

# Battalion EDITORIALS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

## Let's Be 'Superior'...

Today and Friday, A&M's standing as a military school goes on trial. The annual federal inspection will be held during the two-day period. Corps members were excused from classes today to participate in extended drills before the inspecting team from Fourth Army headquarters.

For 25 of the last 26 years, A&M has achieved "excellent" ratings on the annual inspections, for which corpsmen have been privileged to wear the "blue star" on their right sleeve.

This year, a new ranking, that of "superior" has been introduced and will be awarded to only the upper 10 percent of the schools in the Fourth Army on the basis of the results of the federal inspections. As there are approximately 30 schools under Fourth Army jurisdiction, only three will be eligible for the new distinction.

All of which puts a far heavier burden on the students of A&M—corpsmen and veterans alike—than has been the case in the past. Last year, although achieving "blue

star" standards, A&M had a lower point total than two primarily civilian colleges in this area—LSU and Oklahoma University.

To merit the "superior" standing this year will require the effort and cooperation of every student now on the campus. The "superior" rating offers a challenge which we can't afford not to accept. To corpsmen, it means alertness, and sincere effort. To veterans it means willing cooperation in the one way they can help in a federal inspection—by refraining from wearing parts of military uniforms which may give inspecting officers the erroneous impression that they (veterans) are part of the corps.

It's a big order, withstanding the eyes of a dozen army officers whose one aim is to find mistakes. But, it's not too big an order.

The corps, which has made rapid strides in military proficiency in the last two years, has the ability to earn the new superior rating. Veterans can do their part by lending a helping hand when needed.

We have what it takes. LET'S DO IT!

## Are Honor Students 'Exclusive'...

In today's Letters to the Editor, Franklin H. Mikell raises some questions concerning national scholastic honor societies. Mikell disagrees with the Battalion's editorial advocating the establishment of such organizations on the campus, and there is no doubt that many other students have similar questions in mind.

After delving through many reports, constitutions and by-laws of the societies, to make sure of our statements, we find definite answers to the most important question: Would honorary societies form an exclusive group not in keeping with A. & M. policy?

"Why hasn't it been brought to the attention of the student body... that membership is not only limited to scholastically qualified students but only to a small quota of these?" Mikell asks. "Something in the order of thirty or forty of the top two-fifths of the class will be allowed to join," he adds. The report of the Student Engineers' Council recommended that five scholastic honor societies be established on the campus.

The societies proposed for A. & M. are the Phi Eta Sigma, for freshmen; Tau Beta Pi for engineers, Phi Kappa Phi for arts and sciences, Alpha Zeta for agriculturists, Sigma Xi for graduate students and instructors.

According to Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities, only the eligibility requirements of Alpha Zeta, the honorary agricultural society proposed for A&M, approach the conditions mentioned in Mikell's letter. Up to 40% of the senior class of students majoring in agriculture and a smaller percentage of juniors are eligible for

membership. Tau Beta Pi, engineer's honorary society proposed for the campus, will admit up to one-eighth of the junior class and one-fifth of the senior class of students under the Dean of Engineering. Phi Eta Sigma, the freshman society, accepts all freshmen who qualify scholastically... certainly more than "thirty or forty."

"Why hasn't it been stated that any member of the selected group can 'blackball' any prospective members purely for personal reasons?" One society (Phi Eta Sigma) accepts members automatically; Tau Beta Pi requires a majority vote of all active members; Phi Kappa Phi will elect members by a three-fourths vote of the active members; prospects for Sigma Xi are elected to membership by a vote of three-fourths of the active members present. Only Alpha Zeta requires a unanimous vote of all active members for admitting candidates.

However, a member of Alpha Zeta now teaching at A&M told The Battalion that "the way it works out practically, it's a pretty democratic manner of selecting members." He added that only in extreme cases were prospective members "blackballed"; petty grievances held by a member were aired in meetings of the society, thus giving other members a chance to speak for the man up for membership. Only men recognized as unfit for such honors were barred, he concluded.

Frankly, we don't really know if national honor societies will raise scholastic standards at A&M. But the recognition afforded members, the personal satisfaction derived from membership, and the higher academic standing of A&M in the eyes of employers... all have convinced us that our school needs national scholastic honor societies.



## BETWEEN THE BOOK ENDS....

### Old Farmer Bromfield Lures City Dwellers to the Farm

By LOUIS MORGAN

MALABAR FARM by Louis Bromfield. Published by Harper and Brothers, New York. Price \$3.75. Publication date April 28, 1948. "Malabar Farm" carries forward the story of Louis Bromfield's life on an Ohio farm which has been reclaimed and made to bloom through new farming methods and soil conservation. It is, in many ways, a continuation of his earlier book, "Pleasant Valley."

Beginning with a letter to a Sergeant on Okinawa, the book covers a period of one year on Malabar Farm—September, 1944, through August, 1945. About one-third of the 405 page book is made up of extracts from Bromfield's personal diaries. This gives the reader the not-too-decent thrill of peeping into the private life of another person.

Bromfield discusses his own beliefs on the right and wrong ways to farm. Included also are his tastes, his reading habits, his family, and his neighbors. Along with an account of farming methods used at Malabar and the results obtained, Bromfield presents and makes interesting the terrifying fertility of his dogs, and the consternation of the herd bull removed from his harem. He makes drama of the seeding of a field, the blooming of a once barren hillside, or the creating of a farm pond.

Bromfield recommends farming as a wholesome way of life for the

## Meat Packing Head Speaks to Seminar

The organization of the Houston Packing Company was W. W. Bailey's subject in a speech which he made here last Monday to the Animal Husbandry Seminar. Bailey, class of '36, said that the plant had been in operation for 51 years. He discussed four different job opportunities for college men interested in the packing industry. Bailey is the general superintendent of the packing company.

**CAMPUS**  
Opens 1:00 P. M. Ph. 4-1181  
**NOW THRU SATURDAY**  
—Features Begin—  
1:40 - 3:45 - 5:50 - 7:55 - 10:00  
• FIRST RUN

LOVE...born in gunsmoke!  
**YOUNG CHAPMAN... RELENTLESS**  
with WILLARD PARKER, AKIM TAMIROFF, Barton MacLane, Mike Mazurki  
NEWS — SHORT BUGS BUNNY CARTOON

**SATURDAY PREVUE THRU SUN. WEDNESDAY**  
JOHN HENRY SHIRLEY  
WAYNE FONDA • TEMPLE  
**FORT APACHE**

"The Miracle of the Bells"  
"To the Ends of the Earth"  
"Alias A Gentleman"  
"Scudda Hoo! Scudda Hay!"

**Palace**  
NOW until SATURDAY  
Picture of the Year!  
PECK • McGUIRE  
GARFIELD  
Gentleman's Agreement  
HOLM  
REVERE  
HAWOC

**Queen**  
NOW SHOWING  
**NEVER BEFORE A Stranger LOVE!**  
John HOJIAK • Sylvia SIDNEY  
LOVE FROM A Stranger  
ANN RICHARDS

**COMING!**  
Next Tuesday — Wednesday — Thursday  
**M-G-M's THRILLER WITH A NEW KIND OF KILLER!**  
A NEW **MICKEY ROONEY**  
**BRIAN DONLEVY**  
**ANN BYRN**  
**KILLER McCoy**  
JAMES DUNN  
"I'm not afraid! I'm 18 and can take care of myself!"  
TOM TULLY • SAM LEVENS  
Screen Play by Frederick MacLean • Based on a Story and Screen Play by Thomas Lennon, George Green and George Claff  
Directed by ROY SCUDLARK • Produced by SAM WEINSTEIN  
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAEYER PICTURE

NOW — TODAY  
**SKYWAY DRIVE-IN THEATRE**  
Deanna Durbin  
Tom Brown  
**"I'LL BE YOURS"**  
Features—7:30 - 9:15

**GUION**  
**NOW!**  
M-G-M's TOP-THRILL MELODRAMA!  
**"THE ARNELO AFFAIR"**  
(and what an affair it was!)  
JOHN HODIAK • GEORGE MURPHY  
FRANCES GIFFORD  
DEAN STOCKWELL • EVE ARDEN  
Screen Play by Arch Claxton • Directed by ARCH OBOLER  
Produced by JERRY BRUBAKER • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

**Starting FRIDAY!**  
TWO GREAT FEATURES  
**Pat O'BRIEN Walter SLEAZK Anne JEFFREYS RIFF-RAFF**  
with PERCY WALKER, FERDIE GOWAN, GEORGE GAY  
**TIM HOLT in Zane Grey's "Under the Tonto Rim"**  
with MAN LESLIE, RICHARD MARTIN

**Starting SUN JAY**  
THEY'RE BACK!  
UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL presents  
**BUD ABBOTT LOU COSTELLO**  
**"BUCK PRIVATES COME HOME"**  
ALL NEW! with TOM BROWN  
JOAN FULTON • NAT PENDLETON  
DONALD MacBRIDE and BEVERLY SIMMONS

## : Letters to the Editor :

**HONORARY FRATERNITIES?**  
Editor, The Battalion:  
To the best of my knowledge Texas A&M has never been a school that advocated or permitted to exist exclusive organizations sanctioned by the college of any type among the undergraduates on its campus.  
Concerning the editorials lately appearing in "YOUR" paper, why hasn't it been brought to the attention of the student body in terms as fairly written as the glowing reports I have been reading of late that the by-laws of these "honorary" fraternities specifically stipulate that membership is not only limited to scholastically qualified students but only to a small quota of these? Something on the order of thirty to forty of the top two-fifths of the class will be allowed to join. Why also hasn't it been stated that to join a man has to be selected by the members and unanimously elected by all before he can join? Why also hasn't it been stated that any member of the selected group can "blackball" any prospective member purely for

personal reasons? These and other undesirable traits haven't been stated as yet in your editorials. I am highly in favor of any national organization that includes all Aggies who meet scholastic requirements on merit, alone, but I am strongly against any exclusive dictatorship of a select few on this campus. Aggie land has always been a campus where a man was judged on his own record and he made that record in the time he spent here. His past and outside influences could do little to buy his record. I for one would like to see it remain that way. We have turned out some pretty good men since 1876 without benefit of the Greeks on this campus and they are pretty well known all over the world without having to swing a key on a watch chain to impress anyone.  
Do you sincerely believe that these frats will raise the scholastic average here or is this one of the new Aggie Traditions? I'm against it as it stands now.  
Sincerely,  
FRANKLIN H. MIKELL, 44

**NOT "FOR NOTHING"**  
Editor, The Battalion:  
Re: Mr. Hall's letter concerning Polson and Fisher's representing Aggie veterans at "Operation Bonus". There are two things I'd like for Hall to understand. First, if he wouldn't have wanted affirmative representation at Operation Bonus, he should have utilized the ballot in the Batt two days before the delegates left. He should have voted "No," as I did for various personal reasons.  
Second, I want him to understand that if the proposed bonus is passed, that only those who did nothing will get "something for nothing," as he puts it. Those of us who have been "kissed" here and there in the various campaigns won't feel "that it's something for nothing."  
Always remember, Hall, "nothing is too good for the boys who were at the front." And that's just what we got, NOTHING, and it was too good for us!  
RALPH GREENBERG, '46

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North Gate

## The Battalion

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