

Battalion EDITORIALS

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MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

A Condition That Must Be Corrected . . .

How important is the finish on your automobile?

Everytime you park your car within 150 yards of the evaporation tower next to the Power Plant in Boomtown, you are subjecting it to the ravishes of a strong chloride and alkali spray.

This spray can dissolve the wax coat, corrode and rust the exposed metal surfaces, get into the cracks in the paint, and eventually rust away the metal underneath.

Friday, The Battalion obtained a sample of the water used in the evaporation tower and had it analyzed by a reliable chemist on the campus. The analysis showed that the water contained a strong solution of alkalis, the test showing a pH of 9.67 where 7.00 is normal. There was also a strong concentration of chlorides and some sulfates.

This solution, the chemist reported, is harmful to all exposed metal surfaces such as bumper and grill work, and if it enters cracks in the paint, it would rust the body. The solution would dissolve a coating of commercial wax.

The manager of the Power Plant confirmed these findings.

In an effort to find some means to counteract the effect of the water, the manager of the plant had already consult-

ed a research chemist who recommended that the tower be completely drained every six months and fresh water be put in. This cannot be done without shutting down the Power Plant, the manager stated.

To alleviate the condition, the manager of the plant drains the water from the tower to the lowest possible level and replaces it with fresh water every 30 days. There is a complete turn-over of water by evaporation every week, but this strengthens the solution rather than weakens it. There is no other foreseeable means to correct the condition.

Since it is not practical to shut down the Power Plant every month to clean the evaporation tower and since no means has been found to correct the condition, the cars parked in the vicinity of the tower will be in constant danger of exposure to the harmful spray.

We feel that no official of the College and no student would knowingly submit his automobile to the damaging effect of the chemical spray.

The Battalion urges those people who have charge of parking areas on the Campus to immediately close parking lots adjacent to the Power Plant and to provide parking space out of the danger area but within walking distance of the classrooms.

Voters Deserve A Secret Ballot . . .

It is a political axiom that the value of a vote is in direct proportion to the freedom with which it is cast. No Texas politician will dare to dispute this . . . as a theory. But some do have the effrontery to perpetuate an outmoded system of voting which robs our votes of the full secrecy which they deserve.

Texas citizens deserve a secret ballot. Any form of balloting which falls short of being completely secret is a partial negation of the voting principle. The vote can be valuable to democracies only when it is cast by men free from considerations about how others will react to the vote. It must express desires—not external compulsions.

Standard procedure for Texas voting practice requires that each ballot be num-

bered and that a record be kept of the voter to whom it has been given. This makes it possible for our "honest" officials to determine not only for whom a vote was cast but also by whom it was cast. We trust confidently that our public servants do not habitually avail themselves of this opportunity. Political favors are often passed out on the basis of such petty things as votes.

This temptation should be removed. Votes must not be open to censorious action nor the hint of censorious action. We can provide machinery for a secret ballot. Others have pioneered in this field and have developed modern voting devices and techniques which insure voting secrecy. We must provide; for no man is freer than the secrecy of his vote.

It could happen only in genealogy-conscious New England. From the Woonsocket (R. I.) Call, June 21, 1948:

"Although only 53 years of age, he held one of the longest tenures as a court clerk in Massachusetts having been connected with the Second District Court since 1016."

A cynic we know claims that Eisenhower didn't run for president because he was ashamed to admit that he was either a Democrat or a Republican.

We were surprised to learn a poll tax is required in New Hampshire. We didn't think that sort of thing was tolerated north of the Mason and Dixon line.

Under new regulations, former service men can't enter dancing schools under the GI Bill of Rights. Once more, those who dance must pay the fiddler.

Over classification in the Havana (Cuba) Post:

Furnished apartment for rent to quiet couple, no children, no pets, no furniture carving friends, no lost weekend drinking acquaintances, prompt payers, considerate tenants. We lend you phone. . .

Typhoid fever has been a 30-day disease, but a new drug is said to cure it in three days. There is still, however, no such quick and easy cure for a 30-day note.

The pay of lieutenants and a captains in the army is said to be below competing wages in business and industry. But, like columnists, they should look at the prestige.

Americans are buying more jewelry. With clothes at their present prices they have to wear something, don't they?

The Battalion

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Amplification Department

By CARROLL TRAIL

Dear Sir: In Wednesday's Batt there was an article on page 2 about the cadets at Camp Hood. Referring to two of the recruits, it said, "Both expect to graduate from their respective schools in June of 1948."

My question is, isn't this July of 1948, or did they both fail to graduate seven weeks ago? Love and Kisses, A. H.

Answer: A. H., your question is certainly a challenging one. I have done everything in my power to arrive at a satisfactory answer.

I first tried to contact the author William Adair, but he was on P. P. and could not answer my long-distant call. To check for typographical error, I looked for the original story, but it had been destroyed.

Next I called on my old buddy J. T. Kent, mathematics professor and amateur astronomer. Consulting his handy pocket-sized almanac, he assured me that this is July 1948.

I then checked these men's records and found that they are to graduate June 1949. Thus, as far as it may seem, the Batt

must have made a typographical error.

Dear Sir: Was the great Indian chief, Sitting Bull, ever captured?

In my history class yesterday, I asked my instructor, Dr. A. B. Nelson, if we would study Sitting Bull's life. To which he replied, "Bull has no place in my course."

So if you can answer this question for me, I won't mind if the history course doesn't cover it. In genuine admiration, S. M.

Answer: Yes, S. M., Sitting Bull was captured. After three decades of out-maneuvering the best that the U. S. Army could send into the field, the great Indian chief was captured. His captors treated him with the greatest respect, and one asked if he had any special grievances to air. Sitting Bull nodded gravely, and protested, "One white man has printed terrible lies about me for all world to read."

"What did he say?" asked the reporter. The chief gave vent to an impressive collection of cuss-words and concluded, "If Indian ever find him, he sure scalp no-good so-and-so who say Sitting Bull graduated at West Point."

Dictionary Introduction Work Of 7 Devils, Reviewer Finds

By T. NANNY

If you have a dictionary don't read the introduction. It is the work of seven devils. Seal those front pages up . . . and tear them out if there are small children in the home. That introduction is poison. Once a man has read those pages he'll never go to the dictionary again without quaking heart and knocking knees.

The dictionary is potentially the greatest tool of the American public. Bound up in the etymological history of language is romance, history, adventure. But have you ever heard about it? Nope? It's all the fault of that darned introduction.

Most books possess attractive alluring introductions that stimulate the interest and compel one to dig into and devour the contents. Alas, the dictionary has no such attraction to stimulate its potential users. It has instead long dull pompous lists of charts, "keys," and tabulations. The accumulated force of this dry pedantic introduction is terrific. It destroys intellectual curiosity and offers nothing in return.

I propose a "Society For The Abolishment of Pompous Introductions." It would be called "Socfortaopi" for short. The first goal of this society would be to eliminate that cancerous growth that prefaces our dictionary.

The second goal would be to substitute an introduction that would caress the sensibilities, stimulate the soul, and lure the public into searching out the beauties of the dictionary. It would hint of the romance buried in the etymology of our language. It would reveal small delightful portions of the adventure and daring buried in the history of our native tongue.

The third goal would be to organize a book club that dealt exclusively with the dictionary. The "Dictionary of the Month Club" would send out dictionaries every month, and every one would have a new more enticing introduction than the one before. Each preface would become more appealing, more seductive than the last. Nice to contemplate isn't it?

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Some Don't Read . . .

Michalak's Report - Students Read Plays, Poems, Superman

By H. C. MICHALAK

An exhaustive survey made during the heat of an afternoon showed that the reading tastes of A&M students include fiction, romances, Superman, poetry, plays, and westerns. However, some students said they did not even read their texts, much less a novel just for the joy of reading.

The first man approached on the subject of reading was Thomas E. Barton, Management Engineering student from Yoakum. Barton's favorite book was "Magnificent Obsession" by Lloyd Douglas. He says, "It is a man's book and it has points on human ethics; it gives a person some outlook as to the points of view that professional people have."

B. C. Brooks, Animal Husbandry major of Brownwood, when asked what book he liked best said that Marsha Davenport's "Valley of Decision," telling a moving, emotional story of human reactions to everyday life came closest to his ideal of what a book should be.

A psychology student, who would not reveal his name, said that he did not read books, but that he would diligently read a manuscript of psychology major quizzes if someone would volunteer to tell him where such could be procured. Bill Thornton, Physical Education major of Palestine, chose as

his favorite of all favorite books "The Holy Bible" because it is the book of all books.

George C. Fairman, Accounting major of Fort Arthur, reveals that he thought "Raintree County" by Ross Lockridge Jr. was the best book he has read in quite awhile. The moving character of the story is a school teacher, John Shaunesy. It seems that the old teacher went to a parade on the 4th of July and as the parade with its band, floats, candidates for election, and the GAR passed his point of vantage John's mind flashes back.

His story is about the lives of people that he has taught in his school as children who grew up to become soldiers, drunkards, bums, doctors, politicians and what have you.

The most outspoken student encountered during the survey was Terrell Jamison, Management Engineering major of Dayton, Texas. He related that he knew that books were bound volumes with covers whose colors could vary from a fiery red to a blazing tea sipper orange tint, but that the only library books that he had ever read were the ones recommended by the various English profs who made it mandatory that he read and report on, or take the same English course again. "These English profs" have such subtle ways!

Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

Read Before You Jump, Aggies It Doesn't Mean A Thing--Yet

By FRANK CUSHING

The offices of the organized reserve corps in Denison and Dallas ought to have more consideration for vets. There are some things (i.e. nerves, heart) to be placed above mere money.

The government agency has been mailing out form letters concerning routine matters. However many Aggies haven't even taken time to read the material before bolting for the Brazos Bottoms.

It seems that an economy drive has called into use surplus envelopes with the chilling words "Selective Service" printed on them. Through the conditioned response with their "Greetings" notes from the president, recipients have reacted violently.

For the benefit of those who might encounter these envelopes, take heart and open them. They are of no importance or meaning—at least not this month.

Not only is this a small world but its a pretty mixed up one. During the recent Democratic convention in Philadelphia a restaurant owner desired a ten-gallon hat exactly like the one worn by one of the Texas delegation.

The hat wearer promised to send the wishful one a genuine cow puncher lid of the type only to be found in Texas.

The restaurant proprietor received the promised article postmarked from Texas. However he is now scratching his head instead of covering it with the gift. The hat band proudly proclaims the name of a Philadelphia hat maker.

There is something very catching and appealing about the campaign slogan of the late "Pretty Boy" Floyd's brother. The

infamous outlaw's brother won a Democratic nomination in an Oklahoma county for the office of, ironically enough, sheriff. The appropriate but terse statement issued by the candidate's friends was, "He ain't perfect, but he's honest."

A married yet attending Baylor has learned that he talked a little too much and too soon. He had gained fame recently in that school by declaring he could live, unaided financially, on his government subsistence check.

Even nature conspired to make the boaster regret his words. A friendly but unowned dog, presumably female, crawled under the budgeter's front steps and ushered five little bundles from heaven into the world.

The true blow came to the soft-hearted, thrifty one when the mother ignored her responsibilities and took a powder on the new born. Now the Baylor boy has the choice of hot dogs three times a day or no dogs all day.

Aggies are notorious for refusing to be bound by conventions. An example of another pioneer step taken was demonstrated by a Spanish 206 class.

Not liking to be followers of the common herd, but still desiring grade points, the class ignored the traditional apple and presented Professor Allen Moore with a toad.

Now it's a wonderful thing to see people capable of thinking for themselves but still the repercussions of the gift are unlimited. If the idea catches hold there's no telling what presents might find their way to the teachers' desks.

Originated in Washington's Time . . .

American Susceptible to Meaningless Words And Flowery Phrases, Especially in Politics

By HARRY GOODING

When one picks up his newspaper and reads where one candidate calls himself a "defender of liberty," where one perfume company calls its latest creation "irresistible," or where some public official has been accused of being a "Communist," he is apt to accept the terms at face value.

We Americans are too prone to let ourselves be taken in by flowery expressions of meaningless words. We do not delve into the actual meanings of the terms and examine their significance.

For instance, take the term Communism. To most of us, this term denotes something bad. And if someone says Joe Smith is a Communist we are apt to say that Joe Smith is bad too.

Politicians like to use "Communist" and "Fascist" when referring to their opponents. Themselves, they call "defender of liberty" and "a true liberal." But what is an untrue liberal? Until we know what kind of liberty the candidate would defend, to what type of liberalism he is true, this man remains a mystery. But people like to listen to the eloquent speeches. They are more interested in keeping a bad man out of office rather than getting a good one in.

A candidate, therefore, must primarily know a good number of words to call his opponent. The best of these words in George Washington's time were "Tory and Rebel" in Lincoln's, they were "Rebel" and "Yankee," and now it's "Communist" and "Fascist."

A new device has been invented that may quiet a great many of the words now making the rounds. This device, known as hill-billy hoe-downs, is sometimes referred to rather slurringly, as music. During the last few years it has taken the place of many speeches,

but it will never totally snuff out the stumping. Quite often one runs up against very similar words that have quite different meanings. These words are a hazard to our every day life and they can get one into a peck of trouble.

"A woman may be economical but not cheap. She may be a kitten but not a cat. Call her a chick but never a hen."

Anyone who calls her that won't call her again."

And speaking of the father sex, several words and phrases have become associated with her that probably aren't true.

She is famous for her crazy hats for her talking too much, for her mismanagement of money, and for her desire for donation. Actually society admits that woman seeks dictatorship. Look at the names of leading perfumes—Coburn, Surrender, Danger, Irresistible. How the makers of Chanel No. 5 ever sell their product when other brands promise domination over everyone will always be a mystery.

Far too many of us live in a world of words. We are too lazy to come down to reality and investigate what we read and hear. To those who are writers, forsoke this world of words, have a point to make and make it. To all who are readers, be alert and critical. Don't let this writer or anyone else put anything over on you.

Dr. John S. Caldwell, Optometrist, Caldwell's Jewelry Store, Bryan, Texas

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