, feeling individuals, but so many pistons and valves that are necessary to keep the plant running. No wonder the men wince at the shrill shriek. No wonder the whistle is the object of hours caustic cursing. No wonder the whistle is so discussed in the still, stark hours of the night.

In the northern section of Atlanta, there is a school—a school with a whistle. A personified whistle that shrieks at the beginning and end of each hour lest it lose its meaning. And men stumble mechanically out of dirty red brick buildings, curse, pass the whistle, and walk to the next stop on the assembly line. The whistle is cold, hard, impersonal, and antagonistic. The men think the whistle's scream represents the attitude of the higher-ups: the attitude that men are just so many robots waiting for knowledge to be stamped in. The attitude that men aren't thinking, feeling, learning individuals, but raw products that must be processed and turned out in a mold. No wonder the whistle is cursed for its strident scream. No wonder the men dream of other schools where classes change to the friendly ting tang tong of a bell.

These firm, strong covers save wear and tear on your mattress, and add extra years to its life. They were made to stand up under almost any conditions, because they were originally intended for use by U. S. Naval officers.—Adv. in the Times.

And you know those boys!

Captain in East St. Louis (Ill.) Journal informed readers that a 21-year-old girl was suffering from pneumatic fever.

Columnist Drew Pearson says there are some who consider Eisenhower still available for the draft. There are also some who consider Jesse James still alive.—Arkansas Gazette.

There is many a man with gallant air, Goes galloping into the fray; But the valuable man is the man who's there When the smoke is cleared away.—ACP

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 \$4.30 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.

All-American Member of The Associated Press

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of republication of all other matter herein are also reserved.

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

CHARLIE MURRAY, JIMMIE NELSON Co-Editors
Vick Lindbo, T. Miller, Kenneth Bond, Louis Morgan, Managing Editor
Mack T. Nolan, Feature Editor
Vick Lindbo, Wire Editor
L. L. Billingsley, Harvey Chelf, Editor
Tom Carver, Ted Copeland, Truman E. Martin, C. C. Minrod, Editor
C. C. Trail, James E. Nelson, Otto R. Kuhn, J. C. Falls, Editor
John Singletary, Bob Weyman, Larry Goodwyn, Reporter
Maurice Howell, Advertising Manager
Bob Kennelley, Circulation Manager
Joe Kennelley, Circulation Manager
Joe Trevino, Hardy E. Ross, Photo Engraver
Art Howard, Sports Editor
James DeArin, Andy Mathis, Zero Hammond, Editor
Don Engelking, Bob Speede, Bill Evans, Editor
Horacio Shelby, Sports Writers
Grady Griffin, Photographer
Sam Lanford, R. J. Meark, Cartoonist

GOING THEIR SEPARATE WAYS



Li'l Abner and Blondie . . .

Would You Like Comic Strip in The Battalion?

Would you like to see Li'l Abner or Dagwood & Blondie in The Batt?

It can be done, if you want them. There isn't much space in The Batt, but if enough students send in the blank below marked "Yes," we will publish those two comic strips. (They are reported to be the two most popular in the country.)

Many students undoubtedly get to see their favorites, and other strips, in the state newspapers. But if there are enough who do not read state papers—or read them only when they get over to the Library or the YMCA lounge—we will make arrangements to print the strips. A number of other college dailies are printing Li'l Abner. One paper is printing Barnaby.

Fill out the blank below and mail it to The Battalion, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. If envelopes are dropped into the Faculty Exchange Campus slot, they will require no postage.

Editors, The Battalion:

I would like to see Li'l Abner and Dagwood & Blondie in The Battalion regularly. I (do) (do not) see them regularly in any other newspaper.

Name

Address



TODAY— THROUGH THURSDAY



starring Ronald Reagan-Eleanor Parker Eve Arden-Wayne Morris



THROUGH THURSDAY



WATCH FOR THESE BIG ONES
Big Show THE BISHOP'S WIFE
Big Show THE BIG CLOCK
Big Show HIGH WALL
Coming IF YOU KNEW SUSIE

Letters

BORED OF "DIRECTORS"

Editor, The Battalion:
The Board of "Directors" put it to us again!
I am of course referring to the continuation of "Little AggieLand" better known as "Gibb's School for Boys."

I wonder if this so-called "Board of Directors" has counted the number of boys who would have made good Aggies but who have "busted out" or simply quit because of the conditions at the annex.

This Board requested "an estimate of the needed repairs for one year's occupancy only" . . . a whole new dorm area could be built at the cost of making those barns merely bearable!
According to The Batt, 1,400

Students Wanted For Summer Work

The Texas Highway Department will employ college students this summer to assist in the operation of information bureaus located at the various ports of entry to Texas. According to W. R. Horsley, director of the Placement Office, applicants should be at least 19 years old.

Selections will be based on knowledge of Texas, ability to meet the public, physical stature, and dependability. Salaries will range from \$175 per month for attendants and upward for managers of these bureaus. Horsley said. Employees will work 8 hours a day, 6 days a week.

Students interested in applying for these summer jobs should register with the Placement Office before April 10. A representative will be at that office to interview applicants.

What's Cooking?

PRE-MED PRE-DENT Society meets Tuesday 7 p.m. Biology-lecture room.

SHOSTAKOVICH RESIGNS FROM MOSCOW SCHOOL

MOSCOW, March 30 (AP)—The composer Dmitri Shostakovich apparently has resigned as professor at the Moscow Conservatory, but is still writing music. Shostakovich was one of seven composers censured by the Communist party's Central Committee in February.

men have been "honed, fed, and educated" to which I reply: "honed" (?) surely you just—evidently you've never been in an out-house during the winter; "fed" (?) cafeteria style which means not enough of the same rotten stuff we get here; "educated" (?) the only education they've gotten is indoctrination with Gibb's policy.
And the reason for making these poor fish live in these "barns" is so that 3 or 4 won't have to live in a room. Now isn't that louching? Since when is living 3 or 4 to a room worse than about 20 to one of those barns? Ask this year's fish.
Fish used to go through hell down here. They could look anybody in the eye and say, "I'm a fish on the campus of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and damn proud of it."
Gone are those days.
If they have their way, the Board of Directors will wreck the very heart and soul of old AggieLand.
The reason I want my name withheld is because I would like to finish my college education. Yours disinterestedly,
NAME WITHHELD
P. S.—At least my ring will be the old Aggie ring and not an image of a freshman in senior boots.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

The Sweetest Story Ever Told
WITH A SINGING AND DANCING CAST
Brilliant New York COLORFUL COSTUMES • ORCHESTRA • ELABORATE SETS
THE MUSICAL STAGE ATTRACTION
(NOT A MOTION PICTURE)
On Our Stage — In Person
"A SUPREME ACHIEVEMENT IN FINE ENTERTAINMENT"

S. F. A. AUDITORIUM
March 30, 3:15 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Auspices Bryan - College Station CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Adults \$1.20 Children 60c

CULION

TUESDAY — WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

AN OUTRAGE!

—That's what this blistering drama is about! . . . About hate without reason . . . murder without motive! . . . See its daring theme exploded for the first time on the screen!

DORE SCHARY presents
ROBERT YOUNG
ROBERT MITCHUM
ROBERT RYAN

"Crossfire"

with GLORIA GRAHAM
PAUL KELLY - SAM LEVENE

Produced by ADRIAN SCOTT - Directed by EDWARD DMYTRYK - Screen Play by JOHN PATRICK
also added attraction:
PETE SMITH'S FOOTBALL THRILLS

Our First Anniversary

MARCH 28, 1948

In Appreciation . . .
to our mammy customers and friends who have made our first year a great success . . . We are putting on a

SALE! SALE! SALE!

Beginning Monday, March 29, 1948 For Four Days Only

ONE TABLE OF ASSORTED FABRICS formerly 69c to \$1.49 to go for—

65c a yard

Chambrays, Printed Pique, Printed and Solid Broadcloth Spun Rayons, Cotton Twill

The Fabric Shoppe

Your Exclusive Fabric Center
Across from the Post Office Bryan

Produced by ROBERT and RAYMOND HAKIM
HENRY FONDA
BARBARA BEL GEDDES
VINCENT PRICE
ANN DYKAK
"THE LONG NIGHT"
AN ANATOLE LITVAK Production
Directed by ANATOLE LITVAK
Screen Play by JOHN WEXLEY
Based on a Story by Augustin Viet

Produced by HERMAN SCHLOR - Directed by WILLIAM BERKE
Screen Play by NORMAN HUSTON
From the Novel by ZANE GREY

ZANE GREY'S "SUNSET PASS"

WITH WARREN
HAN LESLIE - JOHN LAWRENZ
JANE GREER - ROBERT DANKAT
R. G. HARRY WOODS
ROBERT CLARKE
STEVE BRODIE
BARRY HARVEY

SPECIAL SATURDAY MORNING SHOW—10 O'CLOCK
Motion Picture Association Film Library's
"ANN OF GREEN GABLES"
With Ann Shirley
No admission charge!