

Battalion EDITORIALS

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1949

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Everybody Wants in The Act . . .

Here is an editorial published in one of the professional trade papers. The situation described is general, but it hardly ever happens locally. Only five or six times a day.

When this happens to you—beware. It may happen regularly. It requires tact and diplomacy in handling. It usually arises when least expected and when you are facing your busiest part of the week. The Respected Subscriber enters your office.

"May I have a moment of your time, Bill?" he asks.

"Of course," you say.

"Is there some place where we may talk privately?" he asks.

You lead him to a quiet corner behind a pile of newsprint—or into your inner office.

"Now here's the problem," Mr. R. S. begins. "We have a little situation in our neighborhood. You know we have just about the best homes in town up on our hill. Every one of 'em cost \$15,000 or more. Now there is a move to put up some prefab houses there. Those prefabs will cut the value of our property. We don't like it!"

As an editor of some experience, you brace yourself for what's coming.

"Now, we had a meeting the other night," your Respected Subscriber continues. "We formed a little informal organization to fight this. We want to bring the whole matter out in the open with facts and figures. We want you to do something about it."

You marshal your ideas into three battalions and prepare for a regimental attack.

"What would you like?" you ask—politely.

"Nothing much," your R. S. smiles. "We thought you could write an editorial—put it on the front page, maybe. You might even run a few pictures of our fine homes and compare them with the prefabs. Go down to the city hall and dig up the assessments on our places. Figure out how much it would cost the city. Get some dope on how lousy these new-fangled homes can be. Blast the whole thing wide open. You know it is no good for the town."

Idea From Arkansas . . .

The honorable gentleman from Lewisville, Arkansas, State Senator A. M. Shirey gave his Ozarkian colleagues some sure-fire head-line material last week when he introduced a bill to require both students and teachers at state colleges to sign non-communist oaths.

"If this bill becomes law," the senator cackled, "You'll see a lot of resignations handed in."

Arkansans could do better than resign; they could work to defeat the senator in the next election and rid Arkansas of its seppal political blight.

Non-communist oaths are amazingly effective in freeing governments and faculties of men of integrity and principle

You shift in your chair to ask the question which you know will be negatively answered, then you demand:

"Can I use your name in the matter?" R. S. booms forth. "No, now we wouldn't like that. After all, we don't want to appear snobbish about this. People will get the wrong idea. Just work it out as an editorial campaign for the paper. We'll back you up after your paper comes out. It will be a feather in your cap—getting something like this taken care of for the city."

Of course, there are more words to the dialogue. You know the rest. No names, no statements, no figures—but plenty of "backing" and "moral support."

Of course, you refuse. If you're lucky, you get out of it without losing R. S. and his cohorts. If not, they'll come back.

Someway, readers of papers must be told that "editorial campaigns" are not merely things written.

They are, first, programs designed for the good of the community the paper serves.

Secondly, if they are of far reaching proportions, they may start with mention in editorial columns but that is only the beginning. To push a campaign to a successful conclusion, there should be an organization of manpower to help. The organization should be ready or definitely assured, when the editorial breaks.

The place for the material which this particular R. S. offers is in the news columns or in the letters-to-the-editor department. If the neighbors, in this situation, did form a "little informal organization" let it be a news story. If it is one man's opinion let it be made an open letter—with the signed letter on file in the newspaper's office.

Editors will be accosted with these ideas in many forms—somebody wants better streets, another doesn't like a certain teacher who is a "communist," some one else thinks the city is spending too much money.

Some of them will be good ideas—programs which you may want to accept and expand.

A good editor is editorially fearless—but he is smart enough to be sure of his calculations.

who are not communists (a communist would sign without qualm). Their creed of democracy is to practice what other men only preach. The preaching element, notoriously a group of many words and few principles, signs anything within range of its Eversharp.

Men who care to see this American experiment work will not stand for such idiotic balderdash. It is contrary to our democratic heritage. And the Communist Party has yet to be outlawed.

Arkansa's senate could concern itself with resolutions against sin and ground-hogs as our legislature does and be better occupied than it is with this pernicious oath-swearing nonsense.

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.

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THAT'S AN OLD GAG, JOE



TSCW Dateline . . .

Preparations Underway For Annual Tessie Stunt Night

By JEANINE BROWN

Annually there is a night set aside for the presentation of what we call class stunts. This stunt can be in any form—pageant, play musical, and has to conform only to the rule on time limits. Each class is allotted by the college a hundred dollars for expense of costumes and scenery. Stunts are written by anyone who has a brain storm that can be worked into a production, and the ideas are presented to the stunt committee of the respective classes.

Then comes—Stunt Night! The object of all this effort is of course to win the loving cup and to have that triumphant class feeling which comes with a winning stunt. We began last year having two nights for presentation of stunts in order for everyone to see them, and the judges attend each night. On the last night the judges have their debate and decide on the best all-around stunt. Class spirit is at a higher peak during this time than at any other

Letters

ROSES?

Editor, The Battalion:
 For the Officers, Directors, and the Stockholders (94 by the last count) of this bank, I wish to express our profound thanks and appreciation for the very fine article which appeared as an editorial in your issue of February 11. We were particularly flattered in your statement "It is our bank" because in building this little banking institution we have had the convenience of the students uppermost in our minds. The bank is being built on its present site because, of the few available sites, this one seemed to serve your interest best. We shall be very proud indeed if we can continue to merit the confidence and goodwill of the student population to the extent that they will feel that it is their bank.

The problems are many, but by constant attention and earnest effort, we shall solve them, and thereby improve our service to you and to the community as experience dictates.

Your reference to cigarette money also touched a tender spot of sympathy, because the bank is literally owned by people with "cigarette money." Some of your instructors own stock in this bank, maybe it's one share, maybe five or six. The great majority of stockholders own from one to twenty-five shares. So we are all in the same boat in this respect.

In closing, I want to most sincerely thank the students, and all the patrons of this bank for their sympathetic understanding, and their enduring patience in our problems.

Harold Sullivan,
 Executive Vice President
 College Station State Bank

APE STACKS UP THE COINS
 SYDNEY, Australia.—(AP)—Tang, Melbourne Zoo's orang-outang, is orderly. On holidays Tang is offered many coins by visitors. Recently his keeper found a neatly stacked pile of pennies in a corner of his cage. Tang's takings for the day amounted to \$1.48.

PICK-UP-SHOP

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Sticking My Neck Out . . .

Plan Offered To Get Boot Buyers, Sellers Together

By C. C. MUNROE

Now is the time of year that juniors start counting their wampum and the seniors start looking for juniors with wampum to count for now is the time that the fast and furious dealings concerning senior boots begin.

As regular as spring itself, every senior who wants to sell his boots begins looking for a customer, and every junior with a chance of staying in school for another year begins to look for boots to buy.

For those who want to buy new boots the process is simple. But, for those who want to look around for a second, third, or even fourth hand pair, the situation is different. Up until now the sellers and buyers have gotten together as best they could. Some resorted to elaborate signs posted around the campus. Others set up shop with a few pairs of boots and tried to out-Holick Holick. For the remainder, it has been strictly a hit or miss proposition.

Well, if something could be done to bring the buyers and sellers together with the least amount of lost motion then it should make everyone concerned happy.

One thing that might do the trick is a boot exchange, sort of an information center where anyone wanting to get or get rid of boots could turn to for help. Here is how it would work.

A centrally located file would have to be established. Then, every man who had boots to sell would file, on a three by five card, his name, address, foot and calf size, and perhaps the price he wanted for his boots. This would be placed in the central file, arranged by boot size.

Then, every junior who wanted to buy a pair of used boots would have only to go to the file, check the cards, and find the men who had boots for sale.

Working along the same idea, another file could be established to take care of the exchange of information about boot pants. It would work in exactly the same manner.

Since the yearly flurry of boot trading has already begun, the sooner such a file is started the better it will be.

So, with this in mind the powers that be in the corps staff have agreed to sponsor such a file in the guard room. Beginning Wednesday, if you have a pair of boots to sell you will be

able to file, on a three by five card, all the information pertaining to your boots in a guard room filing box. Include on the card your name, address, foot and calf size, and perhaps your asking price.

If you want to sell your boot pants, put all the necessary sizes plus your address on a second card and file it in another filing box you'll find in the guard room Wednesday.

For those of you who want to make use of the boot file and boot pants file, just remember that it will take only one man to mess the works up.

Keep the cards in order—for the boots, by foot size; for the pants, by waist size. Don't remove a card unless you actually buy the articles. And, pass the word around,

Forest Service To Present Lecture

Everett F. Evans, school specialist of the Texas Forest Service, will present an illustrated lecture on forestry in Texas at the next meeting of the Agronomy Society, February 22 at 7:30, John Endrizz Agronomy Society present, said today.

This series of approximately 50 color slides portrays the forestry resources and industries of Texas and the importance of trees as a renewable resource. Included in the series are scenes showing the importance of forest in soil, water and wildlife conservation.

"Forestry in Texas" has been shown to many school and civil groups, Endrizz said. During the current school year 3,000 children in nine Dallas schools have heard this illustrated lecture.

BULOW JOINS B&A FACULTY

E. R. Bulow, assistant professor, recently joined the staff of the Business and Accounting Department, Dean M. T. Harrington announced today. Bulow received his B. A. degree from the University of Utah and his Masters from Cornell University.

Civil Service Board Reports Job Openings

Applications for Engineer-Trainee examination will be accepted by the Executive Secretary, Central Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado, until March 8, 1949 according to a bulletin from the Civil Service Commission.

From the examination will be made appointments to jobs paying \$2,498 and \$2,724 a year for the grade SP-4, students having completed two years of engineering curriculum, and SP-5, those having completed three years of engineering curriculum, respectively. However, the bulletin explained, that applications will be accepted only from students who will satisfy the requirements by June, 1949.

These jobs are for summer positions also, in that the applicant may be granted leave without pay to continue his schooling. An increase in scholastic training will warrant an increase in salary without further written examinations.

The range covered by the work will be the area of the Bureau of Reclamation; that is, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The age limits are a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 35, except in the case of veterans the age limits will be waived. Also, veterans are told, the federal policy of veteran preference will be exercised, that is, 5 points added for active service during war, and 10 points for disabled veteran.

The bulletin warns that applications must be on file not later than March 8, 1949.

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