

# Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1949

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan, Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

## Gyp, Not Egyptian . . .

The Pyramid Club has come to College Station.

Just in case you may have been locked in your room the last two days and haven't spoken to anyone or read a state paper, we will briefly identify this form of public entertainment.

A Pyramid Club is another get-rich-quick scheme, closely related to the chain letter. Under a different title the Pyramid scheme flourished on the campus last year, but reached no such pretentious proportions as it has gained here during the last two days.

The basic scheme goes something like this. For a fixed sum of money; two bits, one, two, or five dollars, according to your economic group you buy a paper with six names on it. You then make two copies of the paper, leaving off the top name on the list, but placing your own name at the bottom. Then you sell the copies to two friends (?) and send the money received to the man whose name you have removed from the top of your list. Each of the two purchasers are supposed to follow the same procedure, with the letter spreading by multiples of two, until your name works its way to the top of the list. At this time you begin receiving money from all over the country with your gain varying with the price of the letter and number in the club, but always mathematically tremendous.

The fallacy, of course, is the theory that the letter will spread on an infinitum. Eventually, you will run out of people for

## Ring Around the Rosey . . .

The Ring Dance Committee has made a wise decision in letting Seniors vote on the manner they want this year's Ring Dance to be held.

Too many Seniors (nearly 2200) are concerned for the small committee (only 12 at Monday's meeting) to decide upon this year's dance without first consulting a large segment of those men planning to attend the dance. Before any further plans can be made, the Ring Dance Committee must know if one or two dances will be held.

If two dances are to be held, then what would be the breakdown? There are an estimated 1600 non corps Seniors and 600 corps Seniors. A breakdown along these lines was unfair, the committee felt.

Committee members believe that to arbitrarily divide the dances by alphabetical means would go beyond the power of their committee.

The whole Ring Dance question was more than the committee thought it should solve. So they have tossed this hot potato where it belongs—in the hands of the Sen-

## The Passing Parade . . .

This little gem of Typo (printed errors in news columns) came in recently over our AP wire:

In case of bad weather the oath-taking will be held in the House of Repre-

pure population reasons; but more likely the last people in an area to buy in will grow weary of trying unsuccessfully to sell the letters and accept their loss.

It is these "bringing up the rear" legions who get stuck for the profits the instigators make.

That is the description of the Pyramid Club which is, with numerous variations, flooding the campus and most of the other cities in Texas.

Here are the dangers of involvement. Locally, there are college regulations against soliciting in the dormitories. You can be stuck with varying degrees of punishment for the offense.

Far more dangerous is the entanglement that result if the mails are used in any way. The state Supreme Court has classified the various Pyramid forms as lotteries and, by mailing anything even pertaining to them through the mails you are subject to Federal prosecution.

These are mostly distant possibilities. The probable evil of the local Pyramid Clubs is that you will get stuck for a buck. The pay-offs at the top are tremendous. To support those pay-offs there must be several thousand suckers at the bottom of the list. Since the movement is now quite widespread, you have a very good chance of being left holding a letter and a sucker classification.

Lose your money in a poker game, at the track, or spend it on women and watch it leave with a smile. But tread softly when someone says, "Pyramid Club."

iors themselves. Now few screams of injustice should be heard. Everything can be done democratically.

In charge of distributing, collecting, and tabulating the ballots in dormitories will be the dormitories' Student Senators. They should recruit several Seniors to assist them in this important task. The position of Senator in a dormitory is a unique one in that he was elected to serve that dormitory. This balloting is another of his thankless, but necessary duties. Seniors should cooperate to make their work as easy and painless as possible.

Non-resident students must come to Student Activities Office to cast their ballot. Due to the numerous places of residence of off-the-campus Seniors, this is the best way for them to vote.

Balloting will close at noon Friday. Think over the way you wish this year's Senior Ring Dance to be held. Then vote!

The Ring Dance Committee wants your opinion. They will act as the majority wishes.

sentatives, which seats only 3,000 persons.

We admit that at times we have had our suspicions about the House, but things never have gotten that bad.

## The Battalion

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KENNETH BOND, TOM CARTER . . . . . Co-Editors

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LIFE DOES GET TEJUS



"What, that report is two hours late?" "Oh those quiz papers; I'll get to them next week sometime."

## Letters To The Editor

HE HAS NO GRIPES???

Editor, The Battalion:

Just for fun. Just for a little variety. A letter to the editor from someone who isn't sore at anybody. I just believe that there are more good things at A&M than there are things to gripe about, so I want to see one letter in this column from someone who isn't mad, or fed up, or stepped on.

1. I have received a few traffic tickets the last year or so, but I much prefer to think of Fred Hickman as the man who last summer walked into a shack and disarmed a well-armed and trigger happy man who had gone berserk, and who had been shooting at every moving person or car in the area. Fred could have shot the man in self defense, but he very quietly went in, disarmed him, and locked him up. I don't recall any letters in The Battalion about that side of Hickman though. Sure, that was his job, but it is also his job to maintain some semblance of order out of the chaos that would exist on the campus if everyone drove his car to class and on errands. "When I was a Fish", I owned a T Model Pickup, but the rules were so stiff that it was stored from September to June in a barn at Midway, and I was so worried about someone finding it that it was covered with hay and didn't turn a wheel all year.

2. Maybe the fact that I have been here at A&M only 17 years doesn't qualify me, but none the less I much prefer to think about the hundreds of improvements I have seen on the campus in that time rather than the alleged fact that Prexy's Fountain once got dirty, or that the weeds grew at the traffic circle (which doesn't belong to the college anyway). I had rather think about Fritz Hensel as the man who very far sightedly planted most of the live oaks which are now arching over all of our streets, or of the dozens of flower beds which are always blooming with pansies or

better. The East Gate Esplanade which is one of the most beautiful sights in Texas, is also a monument to him.

3. I have bought a few items at the Exchange Store and never actually thought of it as a cut-rate store, but it is much more pleasant to think about the tennis courts, band stand, boxing ring, musical instruments, dormitory athletic equipment, rodeo arena (being designed), fiction books, lighted softball field (now being used almost nightly by the RV's), and the preliminary work on the golf course which Exchange Store profits go for. I also enjoy thinking of the \$11,000.00 Exchange Store profits available this year for student welfare and recreation.

4. Sure, The Battalion has lots of advertisements, but I can remember when it was only published once a week, then twice, then three times, finally daily, and now two issues a week have 6 pages each. Can you remember that far back? If you can, you will recall that the cost to each student for a year's subscription to The Battalion has always been \$4.30 and still is. Incidentally, Lil' Abner was only added last year.

5. Okay, so Ben Ferguson didn't show all of a football game as allegedly advertised at the Campus. Tell him about it, not the world. When you do, also thank him for leading the fight several years ago to get first run shows for College Station. Did you know he did just that?

6. Now we hear that Guion Hall stinks. We have often heard that its shows do. Did anyone take the trouble to find out that the alleged stink was probably the result of a hairline crack in a urinal that was damaged during the "big freeze" this month, or that the ladies room was spotless and "smell-less," but alas, didn't have a mirror. Incidentally, on the "stinky" occasion Guion was packed by 1800 happy folks who saw a top two hour show for one half to one quarter what the show would have cost in Dallas. Did anyone write a letter

## Sticking My Neck Out . . .

# TU Basketball Audiences Have Spirit, Little Else

By BILL BILLINGSLEY

This piece will concern sportsmanship displayed during a University of Texas basketball game. Of necessity, the story will be a negative one, since the same may be said for TU sportsmanship as for College Station Co-Eds . . . there ain't none.

Anyone who doubts this statement has only to go, as I have just done, to a roundball contest in the seat of Longhorn hospitality, Gregory Gymnasium for the proof of the positive. There in their 8,000 capacity sports cathedral, just a rotten grapefruit's throw from downtown Austin, the students of our largest state university demonstrate Orange and White sportsmanship as she is practiced.

The night we shall use for an example, the February 16 game between the University and A&M, the crowd was short of capacity but long of the gay spirit. Occupying a third of the temporary bleachers on one side of the court were members of the University football squad. Whiling away their time before the beginning of the game, the Steer squadmen amused themselves by sending their freshmen out for cold drinks and popcorn and directing them in singing the school songs.

After six renditions of "Texas

Fight," by the TU frosh the Aggie basketball team arrived on the floor and the University pigskin men set up a gleeful howl of boos and hisses to show their pleasure at the arrival of fresh whipping boys.

The multitude was quick to single out Jewel McDowell. During his final High School days, while he was deciding which college he wanted to attend, McDowell spent quite some time at the University looking over their facilities. Evidently, during this period, the Austin people went to a great deal of trouble and no little expense to impress Mac that TU was the place for him. When he decided to enroll at A&M, many cries of anguish and pain were heard from TU.

Still smarting from their spurning at the hands of The Jewel, the plying sort of a Junior Aggie yell Austin athletes were out for his scalp in no uncertain terms. Em-system, the squad ringleaders originated clever little phrases and passed them back to their cohorts, who were in a very Kyle Field-like hump. On the count, they would shout out their little gems of wit, much to the delight of the remainder of the Gregory Gym audience.

As an interesting sidelight the chief instigator and leader in the group was TU's head yell leader, Bob Bearden. Bearden will be remembered as the lad who attended all the inter-conference sportsmanship meetings and extolled the virtues of being thoughtful of opposing teams and student bodies.

Prior to the game, and during its early stages, the gist of yells from the self-elected cheering section was "Where is that money you owe us, McDowell?" Why they assume McDowell owes them money we would like to know. We imagine the Conference Purify Code administrators would like to know too.

As the game progressed, McDowell stuck to the Longhorn star Slater Martin (one of the best and cleanest playing men on the TU team) like an adhesive plaster. The Orange and White block plays failed to screen The Jewel out, and he held Martin, customarily a near 20 point man, down to a game total of eight points. Martin returned changed from inconsiderate need-

ling to just plain out-and-out malicious boorishness. From McDowell they turned their attention to Coach Marty Karow.

When Vilbry White, doing some beautiful side-court and far-out shooting, pushed the Longhorns far enough ahead to apparently ice the game, the unison yell squad took it up again. This time their yell was, "Don't worry about it, Karow, you won't be around next year anyway." This theme was varied slightly and repeated throughout the last quarter of the game.

In the last few minutes of the Game, Billy Turnbow, who had played a creditable game and was high point man for the Aggies, fouled out. None of his fouls had appeared intentional or premeditated and, while he had outthudded and outjumped some of the Longhorns on occasions, he played what for the night, was a clean game. Yet, when he left the floor, he was booed and hissed as if he had stolen the top three stories from the University Tower.

On the other hand, "Elbows" Madsen, TU's imported contribution to legalized slugging on the hardwoods, seized every opportunity to get in a concealed lick at his opponents. When The officials caught him in the act three times and penalized him (the lad should more justly be tossed out of the game as a detriment to sport), the assembled university supporters screamed at the officials as if they had been accessories after the fact when Turnbow stole the tower.

These were the main features. (See TU BASKETBALL, Page 6)

CATHOLIC MASS  
Friday  
6:45 a.m.  
ST. MARY'S CHAPEL

SKYWAY  
DRIVE-IN THEATRE  
TODAY & FRIDAY

MAN-EATER  
OF KUMAON  
with SKYU Wendell COREY Joanne PAGE

SATURDAY  
"Of Mice and Men"

PALACE  
Bryan 2-8879  
TODAY thru SAT.

THE Thrilling  
TRUE STORY  
OF VARIETY CLUB'S  
BOYS' RANCH AT  
COPPERAS COVE, TEXAS

GREAT  
IN ACTION  
GREAT  
IN THRILLS  
GREAT  
IN SUSPENSE  
GREAT  
IN PURPOSE

ALLIED ARTISTS  
PRODUCTIONS  
PRESENT

BAD  
BOY  
THE NATION'S NUMBER ONE  
BOY CRIMINAL!

Starring  
LLOYD NOLAN  
Jane James  
WYATT GLEASON  
Martha Stanley  
VICKERS CLEMENTS

and in his first  
starring role  
AUDIE  
MURPHY  
Texas' Great War Hero  
Produced by  
PAUL SHORT

BENEFIT  
VARIETY CLUB BOYS' RANCH

Campus  
TODAY thru FRIDAY  
Features Start—  
1:25 - 3:10 4:50 - 6:35  
8:20 - 10:00

WARNER BAXTER  
INGRID BERGMAN  
SUSAN HAYWARD

—in—  
Love knows no mercy when  
two women fight for the love  
of five men!

"ADAM HAD  
FOUR SONS"

A Re-release  
—Plus—  
CARTOON — LATEST NEWS

Friday Preview 11:00 p.m.  
FIRST RUN

Errol  
FLYNN  
in  
ADVENTURES OF  
DON JUAN  
Color by TECHNICOLOR  
PLUS CARTOON

PALACE Special Fri. Preview  
11:00 P.M.

Heaven helps the gal who helps herself!

Cary Grant  
in DON HARTMAN'S production  
Every Girl Should Be Married  
co-starring FRANCHOT TONE - DIANA LYNN  
and introducing BETSY DRAKE

The hide-and-seek, tongue-in-cheek tale of a marriage-shy baby-doctor . . . and a misbehavin' man-huntin' Babe!

Produced, Directed and Co-written by DON HARTMAN  
Screen Play Collaboration by Stephen Marchand Avery

Only Three More Days Left to Shop  
Bargains At —  
Kraft Furniture Co.  
FEBRUARY SALE  
28th and Main Bryan

Change the walls of your apartments from dull and uninteresting to smart and relaxing colors. Use BENJAMIN MOORE'S SANI FLAT (100% Oil Paint) \$3.85 per gallon and matching wood trim in 100% oil Semi-Gloss, per quart—\$1.40.

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