

Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1949

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Let's Trade It In for a New Model . . .

A restatement of the duties of state government is needed in Texas according to Governor Beauford Jester. We heartily agree with the governor on this point.

Speaking before a Citizens' Committee on Constitutional Revision in Austin last Thursday, Jester said that perhaps the states have not been as aggressive and diligent as they should be in the performance of state duties. It would seem that the word "perhaps" was superfluous in this statement, but then one could hardly expect the governor to cut his own throat.

A little background on the present Texas constitution will help our understanding the agitation for an immediate change. The constitution was written in 1875, only two years after the Reconstruction Period had ended in Texas. The writers were largely persons who had been subjected to abuse under the carpetbag reign. Because of their recent experiences with government they strictly limited the powers of the administration they organized.

The writers in their antipathy towards strong government made the 1875 document so detailed that the most minute change can only be accomplished by a constitutional amendment. As a result, the people of Texas have had to adopt over 100 amendments, most of them within the last 25 years.

If our federal constitution can be taken as an example, it would seem that a more general outline of government, one which would empower the legislature to fill in the details, would be much more sensible. Under a more generally stated document, the legislative body could make adjustments in details of operation as they were needed. This process should be much more efficient and speedy than our present set-up.

Although a complete revision of the

constitution appears needed, there are some parts more decrepit than others. The long ballot is one of these. Today a voter must choose about thirty officials every two years. It is quite evident that having to consider such a large number prevents the voter from making a comprehensive study of the qualifications of all of the candidates.

A possible solution which has been suggested is to divide the group into two sections and thus decide on only half the present number annually. Perhaps a better solution among those offered is to make more of the offices appointive and in this way the appointer—the governor, generally—could be held responsible for more of the administrative work.

Antiquated also is the prescribed court system. The state bar association has already begun investigations of the so-called Missouri Court System which is believed to be the most advanced system in the country. This investigation is being conducted with intentions of making improvements in the Texas system on the basis of the findings.

Yearly cries for aid from such necessary institutions as schools, prisons, and mental hospitals (no inference of similarity in functions meant) reveal a need for an overhauling of the state financial system. It appears that the county unit of government needs to be made more self-sufficient by means of added functions and duties and powers to carry out responsibilities it already has.

All of these conditions substantiate our feeling that the people of Texas and state officials should make a complete investigation of the situation today and make any needed improvements in our governmental organization.

We are sure that such an investigation would prove the need for a new constitution.

They Love Singing Commercials . . .

Monaco, one of the world's dwarf countries, is most famous for its capital city's Monte Carlo Casino. But Monaco, population somewhere under thirty thousand (depending on the social season) has gone into the radio business.

Behind the front of state ownership, French capital owns and operates the station. To southern Europe in the daytime and the world at night, the station beams broadcasts unfamiliar but delightful to European ears. The only thing that other European radio stations sell is the particular countries' particular propaganda. Radio Diffusion Francais, the BBC and the Armed Forces Network stations are all government owned and have no commercials.

Over Radio Monaco singing commercials sell shoe polish, intoxicating beverages, laxatives, and anything a sponsor wishes. Soap is still too scarce for soap operas, but one sponsor sells shampoo.

Fifty percent of the station's time is given to popular music; twenty five percent to serious music; ten to news; ten to

drama; and five to sports. The most popular program is a counterpart to our Hit Parade. Currently "Nature Boy" is the song choice of Radio Monaco listeners.

To complete their staff, like all American stations, Radio Monaco has a disc jockey who is fully hep to both American and European jive. He is, of course, an authority on the tastes of his listeners. One fan complained that Harry James' records had too many trumpets; otherwise European tastes in popular music are about the same as in the States.

In all this there is a sort of paradox. In Monaco, singing commercials and request-reading disc jockeys are a welcome relief to the usually insipid government stations' broadcasts; in our own country, the demand is rising that singing commercials and long request lists be banned from the radio and replaced by something less irritating.

Whoever, said it is right; "The grass is always greener in the other fellow's back yard."

The Battalion

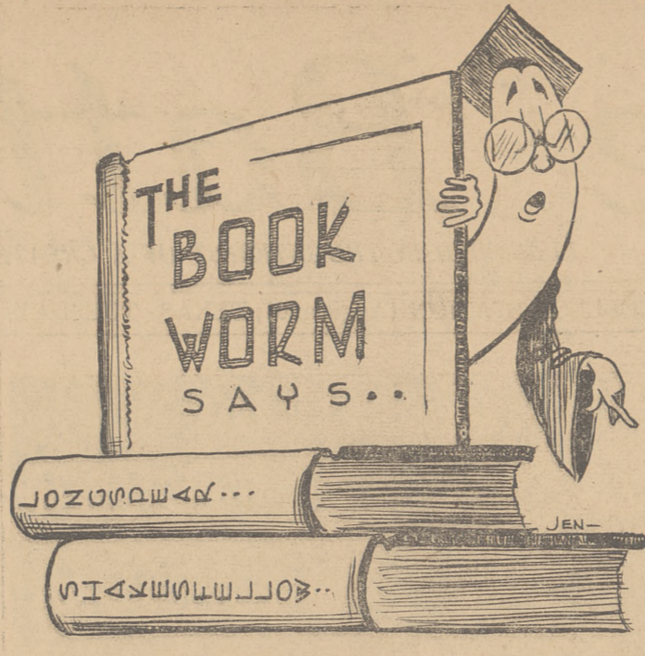
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Bookworm Reports the Latest Books Available in Library

The Bookworm reports that the following new books are available in Cushing Library. This list is just part of the shipment.

Fiction
THE SKY IS RED by Giuseppe Bertio
MELISSA, by Taylor Caldwell
INTRUDER IN THE DUST, by William Faulkner
APE AND ESSENCE, by A. L. Huxley
STORM AND ECHO, by Fred-eric Prokosch
THE YOUNG LIONS, by Irwin Shaw
SHANNON'S WAY, by A. J. Cronin
THE CHOCOLATE COBWEB, by Charlotte Armstrong
ROANOKE HUNDRED, by Ing-ulis Fletcher
THE FURIES, by Niven Busch
THE WINE OF ASTONISH-MENT, by Martha Gellhorn
THE HOLLOW NEEDLE, by G. H. Coxé

Non-Fiction
CHAPLIN, LAST OF THE

CLOWNS, by Parker Tyler
MAIN STREET MERCHANT; THE STORY OF THE J. C. PEN-NEY COMPANY, by Norman Beasley

THE WHIMSEY REPORT; OR SEX ISN'T EVERYTHING, by Parke Cummings
RECORDS FOR THE MIL-LIONS, by Paul Whiteman
FAMILY CIRCLE, Cornelia Otis Skinner
HATE, HOPE AND HIGH EX-PLOSIVES, A REPORT ON THE MIDDLE EAST, by George Field-ing Eliot
ZULU WOMAN; HER AUTO-BIOGRAPHY, by Christina Sibiyá
WESTWARD HA!, by S. J. Perelman

AN APPROVED HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES, by W. M. Henry
TOWARD AN UNKNOWN STATION, Allan Lyon
TOLSTOY AS I KNEW HIM, by T. A. Kuzminskia
I'LL NEVER GO BACK; A RED ARMY OFFICER TALKS, by Mik-hail Koriakov

Between the Bookends . . .

Irving Stone's Novel Shows Different Picture of Debs

By Herman C. Gollub
ADVERSARY IN THE HOUSE
By Irving Stone; Doubleday & Co., 1947.

As far back as I can remember, the name Eugene V. Debs has been one to link with indignity. Car-loads of vituperation have been heaped upon this notorious labor leader who incurred the hate of so many while striving to better the cause of the laboring class.

At last a distinguished author, Irvin Stone, has stepped up with a biographical novel that will be interpreted perhaps as "radical" by those who have scanned the pages of their history books and remember Debs as the founder and leader of the Socialist Party, and the man who served a jail sentence on the charge of contempt of court in the Pullman case. For this is a sympathetic presentation of Debs: champion of the working man, sensitive, intelligent, tirelessly unselfish, a man who endured an inexorable grind for the sake of a thankless task which made him one of the most controversial and scorned figures of the twentieth century.

In *Adversary In The House*, Irving Stone has once more displayed the literary finesse which has made him a high priest in the literary house of worship. This is not Stone's first venture into the biographical field. He has also adapted to novel form the lives of Jack London, Clarence Darrow, and Vincent van Gogh.

Official Notices

Agricultural School
All agricultural students who had completed 64 hours or more of work at the beginning of the current semester must have their degree plans completed before registration. Assignment cards will not be approved at registration unless accompanied by the student's copy of his degree plan. Students who have not completed these plans should contact the head of their major department immediately.
CHAS. N. SHEPARDSON
Dean of Agriculture

SWISS PARCEL POST HELD UP
BERN, Switzerland (AP)—Parcel post from Switzerland to the Russian zone of Germany and all sectors of Berlin has been suspended indefinitely as a result of "transport difficulties," the Swiss post office says.

PALACE
Bryan 2-8879
Tues. - Wed. - Thurs.
Fri. - Sat.

starring
Lana Turner
Gene Kelly
June Allyson
Van Heflin • **Angela Lansbury**
Frank Morgan • **Vincent Price** • **Keenan Wynn**
John Sutton • **Gig Young**
Screen Play by
Directed by **GEORGE SIDNEY** • Produced by **PANDRO S. BERMAN** • A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

Sticking My Neck Out . . .

Rain Soaked, Moon Drenched Flag Not An Envidable Thing

By BILL BILLINGSLEY

During these false-spring days the front view of the Academic Building is a rather inspiring sight. Students scurry in and out of the stolid old main building, the sun shines brilliantly on the green grass, and the colors on the old-area flag pole flutter in the breeze.

Then comes the night. No longer do the students go in and out of the Academic Building; the sun goes down and the moon rises, but the flag still flutters on the flag pole.

This is—to be blunt about it—a sad situation. Here we are, with the leading military school in the Southwest, possessor of one of the Army's highest military efficiency ratings; with a Student body made up of people who should

have unlimited pride in our national emblem; and we treat our flag in the school's most visited area like a neglected bed sheet on a laundry rack.

This column doesn't suggest an armed squad to raise and lower the flag. We don't even suggest having the minimum military ceremony of a flag detail.

We have a full complement of non-commissioned army regulars on the campus and some 3,000 military cadets who are familiar with courtesies toward the flag. Does it seem too unreasonable or overburdening to have a regularly listed two or three man cadet detail, headed by an enlisted army regular, to attend the flag daily?

This minute respect to the flag may seem like a minor detail. Physi- cally it is. Morally and emotion- ally it is not.

Others seeing our current dis- interest in the flag must be poorly impressed. We, who owe so much to what our flag represents, should not be too proud of the attitude either.

Granting that they had a few more difficulties, we should at least try to keep up with the five Marines who stormed up Suribachi with the gas-pipe flagstaff in their hands.

Even they didn't leave their flag out all night.

Think of This

"Seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Col. 3:1b.

Amid a flood of newspaper head- lines about international and na- tional trouble, of wars and near- wars, of strikes, and murders, modern man becomes discouraged when he asks himself, "How is the outlook?" But with only one direct look at God he may reply, "The outlook is dark but the uplook is wonderful." There is a need for each of us to look up and out until we see God.

Free Laundry Service Offered For Week at Aggie Radio Shop

By GEORGE CHARLTON

Laundry problems can be solved the easy way for those who go to the Aggie Radio and Appliance Company at North Gate before next Thursday.

An offer was extended by the company to do anyone's laundry in the store's new Westinghouse laun- dromat washer and dryer for demon- stration until next Thursday night. At that time the store will have completed its first week of business.

Last Wednesday night the com- pany held its "grand opening" in an openhouse sort of atmosphere where people could meander in and out of the store, look freely over the displayed stock, and get a good look at the fancy interior.

Persons attending the opening found a modern-like store with a huge glass plate window, a color- ful decorated show room, and a few products and equipment com- paratively new to this area. Walls of the store are green, and rugs are gray.

Four sound proof record booths decorated with lime colored up- holstery on walls and seats are off- from the main show room; two of them are open, and two closed-in with glass. The acoustics of the open booths are such that a person can stand ten feet away from the record player and not hear the record. If he moves in a few feet closer, he can clearly hear the record.

A radio console room, decorated as the modern living room should be, includes among its other stock a Westinghouse television set.

Among all this decoration is the stock—radios, electric toasters, waffle makers, electric lamps, electric razors, juicer mats, ice crush- ers, Hoover units, refrigerators, records, electric clocks, freezing

units, electric stoves and gas stoves.

One bar-like booth is devoted en- tirely to selling records, albums, needles, and stands. Albums every- where from "Boogie Woogie" by Freddie Slack to "Bugs Bunny Stories For Children" are sold. Classic albums of symphonies with unpronounceable names are also included at the "bar."

Horticulturists To Offer New Courses

The Department of Horticulture announced today that four new courses in vegetable crops will be offered during the next year.

According to Dr. G. W. Adriance head of the department, this move now makes it possible for a stu- dent to specialize in one of three fields of horticulture: vegetable crops, pomology, or food process- ing.

Two of the new courses will be offered next semester. They are Horticulture 322, Spring and Summer Vegetables, 3 credits; and Horticulture 434, Grading, Pack- ing and Shipping Vegetables, 3 credits. H. C. Mohr, Assistant Pro- fessor of Horticulture, will teach both courses.

Horticulture 321, Fall and Win- ter Vegetables, and Horticulture 432, Structure and Classification of Vegetables, will be offered for the first time next fall semester, Adriance said.

The first courses in fruit pro- duction and in fruit and vegetable processing, Horticulture 319 and Horticulture 312, will also be of- fered in the spring semester of 1949, for the benefit of students who may desire to begin work in either field, Adriance added.

Campus
TODAY & WED.
FIRST RUN BRYAN - COLLEGE
—Features Start—
1:35 - 3:15 - 5:00 - 6:40 - 8:20
10:00

ROBERT MITCHUM
BARBARA BEGGODES
ROBERT PRESTON
in
BLOOD ON THE MOON
—WALTER BRENNAN—
Plus Special Showing of the A&M vs. Rice Football Game of 1940
See Kimbrough, Fugh, Robnett Thomason in Action
—Also—
CARTOON — NEWS
Thurs. - Fri. - Sat.
Wallace Beery
Warner Baxter
Mickey Rooney
—in—
"Slave Ship"
A Re-release
Plus Showing of the A&M vs. Rice Football Game of 1940
ALSO — CARTOON — NEWS

See . . .
ART HARNDEN
A. & M. Student
—in—
THE OLYMPIC GAMES
Coming ---
to
GUOIN HALL
THREE DAYS
Starting Tomorrow

For the first time—in Color by **TECHNICOLOR!**
THE OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1948
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
Narrated by **BILL TED STERN • HUSING**
A J. Arthur RANK PRESENTATION
AN EAGLE LION FILMS RELEASE
Advance Tickets On Sale at Guoin Hall and Student Activities Office.
Reserve Your Seat TODAY