

Battalion EDITORIALS

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Attend Senate Meeting Tonight...

Deciding that a student government can gain strength and respect only through its actions and the recognition of its work, the Student Senate wisely decided in its last meeting to invite the student body to tonight's meeting.

We think that by attending that session Aggies can get a pretty good idea of what the Senate is trying to accomplish. By observing their area representatives in action, perhaps the respect due that body will be strengthened... or fostered. Too, the audience can offer constructive criticism... and the Senators themselves are well aware that an informed electorate is the best judge of its actions.

Not only will open meetings of the Student Senate encourage student participation in government, but it will (we hope) stimulate some of the less active members of the Senate into attending a few of the meetings. Several have honored the body only once by their presence; they have been "too

busy" to represent their own area in other meetings. If the laggard Senator knows that a few of his constituents will be listening for his voice on the floor of the assembly, he may be prodded into action... at last.

So plan now to be in the Civil Engineering Lecture Room tonight at 7:15. Hear committee reports on the Aggie muster, the World Student Service Fund drive, telephone booths (for dormitories with lounges), and the Constitution.

Wayne Stark, director of the Student Memorial Center, will tell the group about A&M's proposed union building. Both summer entertainment and the Mother's Day program will be discussed at the meeting.

Your time will not be wasted... and you will be doing yourself and your representative a favor, for at the end of the meeting an open forum, with the audience participating, will enable students to present their own views on what should be done to make a greater A&M.

The Press Under Pressure...

American newspapers are probably the finest in the world—but are they good enough? This question, often debated by A&M students and their professors in the corridor of the Academic Building between classes, is one of greater significance than is immediately seen.

During the past week, ulcer-making stories have been coming out of Berlin, as Russians and Americans played at a dangerous job of diplomatic chess. Resulting headlines, concerning freight blockades, seized buildings, and the crash of a Russian fighter plane into a British transport, swept many Americans into a state of near-hysteria. Now that these incidents are temporarily settled, we look back and ask, was all the excitement necessary?

Aided by hind-sight, it is easy to say, "No." But while the event is still happening, it is hard indeed to decide. To suppress such news would be a crime indeed. To "sensationalize" such items is a worse crime. To present such distressing news coolly and without hysteria is the responsibility of the press. Such responsibility is not always met, (even by the Batt, we confess.)

Zechariah Chafee Jr., Harvard professor and member of many top-rank committees on press freedom (The Hutchins committee, the U. N. committee, etc.) writes about "The Press Under Pressure" in the current issue of Nieman reports, published by newspaper men attending Harvard on Nieman scholarships. He points out:

"Within only two centuries little news sheets issued by obscure printers have turned into enormous enterprises in each of which a handful of men can inform and influence millions of citizens. How they will go about it is often unpredictable.

"In 1919, for example, Hearst's love for the underdog led him to give opponents of sedition legislation space which most journals refused, whereas today he urges that every Communist be harried out of the land.

"The owner of the Chicago Daily News dies and the whole character of the paper

changes. Comic strips, colored cartoons, boiler-plate editorials—we don't know what will happen next. Yet if the press is to be alive and vigorous, it must be unpredictable. The press is a sort of wild animal in our midst—restless, gigantic always seeking new ways to use its strength.

"Nevertheless, we must face frankly the risks we have agreed to run. The press has become an 'imperium in imperio.' No other powerful business organization in the United States now enjoys such almost complete independence from the federal government. Even among non-profit organizations there is nothing to compare with the immunity of the press for abuses of power except the churches. A church's behavior can at least be predicted from its settled doctrines, and by its very nature its members are accountable to God. The sovereign press for the most part acknowledges accountability to no one except its owners and publishers.

"And so we appealed to the leaders of the press itself to recognize the gravity of the situation and 'assume the responsibility of providing the variety, quantity and quality of information and discussion which the country needs... They must... themselves be hospitable to ideas and attitudes different from their own, and they must present them to the public as meriting its attention.'"

"Some leaders of the industries reacted gratifyingly to this appeal, but most remained apathetic.

"Is our press responsible? Yes, to some extent, but it should be more so. Is our press free? Yes, in our sense of freedom, but the different sense of 'accessible to all significant views on public questions' is also important, and there we might do more. Finally, freedom from something is not enough. It should also be freedom for something. The wide immunity from governmental control which the press claims will be empty if it be a mere negation. Freedom is not safety but opportunity. Freedom ought to be a means to enable the press to serve the proper functions of communication in a free society."

The Dixie Democrats are going grimly ahead with their Party-partition plan. There are indications that many a friend of the South will show up in Philadelphia on a white horse. —New Yorker.

Former King Michael visited the White House and found the President sympathetic to his aim to regain his throne. It seems that Michael dropped in to have his royalty tested. —New Yorker.

A Briton is believed to have broken the world altitude record by going up in the air 10 and a half miles. This will not be official, however, until the figures are available on the heights reached by Americans on March 17.

Mr. Truman reveals that he is confident he will be nominated and elected. He is apparently expecting to be cast as the hero of a picture called "Miracle on Pennsylvania Avenue." —New Yorker.

Chicago Committee on Alcoholism research figures that hangovers cost the US a billion dollars a year, which however is small by comparison with what the war hangovers costs the US.

In the case of an atomic war an ounce of prevention would be worth more than a ton of cure.

Fort Sill, Okla., Jan. 24 (UP)—The mid-night military exhibition of a drunken Ft. Sill soldier who "borrowed" a 24-ton cannon-equipped tank for a wild joy ride through Lawton may cost the 24-year-old youth his Good Conduct ribbon, authorities said today. —Chicago Sun and Times.

Couldn't it be changed to a Pretty Good Conduct ribbon?

After all they have passed through, the people of Louisiana are going to take another Long chance. —Arkansas Gazette.

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.

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BETWEEN THE BOOK ENDS...

What Makes You Do Like You Do Told in 'Mind in Action'

By MRS. WILNORA ARNOLD
Readers' Adviser

THE MIND IN ACTION. By Eric Berne. Simon and Schuster. Dr. Eric Berne, formerly of McGill University, now a practicing psychiatrist in Carmel, California, gives us a simplified explanation of psychiatry and its meaning for the layman. Reading this book is like having one's questions answered by a wise and kindly physician of deep perspective and infinite patience through wide experience with all kinds of men and women.

The Doctor uses scores of illustrations in explaining just what sort of thing we human beings are, how we come to be that way, what kinds of problems we are likely to develop, and what we may do about them. This is not the kind of book that frightens the reader into thinking he is psychotic or at least on the brink of a nervous breakdown.

Dr. Berne has chosen to answer in this book the questions most frequently asked by the groups which he has addressed, and he has aptly subtitled the book "A Layman's Guide to Psychiatry." Two of the most important features of the book are found in the appendices; his chapter on intuition and on politics.

Some of the questions discussed are: Can people be judged by their appearance? What is the brain for? Why do human beings control themselves? What is the unconscious? Why do people dream? How can emotions cause physical disease? What is psychosomatic medicine? What causes neurosis? Who should be psychoanalyzed? How to choose a doctor? These are all points about which we all should know something.

MEN OUT OF ASIA. By Harold Sterling Gladwin. McGraw-Hill. The excitement of a world-wide treasure hunt, of tracking down a 27,000-year-old mystery, fills this vasty entertaining and challenging book. Harold Gladwin, one of this country's foremost anthropologists, presents in MEN OUT OF ASIA a revolutionary picture of the origins of early American civilization.

It is a picture which prompted Dr. Hooton of Harvard to remark, "It is something, it is courageous... ingeniously contrived and witty... I am glad that Gladwin has written this book... It is about time that some one started a rattling in the Valley of the Dry Bones."

Where did the American Indians come from? Were they independently responsible for their elaborate cultures? Or were these merely offshoots of Old World civilizations? Most orthodox anthropologists have believed that the American Indian miraculously invented all of the things which constitute the high cultures of the New World—metallurgy, pottery, calendar systems, astronomical reckoning, weaving, etc. If this were really true, Mr. Gladwin points out, the American Indian accomplished virtually overnight the same things which required several thousand years of ceaseless striving by the rest of mankind.

In MEN OUT OF ASIA, the author resoundingly explodes the dogma that there was no diffusion of inventions or ideas from the Old World to the New. He actually connects the origins of American civilizations with definite causes, at definite dates, in the progress of Old World history. He suggests, further, that the Indian is not a distinct racial type but the result of five separate migrations which began about 25,000 B. C. Here then is a book for all whose minds are open and unafraid, and who relish stimulating discussion of one of the most controversial topics in the field of anthropology.

The 145 hilarious line drawings, 5 maps, frontispiece and jacket, all by Campbell Grant, are the perfect complement to Mr. Gladwin's witty and iconoclastic style. MEN OUT OF ASIA is one of the Science-for-the-Layman Series.

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6:30 P. M.
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Exams Set May 15 For Merit System Council Positions

The Merit System Council, which serves as a "clearing house" for positions in the Texas Employment Commission and the State Department of Public Welfare, will hold competitive examinations on May 15 for positions now open in both agencies, according to Chas. S. Gardner, director.

Positions to be filled by these agencies consist of field worker, child welfare worker, and senior clerk-welfare worker, stenographers, clerk-typists, clerks, receptionist, junior tabulating equipment operator, and key punch operator. Qualifications for these positions vary from high school graduation to college work and experience requirements.

Gardner pointed out that application to take an examination must be made on an official application blank, which may be obtained by writing the Merit System Council, 808 Tribune Building, Austin.

Annual Engineering Drawing Contest to Be Held Here May 1

The annual engineering drawing contest will be held on May 1, according to J. G. McGuire, of the engineering drawing department. The contest is open to all students taking E. D. 124 or E. D. 112.

Formerly the preliminaries for the National Drawing Competition sponsored by the American Society for Engineering Education, McGuire said more than 800 students from 40 schools had entered the contest last year.

The contest has been divided into four classes. Class A is a working drawing in pencil on tracing paper with instruments. Prize for the winner is a Dietzgen Commander Drawing set. Class B includes the complete solution of a descriptive geometry problem. Prize is a large Dietzgen Portable Drafting Machine.

Class C is a paragraph to be lettered freehand first in pencil and once directly in ink. Prize, a Dietzgen Portable Drawing Table.

Class D is a freehand working drawing on plain white heavy paper, made with a pencil without use of mechanical aids. Prize is a small Dietzgen Portable Drafting Machine.

All students entering the contest must be recommended by their instructors, and only students who do "A" or "B" work should enter, McGuire said.

Contestants must report to Room R, Anchor Hall, or Room 4, Building 367, Bryan Field Annex, at 1 p. m. Saturday, May 1.

Students should report to the designated rooms with all their regular drafting equipment. Instructors will indicate before hand all extra paper and other essentials needed by each class of contestants.

All work must be done by the individual contestant. Title strip form and other specific problems information will be supplied at the time of the contest.

The time limit for the contest is three hours, from 1 until 5 p. m. Each contestant is limited to only one of the classes of competition.

QUEEN TODAY

CHARLES BOYER
ALDOUS HUXLEY
A WOMAN'S VENGEANCE
with ANN JESSICA BLYTH-TANDY

PALACE TODAY

SMOKING GUNS! BURNING LIPS!
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