

# Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1949

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

## A Letter to the Readers . . .

In any newspaper, the "Letters to the Editors" Column is one of the most popular sections.

It gives readers of a paper a chance to express their opinions on vital and controversial issues, to see how others feel about things that concern them, and sometimes to just plain get a load off their chests.

This is an altogether healthy and desirable condition, and we have always hoped that our "Letters" column measured up to these requirements.

But like all other good services the "Letters" column can be abused. We feel that our column has been abused.

Since its inception, we have always given contributors the privilege of having their names withheld from publication with the qualification that we know their name for our own libel defense. We withhold their names because in a college there is some possibility that a person's opinion can be used against him.

In a majority of cases, however, this possibility is greatly over-exaggerated in our readers' minds. The old complaint that "I'll be kicked out of school" isn't too plausible. In the last three years there has only been one isolated case brought to our attention of a man's name and opinions being used against him, and it was promptly corrected by a school official.

On the other hand, the withholding of names from letters can be a definite handicap. Primarily, it discredits your opinions in the minds of other readers when

they see no name signed to back up contentions. Very few people are as interested in our problem as we are ourselves. If a reader must wade through a six page letter, full of harranguing, void of logic, and with no signature at the bottom, his natural reaction is "Sorehead!" and your arguments are lost on him. If this condition becomes the rule in our entire column it loses its effect and its value.

In most cases, we do not believe that people who ask to have their names withheld do it as a protection. Frankly, we think most of them ask to remain anonymous simply because they lack the nerve to back their opinions with their names.

In a far worse category are those people who deliberately sign fictitious names. The Battalion does not print letters until the identity of the writer has been established. Those with assumed names are thrown out.

The "Letters" column can be valuable as well as entertaining. Realizing that it is a good reflection of campus opinion, important people read it and are affected by its contents. In this way it can be a definite force for improvement of the school.

For this reason, we do not wish to see the column lose its effectiveness. If you nullify it with groundless and thoughtless complaints, you will be indirectly damaging your own cause.

Let's not drown the "Letters to the Editors" column in a sea of ungrounded, unthinking, unsigned letters.

## The Need for International Law . . .

The other day the Chinese Communists announced a list of Nationalist leaders whom they (the Communists) would bring to trial-as war criminals.

From Chiang on down through the government's executives and the Army's generals the list read, like a "Who's Who."

Inevitably, unless the Nationalist dragon snaps from its death throes, these "war criminals" will be brought before courts and receive "victor's trials."

The victorious nations of World War II did not intend their long and tedious "war crimes" trials to establish a precedent whereby vanquished leaders may be legally exterminated. But somewhere in

the legal basis upon which Nazi leaders and Jap leaders were charged as criminals against civilization, the structure is weak and unconvincing. Tojo claimed his trial "a victor's trial." Perhaps it was, we had no international legal precedent to go by.

In the establishment of a legal precedent we have given the green light to "victor's trials."

There should be some international code of laws more complete and more generally recognized than presently exists.

Such a project could not be sponsored by a more representative organization than the United Nations.

## The Passing Parade . . .

Here is a recent illustration of the effect weather can have on prices.

California's freeze and winter's grip on the nation as a whole were reflected today in upsurging prices on the San Antonio produce market. Quotations in some instances were as much as 50 per cent or more higher.

California oranges jumped from \$6.25 to \$8.00 and Texas oranges rose from

\$2.75 to \$3.50 a box.

On the grower's market cucumbers leaped from \$3.50 to \$8.00 a bushel; tomatoes from \$4.00 to \$5.00 a lug, and carrots 25 cents to 40 cents a dozen bunches.

As war-time sugar and tire buyers can tell you, anytime anything is frozen, your pocketbook is the next thing to feel the bite.

This year's peace prize should be awarded to the country that had the least fighting.

RENTAL offered in the East St. Louis (Ill.) Journal.

Two unfurnished rooms. Adults Only.

## 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 tri-weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Subscription rate \$4.30 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of republication of all other matter herein are also reserved.

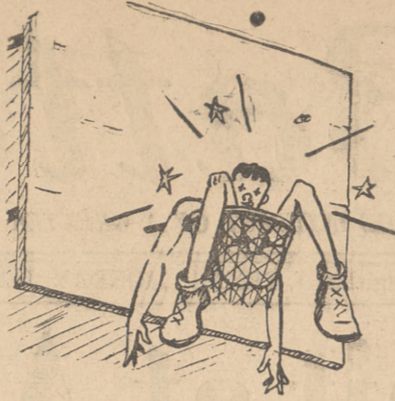
Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Member of The Associated Press. Represented nationally by National Advertising Service Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

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 209, Goodwin Hall.

KENNETH BOND, TOM CARTER. Co-Editors

Louis Morgan Associate Editor; Harvey Cherry, John Singletary Managing Editors; Clark Munroe Feature Editor; Mrs. Nancy Lytle Women's Page Editor; Bill Billingsley Wire Editor; T. Nanney Book Editor; Alfred Johnston Religious Editor; Alan Curry Movie Editor; Kenneth Marak, Sam Lanford, R. Morales, Frank Welch, C. W. Jennings Circulation Manager; Chuck Cabanis, Charles Kirkham Staff Cartoonists; Editorial Assistants; Art Howard Sports Editor; Don Engelking Assistant Sports Editor; Bob "Sack" Spodee, Bill Potts, Leon Somer, Frank Simmen, Andy Matula, Fred Sommers Sports Reporters; Joe Trevino, Hardy Ross Photo Engravers; Dave Coletti, Frank Cushing, Tex Fields, Otto Kunze, Buddy Luce, Chuck Maisei, H. C. Michalak, Marvin Rice, and Eddie Smith Feature Writers; Emil Bunjes, George Charlton, A. C. Gollob, Bruce Hasee, R. C. Kolbye, Henry Lacour, Carley Fackitt, Clayton Selph Staff Reporters



## Sticking My Neck Out . . .

# Dead Week Not in Existence, But Students Are Protected

By KENNETH BOND

"Sticking my neck out" could represent the position of a turtle, or it could represent the individual who takes a contrary point of view.

We are starting a column, "Sticking My Neck Out," beginning with this article. Six of The Battalion writers will endeavor to discuss happenings—past, present, and future. In addition to providing information this column may stimulate some thought on the part of our readers.

Final examinations are two weeks away, and Dead Week, which doesn't exist, will again become a matter of contention.

The idea of Dead Week was brought up during the spring of 1947. At that time the Student Life Committee formulated a resolution to the Executive Committee asking for more consideration of students prior to the final examination period.

Their recommendations were accepted by the Executive Committee and referred to the Academic Council for consideration. The resolutions passed by the Academic Council, a group composed of department heads and deans of the various schools, is as follows:

"No quizzes, other than daily quizzes, shall be given on the day immediately preceding final examination work in any undergraduate work."

"Exemptions from final examinations shall be announced not later than 5 p. m. on the day im-

mediately preceding the beginning of the examination period."

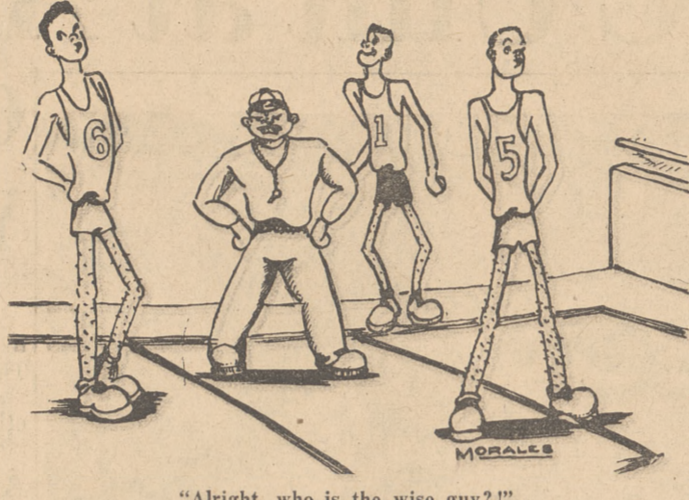
All these groups, significantly, did not vote to allow an entire week for the students to prepare and with good reason, too. They knew if an entire week were allotted for preparation and study, a certain percentage of the students would disregard study and end up at their homes or some other campus.

However, since the students cannot do anything but abide by the rules, I am giving this information for the benefit of members of the faculty who become unruly

near final exam time.

Hands Off According to the rules, no examination, other than a daily exam, can be given on the last day of recitation in that course before final examinations. This means that no instructor, regardless of any explanation which he may offer, can give anything but a daily during those last two days, January 21 and 22 is off-limits.

Enforcement of this ruling by the deans should put the quietus to those instructors who delight in giving a comprehensive during that off-limits period.



"Alright, who is the wise guy?!"

## Sneak Preview . . .

# Guns Blaze and Men Bite The Dust in Death Valley Opera

By ANDY DAVIS

Yellow Sky (20th Century) starring Gregory Peck, Anne Baxter, and Richard Widmark. (Campus)

Filmed in the salt flats of Death Valley, "Yellow Sky" presents a brilliant cast in an out of the way horse opera.

After staging a bank robbery, Peck and men are chased out on to the salt dunes by state troopers. Seventy miles of barren wastelands, under the torturing sun, await their crossing. The men almost perish under these hardships, but luckily, a ghost town comes in sight before they give way to their feelings.

Two people survive in Yellow Sky, Anne Baxter and her aging Grampa. Peck takes to Miss Baxter from the start, and she returns his favors with a left to

the jaw, and a new crease in his scalp, made by her six-shooter.

Widmark discovers that gramp is hiding a supply of gold, so the men decide to take some of the burden. A gun battle instates and Gramp gets shot in the leg. He and Peck come to terms, and decide to split fifty fifty. Widmark and the men have other ideas, but by this time Peck and Miss Baxter have become better acquainted, and he stands pat to his bargain. Everybody starts shooting at one another, and quite a few get spread out on the ground. Peck finally disposes of Widmark, and Miss Baxter takes over from there.

Its slow crossing the Salt flats, but after that there is enough action for all.



Dead Week

## Kyle Declines Offer to Serve On Prison Board

E. J. Kyle, former A&M dean of agriculture, Saturday declined appointment to the Texas Prison Board.

He informed Gov. Beauford H. Jester that he would be unable to serve because his duties as director of the Farm Credit Board and the Luling Foundation make it impossible.

Kyle, who also was ambassador to Guatemala until three months ago, will receive the highest award of the Guatemalan government.

On his visit next month to the Latin American country Dean Kyle will be presented the Order of Quetzal for his work in drawing the U. S. and Guatemala closer together.

## A&M '31 Graduate Re-enters Service

Fred M. Burkey, '31, Houston, a major in the Veterinary Corps of the Organized Reserves, has re-entered the Army for a tour of extended active duty. Colonel Oscar B. Abbott, executive for the Texas Military District, announced today.

He is stationed at the Griffis Air Force Base, Rome, New York.

## Think of This

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts." Psalm 139:23.

David, in praying for his deliverance from his enemies, asked the Lord to look into his own heart. The implication is that when our hearts are right we need fear no enemies from without. This seems to be something that nations as well as individuals need to learn. God has delivered his people from their enemies in the past; however, we find that he did so only after they "got right" themselves. He will do the same today, God does not change, he is the "same yesterday, today, and forever."

## QUEEN

MON. — TUES. WED.



His Scar marked them both! EGON LION FILMS PRESENTS PAUL HENREID • JOAN BENNETT • HOLLOW TRIUMPH

## GUION HALL

NO MOVIE TONIGHT IN GUION HALL . . . BECAUSE OF TOWN HALL CONCERT. Come to the Afternoon Show Today

COMING — JANUARY 19 — 20 — 21

Advertisement for the Olympic Games of 1948, featuring Technicolor and narrated by Bill Ted Stern-Husing. Includes text: "For the first time—In Color by TECHNICOLOR" and "RESERVED SEAT TICKETS ON SALE NOW IN STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE AND AT GUION HALL."

## Geology Club To Hear Bureau Head

Dr. John T. Lonsdale, Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology in Austin, will speak to members of the Geology Club at their meeting at 7:30 p. m., Tuesday in the Petroleum Engineering Lecture Room, J. T. Goodwin, president of club, announced yesterday. Lonsdale did his undergraduate work at Iowa State College and received his doctorate in Virginia in 1924. Since then he has taught geology at Iowa State, Virginia University, Oklahoma University, and A&M.

New York Cafe, 118 S. MAIN BRYAN

SKYWAY DRIVE-IN THEATRE, NOW LAST DAY STATION WEST

DESERT FURY, TUES. — WED. WED. — FREE, Lucky License Nite \$325 (Less Tax)

Guion Hall, STARTS TUESDAY

INGRID BERGMAN IN DAVID O. SELZNICK'S Intermezzo, Starring INGRID BERGMAN LESLIE HOWARD

JOAN FONTAINE James STEWART "You GOTTA STAY HAPPY" A RAMPART PRODUCTION

## The Placement Office

The Placement Office announces the following schedule of interviews for seniors interested in employment:

JANUARY 10 — The National Supply Company will interview mechanical and management engineers interested in sales engineering.

JANUARY 11 — Mid-Continent Supply Company will interview mechanical, civil, petroleum, chemical, and management engineers interested in work with an oil well supply company.

JANUARY 12 — Jewel Tea Company will interview business and accounting, economics, and agricultural economics graduates interested in sales work.

JANUARY 13 — Ralston Purina Company will interview animal husbandry, dairy husbandry, poultry husbandry, agronomy, agricultural education, agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, mechanical engineering, and management engineering graduates interested in sales and production trainee positions.

Positions are open in the following fields: ENGINEERING: Geophysical Associates, Houston, has openings for electrical engineers or physicists qualified to serve as observers on a seismograph party.

J. M. Huber Corporation has openings for electrical and management engineers in their Purchasing Department. The main duties would be the purchasing of electrical supplies and equipment. The City of Lampasas is in need of an instrument man. The work will consist of doing preliminary work and setting stakes for curb and gutter work. It is not necessary that this man be a grad-

## The Largest ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE STORE in Bryan—

Come in and see us for large or small appliances: RADIOS, ELECTRIC IRONS, STUDENT LAMPS, FLOOR LAMPS, PRESTO COOKERS, COFFEE MAKERS, KELVINATOR, HOT POINT—and many other usefuls—

## UNITED APPLIANCES FARM & HOME STORE & AGGIE RADIO Phone 2-1496

## PALACE Bryan 2-8879 LAST DAY

GABLE and TRACY BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! Flaming love amid the gigantic spectacle of a city destroyed!

M-G-M re-presents CLARK GABLE JEANETTE MACDONALD SPENCER TRACY IN SAN FRANCISCO

Special Showing TCU vs. A&M FOOTBALL GAME OF 1940 See Kimbrough, Pugh, Robnetta & Thompson CARTOON (Tom & Jerry) LATEST NEWS

THURS. — FRI. — SAT. FIRST RUN BRYAN COLLEGE

MOONRISE What is the Mysterious Spell of... with DANE CLARK GAIL RUSSELL PLUS CARTOON — NEWS