

Battalion EDITORIALS

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FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Better Ways of Teaching . . .

Is it true that many veteran students are dissatisfied with antiquated methods of teaching such as are now currently used in many of our colleges?

Dr. L. D. Haske, dean of the Texas University School of Education, in a speech Tuesday evening said they are, and commented on methods of improving the lecture techniques of college professors.

Speaking before a meeting of the Arts and Sciences faculty on the subject, "Improvement of College Teaching," Dr. Haske referred to experiments at Harvard University. There, efforts have been made to improve the lecture techniques of professors by transcribing or recording regular classroom lectures and playing these recordings back to the professors, thus giving them an opportunity to hear how they sound to their students. By this method it was possible to correct any deficiencies which might have developed in a professor's method of holding class sessions.

Admittedly there is as much room for such improvement here as at other schools. There have been complaints among students here that some professors are sadly lacking in an effective or interesting lecture technique, although A&M probably has no more than its share of this type of professor. Nevertheless, the fact that there are some members of the teaching staff who fall in this classification is basis enough for the

initiation of some such program of lecture improvement. This program, if effectively carried through, would be of immense value to the teacher and the student.

Any teacher who has a sincere desire to impart knowledge to his students in the best manner could have no objection to this method of checking himself on his lecture techniques. There would be an opportunity for this teacher to have his lectures constructively reviewed by other members of his department.

Such a program of self-help could do no harm; whatsoever, and there is the possibility that it might do much good. The school has the equipment, or most of it, required for such a program. It would not be necessary to use the expensive recording equipment, although it is available, but rather, small, portable wire recorders could be used. It would not entail any special preparation on the part of the instructor, other than the usual lecture preparation. In fact, if special preparation was done it would negate the purpose of the program.

Such a sampling of lecture techniques would go far as a "follow up" to the survey of student opinion conducted toward the end of last semester. It would be another step to provide better teaching where it is necessary and be the basis for commendation where it is warranted.

MacArthur Boom Collapses . . .

"That hissing sound was the wind escaping from the MacArthur boom." Those words from the Atlanta Constitution seem to sum up popular opinion of the Wisconsin primary results, which saw "favorite son" MacArthur trip up as he waded to the beach of the political battleground. Editorial comment from Japan, the general's back yard, conceded that he had "lost face."

All in all, old Doug did not do so well in his initial skirmish in the presidential race. However the general, when questioned by foreign correspondents made this statement: "One of the things which have made our country great is that men may thus freely speak their minds and fearlessly record their individual viewpoints. Let us always preserve it that way."

Just what the MacArthur setback, and the Stassen triumph, mean to the presidential race is something that has the political sages buzzing. Some picture it as a death blow to the general's hopes for the Republican picture just where it was a year ago, with a Dewey-Taft impasse and the probable dark-horse choice of Senator Vandenberg.

Stassen's triumph was generally received

as a surprise to most observers. The Omaha World Herald commented, "No longer will patronizing opponents refer to him (Stassen) as a boy trying to get a man's job." The opposite viewpoint was held by the Detroit Free Press which refused to accept the results as "final and conclusive," adding that "Wisconsin has never been a particularly reliable forecaster of final results."

However, the general consensus seemed to be that the Stassen triumph swept him into a formidable position as a contender for the nomination.

Dewey's poor showing—he failed to take one precinct—was generally viewed as a severe jolt to his chances. This was especially true because he won a substantial victory in the same election four years ago. Certainly the Dewey defeat has done nothing to interfere with the chances of Senators Taft and Vandenberg, since he was their chief opponent. More can be guessed after Dewey meets Taft, Vandenberg, and Warren for the first time in the coming Nebraska primary.

Incidentally, MacArthur will also run in the Cornhusker election.

U. S. Senator Owen Brewster of Maine was the subject of a story in the Ithaca (N. Y.) Cornell Daily Sun which related: "After being admitted to a Maine bar in 1913, Brewster served the Portland school system."

Heading on a display classified ad in the Bethlehem (Pa.) Globe-Times: BRASSIERE OPERATORS WANTED— DUE TO EXPANSION.

Charles F. Lenhart, who runs a small ad in the Springfield (O.) News which reads "For Money Quick, See the Springfield Loan Co.," received a letter from a prospective client in Greece asking for a quick loan. His home was destroyed in the war, the writer explained.

In listing of 9:30 p. m. Radio Highlights in the Bronx (N. Y.) Home News: WQR—Quiet Please. WJZ—Sammy Kaye.

Mr. Truman confidently predicted a Democratic presidential victory in November but he didn't say for whom.

The approaching presidential campaign has both MacArthur and Eisenhower running—but in opposite directions.

"For Sale" ad in the Racine (Wis.) Journal - Times offered: "LARGE SOFA, double doors, fireproof and well built."

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 afternoons, 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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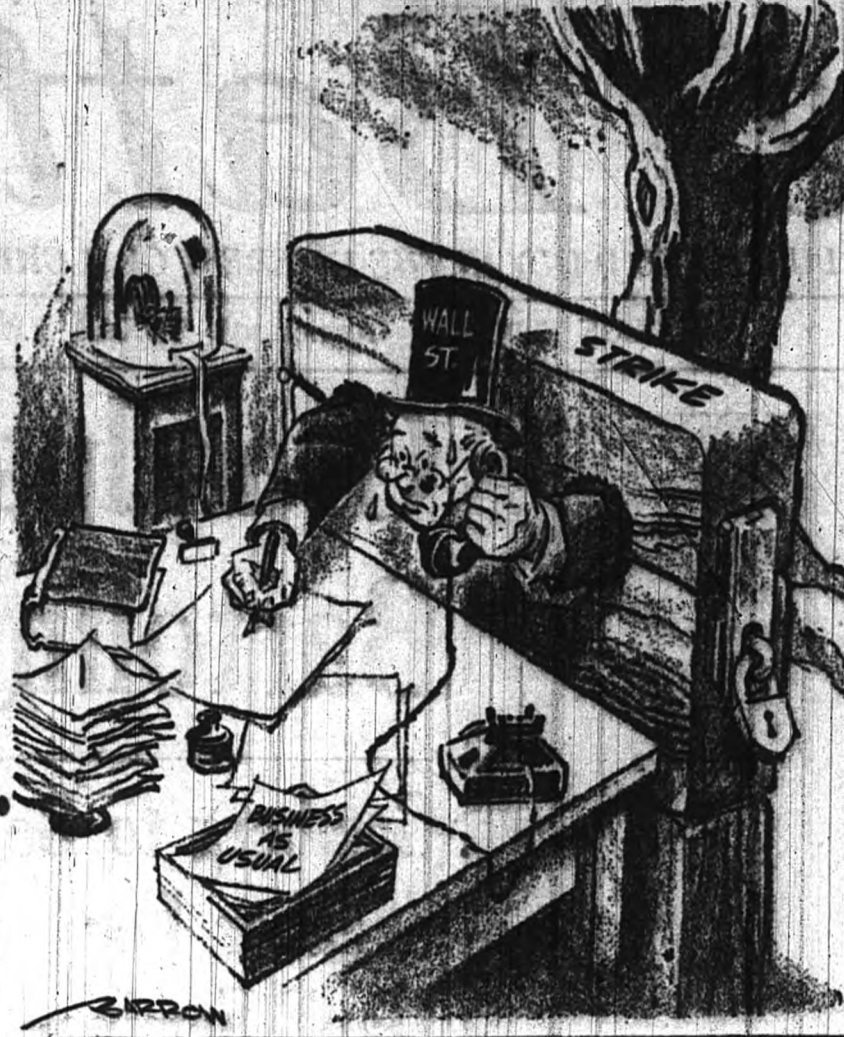
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PAGE MR. HOUDINI



Congress Accents Air Force Drive, Delays UMT Action

WASHINGTON, April 9 (AP)—Congress put added power behind the bigger-and-better Air Force drive yesterday temporarily shunting aside plans for Universal Military Training.

The aerial expansion program moved forward in both house and senate as lawmakers sought to balance manpower and yet provide the speediest and most effective national defense.

WASHINGTON, April 9 (AP)—President Truman asked Congress yesterday for an immediate appropriation of \$725,000,000 for expansion of the Air Force.

These were the developments: The House Appropriations Committee passed a \$775,000,000 Air Force bill onto the legislative runway with assurance from Chairman Taber (R-N.Y.) of a fast take-off. Taber assigned top priority to this item in the \$3,000,000,000 asked by President Truman to augment the \$11,000,000,000 already budgeted for defense. The extra Air Force funds are for aircraft, purchases, research and development.

Rep. Clason (R-Mass.) announced his armed services subcommittee would begin hearings on legislation to expand the Air Force from 55 to 70 combat groups. The Senate Armed Services Committee weighed a "formal request" secretary for air Symington for 70-group Air Force.

Members of the Senate Committee confided after the closed door session yesterday that they are considering linking the Air Force expansion with a temporary draft. They indicated UMT action would be delayed for the time being.

Senator Maybank (D-SC) told a reporter, "I think we can work out a plan for the 70-group Air Force without its costing too much."

And Senator Byrd (D-Va.) said he will support such an increase if an extra \$1,800,000,000 will cover the cost.

Chairman Gurney (R-SD) said the Senate group now plans to hear Navy officials, possibly Friday. He originally had hoped to wind up work on a draft-UMT bill this week. But now, Gurney said, "I wouldn't even guess we would be through next week."

In another preparedness development, Senator Russell (D-Ga.)

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Twiggins Observes Army Show . . .

Reds, Stay Way From Our Door!

By Conrad V. Twiggins

April 9, 1948—Dear Diary: As a candidate for chairman of the Lower Brazos County Thought Control Commission, I think it fitting to know about our armed forces. I have been looking around.

"Them Russians better not come a-nosin' round here," an unidentified army officer told me yesterday as the local military put on a show of strength to celebrate Army Day.

"Yessir, them Reds'll steer clear if they know what's good for 'em," he said as he gazed proudly at the simonize job on a two and one-half ton truck.

Three artillery pieces, a 105 mm. howitzer, a 100 m11 howitzer, and a 75mm. Anti-aircraft gun occupied the northeast corner of the main drill field, glittering dangerously in the warm April sunlight. The officer expanded his chest its full 28 inches as he spoke knowingly of azimuths and quadrants while pointing first to one gun then the other.

"Them pieces is sure death to anything within several miles," he boasted as I recalled the smoking ruins of Service Club No. 4 at Fort Ira T. Wyche after a battery had been laid 3200 mus off.

Then the unidentified officer led me to an M43 Sherman tank.

"This here's one of the snappiest critters we got," he purred. In his mind's eye he saw clods of rich Ukrainian mud laced with wheat stalks flying from the churning tread we are certain. In mine, I saw the terrible dressing down our captain got when some of our tanks inadvertently cut across the general's garden back at Fort Ira T. Wyche.

"And this is a Jeep," he said as if I was a blithering idiot and had never seen a newswreel. Nevertheless, I obligingly looked awestruck.

Though the unidentified officer didn't point it out, I noticed that the show was incomplete. I looked everywhere for billy-clubs, white leggins and MP brassards—they were conspicuous in their absence.

The unidentified officer informed me that a review was scheduled for later in the afternoon and invited me to see it. It would have been a pleasure to see the marching men and hear the stirring music and see the fellows get decorated, but I felt so infused with a realization of our nation's might that to remain any longer would probably have caused me to provoke an "incident." So I departed.

But this I know. Them Russians better not come a-nosin' round here!

Graduate Student Housing Planned

A limited number of apartments for June graduates who wish to take additional undergraduate work will be available June 1, Harry Boyer, chief of housing, announced today.

Boyer emphasized that the apartments will not be given to students who fail to graduate on schedule, but to students who can show that additional undergraduate study will benefit them in their major field.

Each application will be considered separately, and decided on its own merits, Boyer stated.

Further information may be obtained at the housing office in Goodwin Hall.

GENERALISSIMO CAN'T TALK FOR NOISE

NANKING, April 9 (AP)—Chiang Kai-Shek's address to the

national assembly was postponed yesterday because of a noisy demonstration arising from efforts to seat Independent Party delegates.



"OK, Son—You've Got a Job!"

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