

Battalion EDITORIALS

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MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Improving Southwest Conference Football . . .

Southwest Conference officials could well take some tips from the National League when it comes to improving football. An article in the August 14 issue of Collier's by Bill Fay tells how the League adopted what it calls "slide-rule" football for improving team play.

"Slide-rule" football is more than just a compilation of team averages for the number of yards lost or gained. It is a careful collection of data concerning the exact amount of time spent in every phase of each game. It was originated by Hugh Ray, one time official of the Western Conference and a retired mechanical drawing professor. It is Ray's job to compile these time statistics for each team in the National League and analyze those statistics for the purpose of improving the League's brand of ball.

Ray has figures showing, among other things, the exact amount of time spent by an official of the League in handling the ball. He knows the exact number of seconds spent by each team in putting the

ball into play. This latter time is now down to an average of 22.5 seconds as a direct result of Ray's work. The result of reducing this time increased the number of touchdowns per game in the League from 3.4 in 1936 to 5.93 in 1947.

Ray figured that for every second over the average of 22.5 seconds enough time was lost in each game to run 3.3 plays. Concentrating on this alone, the average number of plays run in the League was increased from 145.5 per game in 1936 to 166.5 in 1947.

If "slide-rule" football tactics could improve the brand of football played in the Southwest Conference as much as it has improved that played in the National League, then the expense and effort necessary for its adoption would be more than justified. The Battalion urges Southwest Conference officials to investigate the advantages of these football time studies for the purpose of speeding up and improving Conference football.

Should 18-Year-Olds Vote? . . .

The question of whether 18-year-old youths should be given the right to vote is being heard from all sides. In several states there are movements underway to push legislation allowing these young men and women to cast ballots. The Burleson County Democratic convention on July 31 endorsed a plan allowing 18-year-olds to vote, and instructed its delegates to the State Convention to nominate a 19-year-old University of Texas student as temporary chairman of that convention.

To some people the greatest objection to allowing young people to vote is that they believe the youths could be swayed by the emotional appeals of political propagandists. These people maintain that an 18 year-old cannot make up his mind, that he is not intelligent enough to select good men for public offices.

The Battalion does not agree with these people who would fall victim to false appeals; but the proportion of these, we are sure, would not be greater than that of their elders.

Perhaps the best answer to those people who believe young people are not mature enough to make wise selections is to cite the case of the youth of Georgia.

When Ellis G. Arnall, who is recognized as one of the greatest fighters for Southern economic, political and social freedom, was running for the office of governor against demagogical Eugene Talmadge it was the non-voting youth of Georgia who campaigned for Arnall. After being elected, Arnall acknowledged that it was the support of these young people that put him in office. That their choice of a candidate was a wise one is evidenced by Arnall's program of reform for Georgia which has established it as one of the most progressive states of the Southwest.

Young people are being called on to carry the full burden of citizenship. Next month many of them will be drafted into the armed forces. They pay taxes on their earnings the same as their elders. If they are to be required to carry out the duties of citizenship then they should have a voice in the affairs of the government.

The Battalion urges its readers to consider the proposal of the Burleson County Democratic convention—the proposal that would give Texas young people the opportunity to share in the government by being allowed to vote.

The Oil Industry Comes Through . . .

The draft is worrying a lot of people, but young men between 18 and 25 are not the only ones. Last week the oil industry let the country know by its actions that it top is concerned with its future status under the new selective service law.

Recently the director of the armed services petroleum agency, Rear Admiral E. D. Foster, told the national petroleum council that unless the oil industry provided 1,700,000 barrels of gasoline and met other petroleum needs, the armed forces would recommend mandatory action. This action, which would authorize the government to seize petroleum supplies and direct manufacturing procedures is now possible under a provision in the new draft law.

Apparently disturbed by Admiral Foster's warning, the oil industry came through with flying colors and provided enough gasoline to reduce the fuel defi-

ciency to 1,300,000 barrels and made available another 500,000 barrels. The three companies that provided this relief were Standard Oil of California, Standard-Vacuum Oil Company and the Union Oil Company.

This sudden change of heart, on the part of the oil industry is heartening to see. It is hoped that it will be more willing to provide for the armed forces' needs in the future without the government having to resort to threats.

If the government ever were compelled to take over the oil industry it would be a regrettable action, for not only would it represent an invasion on the right of free enterprise, but it would be an indication that in a time of international crisis one phase of American industry failed to perform what it should consider not only its duty, but its privilege.

The Battalion

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Co-Editors: KENNETH BOND, LOUIS MORGAN
C. C. Munroe, Harvey Cherry, Marvin Rice, John Slaughter, Andy Davis and Billy Sings, T. Nancey, Frank Cushing, Eddie Smith, Carroll Trail, Frank Welch, Frank Arnes, Bill Chapman, William Slaughter, Phil Monroe, Henry Lacour, David G. Cravay, C. J. Woodward, Howard Stewart, Houston

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH



Battalion Forum

This Column is open to all Battalion readers

Should the Dixiecrats Bolt?

In answer to the question "Should the Dixiecrats Bolt the Democratic Party," Tom Holcomb says the Dixiecrats are justified. Civil Rights is another attempt to pass a social law, he contends.

By Tom Holcomb
In the coming November Presidential election, the people will have a new party to vote for, the Dixiecrats. This is the Southern part of the old Democratic Party and is the only hope for the nation in this election. This party is primarily against the so-called Civil Rights of President Truman, and for states rights. As for the civil rights, they would give the Negro a right to life without prejudice, but the constitution does that.

What will hurt the people of the South is that the National Government is again trying to pass a social law. This was proved inefficient with the Prohibition laws. This is another attempt of the government to take away the few remaining states rights that we have left.

I believe that the Negro has a right to the privileges granted to him under the constitution, but there are other people in the South that do not feel as I do. The thing that must happen is to have these people work over to the fact that the Negro is a person, with a soul and with a God as everyone else has. He is a human being and should be treated so.

However, this is not the sort of thing that can be legislated from any White House or Capitol. It must come about of its own accord. I believe that the Negro needs JUSTICE not laws. The Civil Rights are not what the country needs; States Rights are. That is what the Dixiecrats are fighting for and that is why they should revolt.

JOE ABBOT feels that the Dixiecrats were fattered by a few fanatics.

By Joe D. Abbot
The recent bolting from the Democratic Party by a group of so-called "Dixiecrats" has brought many arguments pro and con the movement. It is my belief that this newly formed group acted very unwisely.

That the decision to form a new party was of an emotional nature is obvious. The southern dissenters acted rashly and with out consideration of the consequences. It stands to reason that they not only weak-

(See ABBOT on Page 4)

Amplification Department

By CARROLL TRAIL

Dear Sir:
Have there been any modifications in the drive-in theatre industry? It looks to me that since establishment, these movie houses have made no progress.

Sincerely,
T. C.

Answer:
T. C., you are wrong. The drive-in industry has taken great strides to improve itself and provide greater comfort for its patrons. For instance, a theatre in Asbury Park, New Jersey, has a fly-in service for the helicopter enthusiasts. And Maple Cove, Mass., is planning a canoe-in, with the movie screen located on a river bank.

I understand that the manager of the Skyway near Bryan is contemplating building a new theatre. Calling it the All-in, he says that it is designed with beds for the students of C. E. 300s who are too tired to sit through one of the other movies.

Dear Sir:
I have been hearing a lot of talk about the movie "The Time of Your Life" at a Bryan theatre recently. I was busy all that time and couldn't attend, so I wonder if you would be so kind as to give me a synopsis of it?
Yours sincerely,
P. M.

Answer:
P. M., I think that the movie can best be described by a foreword I saw in a book recently. On the second page of the book the author had written, "Persons attempting to find a motive in

this narrative will be prosecuted; persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished; persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot."

Such a picture was "The Time of Your Life."

Dear Sir:
Please send me a few copies of the paper with the obituary of my aunt. Also publish enclosed clipping of the marriage of my niece who lives in Oregon. And I wish you would mention in the local column, if it does not cost anything, that I have two nice puppies for sale. As my subscription is out please stop the paper as we have to cut down wherever possible these days.
Thank you,
H. R.

Answer:
Anything to oblige, H. R. The policy of the Battalion is service with a smile. If we can be of any future assistance, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Letters

EXPRESSES APPRECIATION!
To The Corps of Cadets:
If there are any Aggies I may have failed to reach to give heartfelt thanks for the aid and sympathy in a time of great sorrow, may I tell them now how grateful I am for their many kindnesses which will always be remembered.
Mr. Thomas A. Adcock

Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

Professor Might Be A Square But He's Hep on Mathematics

By JOE HOLLIS

A Caltech mathematics professor couldn't quite see the humor behind an advertisement recently. The prof read the advertisement which had a catch line that offered one thousand dollars to anyone who could square a circle, and went to work.

The company running the advertisement received the unexpected but probably inevitable—the solution. Accompanying the unwanted answer was the address where the one thousand dollars could, and should be sent. The responsible people wrote the man that the whole thing was just meant for a joke ha, ha. The humorless professor now has a suit in to recover the money he claims is technically his.

Personally I have no idea of the legality of the demand but it would seem to me they ought to pay. In the first place the guy earned it; second, they quite obviously ought to give the old square some money so he can get around.

A San Francisco paper recently ran a perfume advertisement printed in a special ink which contained a touch of perfume. The resulting paper had a different and appealing air to it. The management checked carefully the public's reactions to the innovation for future reference.

The tabulated results showed that the perfume which was being pushed had tremendous sales. However some of the repercussions were quite unexpected. For instance an asthma sufferer griped that it brought on another attack. A lady called to inform the publishers that it ruined her pot roast. A small lad reported that the odor made his cat sick.

The management is not discouraged, however. They realize that such is the penalty of being progressive. Besides no one wrote in that the whole idea smelled.

We seem to be running through miscel-

Thought Controller Rebuffed . . .

Wellborn Waterboy Refused Ducats For '48 Football Tilts; Plans Later Revenge

By CONRAD TWIGGINS

Sometimes I think that I have performed my numerous and far reaching works in vain. Now, as you friends of mine well know, I'm not the type who wants to take advantage of my political power. I haven't gone high hat since my climb to the dizzy heights of fame. Fact is, I'm more than ready to help out a voter in any way I can. However, I feel that I should have some small recognition for my services.

I have been insulted in the worst way by some of the minor schools of Texas: mainly TU, SMU, and Baylor. Last week I wrote these schools and asked them to kindly send me some passes to their football games with A&M. I wasn't choosy in my requests. All I asked for was six or seven seats along the fifty yard line. Naturally I told them who I was and told them if by chance they hadn't heard of me, (That's just my natural modesty popping out again) to check with the Brazos County Curb and Soapbox Speakers Union of which I happen to be president.

Now then, the letters I got back were astounding. I am starting an immediate investigation as to why our postal system allows letters containing the words which they used to go through. I'm sure that there's a law on the books somewhere that prohibits use of profane and obscene words in letters.

Baylor told me that they not only hadn't heard of me but they didn't care if they never heard of me again. That to the man who was Chairman of the Brazos County Thought Control Committee for three successive terms. I didn't mind that so much, but when they offered me a position as a waterboy if I'd come right over and start training, that was too much. SMU wrote that they wouldn't give passes to Harry S. Truman. I resent the implication behind that remark. Everyone should know that I'm not a follower of Truman. I've just purchased a brand new pair of trackshoes and have been limbering up in the hundred yard dash for the State Democratic convention. Brother, when they

let you can be sure that your public servant Twiggins will be leading the pack.

The worst letter of all came from Texas University. They used some words that even an Aggie would not and that's saying plenty. They may be tea-sippers but they are putting something in their tea besides sugar and lemon. They said, in the parts that can be quoted, that they wouldn't give me a ticket to the game but they wished I'd come over anyhow. They want me to occupy the traditional structure hung from the pole.

I merely wrote you this to explain why the football boys are going to have to do their best without my "Gig 'em Aggies" to spur them on this year. Don't fret about the disrespect shown by those overgrown kindergarten thugs. My revenge is coming. Why they don't know it, that I'm insured of winning the election of Constable for the Seventh Precinct on the Dixiecrat ticket in November.

Those of you who are expecting P. L. Downs to win had better get set for a bombshell. I've been checking into his war record. Civil War that is, and have found some mighty revealing things. I'm not going to tell all yet but I can say he's not the hero he's been telling us.

Now when I get elected, those people who have been talking so smart had better watch out. It won't be safe for them to come through precinct number seven. No sir, I'll get them for something if I have to make up a law for them to break. I'll have the last laugh or my name ain't Conrad Twiggins.

Bathing Suits, Durante, Music, Color, Make Lively New Movie

By ANDY DAVIS

ON AN ISLAND WITH YOU (MGM), starring Ester Williams, Peter Lawford, Cyd Charisse, Jimmy Durante, Ricardo Montalban, Xavier Cugat and his orchestra. Filmed in rich Technicolor, "On an Island with You" presents a mixture of romance, music and comedy.

It may be true that Ester Williams hasn't won an Academy Award for her acting ability, but after looking at her in a bathing suit and watching her swim, the dramatic angle is soon forgotten. Miss Williams is more beautiful than ever, and is given every opportunity to display her "talents" (aquatic).

The story as it goes . . . Ester Williams and Ricardo Montalban are film stars, shooting scenes for a picture on an island. Jimmy Durante is assistant director, while Peter Lawford, a Navy Lieutenant, is acting as technical adviser.

It seems Lawford had participated with Miss Williams in a skit she had performed on one of these islands during the war (anything for the boys overseas and fell madly in love with her).

When Lawford gets the chance he flies her off to the island where they originally met. Among the shambles of a decaying sunset, romance begins to bloom. Lawford looks into her eyes, and asks her (this will kill you) to dance. This could only happen in the movies.

Miss Williams is already engaged to Montalban, but after that island jaunt, she falls in love with Lawford. Now facts notwithstanding, the kidnapping and wrecking a Navy plane. It all turns out well as Montalban finds

solace with Cyd Charisse. (One of their dance sequences is an outstanding feature of the picture.)

With Xavier Cugat and his orchestra supplying the music, the one and only Jimmy Durante around, and the eye appeal mentioned above, it all adds up to a good movie that the whole family should enjoy.

TODAY
PALACE

M-G-M's MUSICAL PARADISE IN Technicolor

On An Island With You

QUEEN

TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY

"The Gangster"

BERRY SULLIVAN

CAMPUS

LAST DAY - Features Begin - 1:20 - 3:30 - 5:40 - 7:50 - 10:00

ESTHER WILLIAMS, PETER LAWFORD, JIMMY DURANTE

ON AN ISLAND WITH YOU

TOM & JERRY CARTOON LATEST NEWS

TUESDAY thru SATURDAY - Features Begin - 1:20 - 3:30 - 5:40 - 7:50 - 10:00

MORGAN JACK CARSON

CARTOON - NEWS