

# Battalion EDITORIALS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

## Naval Reserve at A&M?

Amid talk of Universal Military Training, a reactivated draft, and the approved merger plan of the army and navy, one thing seems to have been neglected at A&M—the Naval Reserve.

At present there is a large number of Naval Reservists on the campus, the majority being non-military students. The fact that the presence of these men was a temporary condition was the principal factor in the refusal of naval officials to establish a Naval Reserve unit on the campus.

That picture has changed now. If the draft and UMT, which are now in Congress, should be passed, it is logical to assume that some of the men called will be channeled into the navy. If that is the case then A&M may expect the presence of Naval Reservists on the campus to be more than a temporary condition.

A&M has always been noted for its ROTC unit and the large number of officers it has furnished for the army. The merger of the services may, in the future, bring the

training of naval officers into the military curriculum in a limited sense. Perhaps now is the time to lay the groundwork for a program of Naval Reserve training.

An active naval unit would not interfere with the ROTC program. In fact, many of the training features of the reserve such as radio, signaling, mechanics, photography and gunnery would complement the training now given as part of the ROTC course. That an interest in naval activities does exist on the campus is evidenced by the large number of undergraduates who entered that service during the war.

The increased military and naval budget authorized by Congress should be another factor which should have a favorable bearing on possible establishment of a navy unit on the campus. This, together with a positive action on the draft and UMT, seems to make it evident that now is the time to establish an active Naval Reserve unit at A&M.

## Spring Fever Is Rough...

Spring fever is rough on everybody. It is rough on students who find minds wandering out the window during sober lectures on the economic problems of South Tibet. It is rough on profs, who have to struggle to remember whether they are lecturing on Shakespeare or Browning in a particular class. It is rough on editors, who suddenly find themselves clipping editorials from other papers instead of writing masterpieces for posterity.

What is spring good for? Why do poets

write about it so rapturously? Well it is good for baseball games, especially when A&M's home-run kings are knocking the ball out of the park, as they have been doing regularly this week.

Spring is good for dances—like last Saturday's for Cotton Balls—even for Little Southwestern Stock Shows, if you're a true ag man. But it is no good for work!

Now that this complaint is out of our system, we'll try to go back and study our Shakespeare—or are we taking Browning?

## Getting an Education...

An interesting panel discussion took place the other day between a group of high school students from half a dozen lands. It was at the New York Herald Tribune Forum for High Schools, and the talk turned on school systems.

A young Australian gave an example of the sort of questions asked on history examinations in his country: "Luther was a profound conservative and a reluctant innovator. Discuss in about 1,000 words." This question, he declared, seemed to amaze American high school students, but Scottish and Scandinavian members of the panel quickly chimed in that it was typical of examination questions in their countries.

An intelligent young American student—a Negro—rejoined that one reason for the prevalent true-false type of examination in American schools was the shortage and overloading of teachers, who would not have

time to correct long essay questions. This unflattering admission of an undeniable fact of current American education must be supplemented by a recognition that even under the best of circumstances Americans tend to emphasize a practical acquisition of facts more than a theoretical consideration of their meaning.

The young Dane pointed out there was something to be said on both sides: "Your schools do teach you to stand up and talk. Ours teach you to sit down and write." Here is a challenge to two worlds to learn from each other. The United Nations could profit from each other. The United Nations could profit from the acumen of these young people—and not least those American spokesmen whose facts are sometimes obscured by a notable lack of historical scholarship and political sophistication when they "stand up and talk." —The Christian Science Monitor

## 'Aggielets' on Parade...

Reading the O'Collegian, daily paper of Oklahoma A&M, is always a startling experience. Half the heads read "Aggielets This..." or "A&M That..." or "Aggie Land Will". For their school name being so much like ours, we share a similar vocabulary, even to "Aggie Land" as a name for the campus.

But when one comes across such a head as this one stares: "Aggielets in Pigtails on Parade!"

Hastily reading the story, we find: "If you see the girls on the campus suddenly stepping out with black skirts, white blouses, and pigtails with orange and black

ribbons it does not necessarily mean that the college is taking a trend toward the adolescent. It's just the prospective members of the Aggielet pep organization going through the rituals of "Courtesy Week."

When each of the 30 pledges meets a member on the campus, she must throw her books down and report with extreme reverence.

"Hear ye, hear ye, honorable Aggielet member approaches."

Pig tails—hair ribbons—Aggielets—we learn more and more every day.

There is a good deal of talk in the South about launching another permanent political party. Personally we believe that two are enough to save the country from each other.

Communist Premier Gottwald of Czechoslovakia told a Prague audience that there will not be another war because the will for peace is so strong any government attempting to launch a conflict "would be torn to pieces by its own people." We hope Premier Gottwald's Kremlin pipeline is a two-way affair.

When former Secretary of State Hull was honored by the Chinese government the Order of Auspicious Star, Grand Cordon, was given to the grand Cordell.

## 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 \$4.50 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.

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Rumors Fly Vainly

## New North Gate Building To Replace Old Landmark

"Did'ja hear about the North Gate? Creamland's moving to Midway! Aw, it ain't that—the school's just building the new North Gate road to connect the old highway."

Sorry, none of the rumors are true! The Batt, ever on the alert for what may prove to be a news item, immediately dispatched a reporter to the scene (nine days after the moving was begun) with orders not to return without a story, and please check the managing editor's post office box while down there.

The old wooden building occupied by the Creamland, Taylor's Campus Variety Store, and Charlie's Food Market is being moved from its present site to the northwest corner of the same block. This 24-year-old building, long an eyesore at the Gate, is to be replaced with a modern one story, brick and tile building, according to Charlie Ostersteyn, owner of Charlie's Food Market. "The new building will be 80 feet deep, have a 96 foot front, and will be set 20 feet back from the street," Ostersteyn said, "and it will contain four business houses." Ostersteyn stated he will move his grocery into one of them, but declined to say who would occupy the others. "The occupants wish to remain unknown for the present" he stated. The moving operation is being conducted by E. A. Gerke, professional house mover from Bryan. Gerke, who has been in the business for about four years, stated that this has proved to be one of his toughest jobs because of the deep-set concrete foundations. The managing editor had no mail.

## Letters

Letters to the editor must be signed. If the writer desires, his name will be withheld.

### DUSTY SEATS

Editor, The Battalion: Here's a tip for an editorial if you really want some honest reform around this school.

The best Town Hall program of the year, in the opinion of many Aggies, was presented last Saturday night. Many visitors were on the campus for this occasion, yet when those visitors and Aggies walked into Guion Hall's ancient balcony and had to sit in seats covered with a half inch of dust, it didn't leave a favorable impression.

Everyone will admit that it certainly is no pleasure to wear his best clothes and have to sit in a seat that looks as if it hadn't been dusted for years.

I'm sure the Town Hall management has the financial means with which to have the seats dusted before such an occasion. They could also find many Aggies would jump at the chance to pick up an extra dollar or two doing such work.

Yours truly, PAT HENRY, '49

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## CARE Offers Gift Packages For European Mothers, May 9

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Mothers, especially honored on May 9 in this country, will turn their thoughts to mothers of other countries on that day this year.

Through the General Federation of Women's Clubs, thousands of American mothers will send CARE packages on Mothers' Day to women in Europe.

For individual contributions of \$10, packages of food or clothing will be sent to some woman they themselves know, or to a needy woman whose name is listed at the Federation headquarters here.

Special food packages are set up for England, Ireland, Italy, and other countries according to the tastes and desires of the people of that country, but the standard food package contains: one pound of braised beef, one pound of liver loaf, one pound of corned beef, two pounds of shortening, two pounds of sugar, one pound of apricots, one pound of raisins, seven pounds of flour, two pounds of chocolate, two pounds of whole milk powder, eight ounces of egg powder, one pound of coffee (one-half pound of tea substituted for British packages), six ounces of soap, and one-fourth ounce of yeast.

In addition to the food packages, there are packages made up of blankets, knitting, woolsens, cottons, and layettes.

Mrs. John L. Whitehurst, extension secretary of the Federation of Foreign and Territorial clubs, says: "Here is an opportunity to make Mothers' Day of 1948 a day that will long be remembered by the unhappy, undernourished mothers in many countries. It will also give evidence of our good faith and intentions toward the stricken peoples throughout the world. It is believed," she adds, "that the mothers of the United States would prefer to deny themselves a gift that day in order to send a gift to another mother in a distant country."

## Horticulturists Elect Officers

A. L. Bailey has been elected president of the Horticulture Society for the 1948-49 school year. Other officers elected at the Tuesday night meeting were B. Story, vice-president; W. B. Jones, secretary; H. J. Mack, treasurer; and J. T. Moore, reporter.

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## Vets Wife Offers Dancing Courses

Mrs. Eva Mittendorf, wife of Ehrhard Mittendorf, veteran math student, is opening a dancing school at the Bryan Country Club.

Tap, ballet, aerobic, and ballroom dancing instruction will be offered.

Registration for children above three years of age will be held at the Country Club from 1 to 5 p. m. Monday, April 12. Classes will begin Thursday.

Mrs. Mittendorf has had 14 years of training under Judith Sproule of Beaumont, former president of the Dancing Masters of America.

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m., Thursday in Cabinet Room of FMCA.

GALVESTON COUNTY A & M CLUB, 5:30 p. m., Thursday in front of Ag. Building. Longhorn pictures taken.

LAMAR COUNTY CLUB, 7 p. m., Thursday in Room 128, Academic.

LUTHERAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION, 7:30 p. m., Wednesday, YMCA Assembly Room. "Present Day Concepts of Evolution" will be discussed by Professor A. L. Schipper.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION CLUB, 7 p. m., Wednesday, Room 107, ME Shop.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS CLUB, Thursday, 7:15 p. m., YMCA.

TRANS-PECOS CLUB, 7:15 p. m., Thursday in Room 223, Academic Building.

TEXARKANA CLUB, 7 p. m., Thursday, Room 125, Academic Building.

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## What's Cooking?

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS 7:30 p. m., Thursday. Time changed from 6 p. m.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS, 7:30 p. m., Thursday in the Chemistry Lecture Room, A. J. Brynes, speaker.

DEL RIO A&M CLUB, Thursday night, Reading Room of YMCA.

DENTON COUNTY CLUB, 5:30 p. m., Wednesday, in front of Agriculture Building for Longhorn picture.

EL PASO CLUB, 7:30 p. m., Thursday, Third floor of Academic Building.

EX-SERVICEMEN'S WIVES' BRIDGE & SOCIAL CLUB, 7:30 p.

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