

Battalion EDITORIALS

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MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1949

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Employers Set Some Standards . . .

The bases for selection of engineers and the criticisms employers make of engineering graduates are revealed in an enlightening article taken from the Mechanical Engineering Magazine.

Questionnaires were sent out to 174 of the nation's leading employers of engineers. Their answers show an interesting and enlightening aspect to the current problem of the technical college versus the liberal college.

"What are the bases on which engineering employees (and very probably all employees) are selected?" For the student-engineer employers placed personality first. Tied for second and third were the man's scholastic record and his indicated promise of development in a specific field of engineering.

Following these, and given in the order named, are engineering experience, evidence of ability to cooperate with others, recommendations by qualified persons, indicated promise of executive development, standing of college from which candidate was graduated, and salary requested.

Stop a minute, mister undergraduate, and think those over. You had better remember them for they are the standards employers will use to consider you for a job.

Also, take notice of these criticisms employers had of applicants for engineer-

ing employment (here again the shoe fits for every college graduate):

Lack of fundamentals (physical sciences and mathematics, etc.), inarticulateness in speech and writing, *Lack of Education in the Humanities*, lack of drafting and design experience, lack of knowledge of economics and business, and lack of knowledge of operation and production.

How many of these hit you in the face?

The engineering curriculum at A&M is extremely technical and fundamental. Students have the opportunity to take few electives beyond their field. The difficulty of teaching enough engineering courses in four years has caused this specialization of training in the School of Engineering. Humanities have been flowers pulled from the vegetable garden because they produce no tangible food.

Few would dispute that A&M engineering graduates lack, in considerable quantity, well grounded knowledge in humanities, business, or economics. Men unacquainted with those phases of human experience and enterprise are merely diamonds polished on only one side.

Either the engineering curriculum should be expanded to five years so these other necessary courses can be offered, or the present curriculum must strip itself of several important though not fundamental courses, thus enabling students to gain information in other vital fields.

Battle of the Recorder . . .

New York City is now the focal point of an issue that has plagued the nation's courts since science produced its last batch of omniscient children.

The New York case is drawing attention because of the big principal names involved, among them Mayor William O'Dwyer and members of his staff. But the basic question is the same. Should evidence procured by lie detectors and wire recorders be admitted as evidence in court?

Those who argue against the use of the scientific probing devices say the very clandestine nature of the machines violates man's inherent right of privacy. They say the devices are still relatively undeveloped and unproven, and too liable to tampering that would give misleading evidence and to just plain ordinary fabri-

cation. The proponents of the devices say it is foolish to have these new scientific crime combatants and not employ them. They can obtain and show evidence more rapidly, the supporters maintain, than older police methods and in some instances gain testimony that would not ordinarily be obtained.

While the big battle for the control of recorders and detectors is now only shaping up, it may reach large and interesting proportions before it closes. The battle in New York will be indicative of the final outcome, since that city has been the foundry of modern crime preventives for several decades.

We will note with interest where the courts decide public welfare ends and private privilege begins.

The Passing Parade . . .

From Fort Worth comes news of one of the problems facing modern aviation.

(AP)—Aviation is making progress but still has not solved its 25-year-old problem of "getting more people to fly," De los W. Rentzel, Washington, D. C., National Civil Aeronautics administrator,

told non-scheduled flight operators of five southwestern states today.

Speaking for college students alone, we would say that if the aviation fathers could develop more and better aviation parking places, the boom would be forthcoming.

In speaking of what would happen to an appropriation proposed for new schools in New York, the *Albany (N.Y.) Times-Union* said:

"The measure would divide the fun equally between New York City and upstate."

One of those ads that promises to do more for a person than Divinity ever planned reads like this in the *Cleveland (O) Plain Dealer*.

"Fundamental Research Service. Cosmic energy prime movers; the first modern development in 100 years . . ." etc.

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 \$4.50 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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LOOKS LIKE HIS HANDS ARE FULL RIGHT NOW



Twenty-Five Acres Made Available To A&M for 10 Years

A grant of 25 acres of land and two financial gifts, have been made to the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at A&M.

Twenty-five acres of land in Liberty county were given the station by the Quinn Trust for 10 years. The land will be used for experiment purposes in connection with Substation No. 22 at Kirbyville, Dr. R. D. Lewis, director of the Experiment Station announced.

The American Cyanamid Company of New York has given the station \$1,000 to be used in the control of cotton insects. The General Education Board has given \$3,750, representing the second half payment on a grant of \$7,500 to the station toward the employment of Dr. Ralph T. Holman of the Department of Biochemistry and Nutrition. Dr. Holman is conducting research on the properties and metabolism of natural fats and fatty acids, Dr. Lewis said.

Pre-Law Group To Meet in Y Tonight

The Pre-Law Society will hold its regular semi-monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m., Monday, in the Assembly Room of the YMCA, Ben Lampkin, society president has announced.

Most important business during the meeting will be the selection of a duchess to represent the Pre-Law Society at the Cotton Ball, Lampkin said. All members have been urged to bring either a single picture or several if possible of the girl whom they desire to nominate, Chuck Cabanis of the society's activities committee said.

Additional old business will be considered at the session, including a decision on a spring inspection trip to a southwestern law school, the president reported.

Think Of This

"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom, but he that doeth the will of my Father." Matt. 7:21

In observing people as they go about their daily lives, it is easy to prove the truth of the statement "You can fool some of the people all of the time." By reasoning we can also prove another equally true statement (you can't fool Christ any of the time). The Lord told a story of two men that went to the temple to pray. One of them put on quite a show for the benefit of the people that were looking at him, but was not sincerely talking to God. The other man merely cried to God as he hid himself in shame because of his sins. Jesus said that the one doing the "showing-off" had failed to find God; whereas, the other had been forgiven for his sins. Lets not fool ourselves by thinking that we can fool God.

REVELLE FOR LADY COP

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Mrs. Vernon Pease's chief task as a policeman is to keep the young folks on their good behavior. After seven years on the job she thought she knew all the answers. Then she was roused from sleep by an early morning telephone call.

"You're supposed to see after kids," the woman caller persisted. "That's what you're getting paid for, isn't it?—Well, come over and make my daughter get out of bed."

Official Notice

All Animal Husbandry majors who have not filled out their Degree Plan are requested to do so at their earliest convenience. Copies of the Degree Plan are in the Animal Husbandry Office. Please take care of your Plan as soon as possible. If any doubt exists as to whether you need to complete a Degree Plan please consult the list of names on the Animal Husbandry bulletin board on the second floor of the Animal Industries Building.

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Ripping, Isn't It? . . .

Laundry Is Efficient But Provides Gripes For Aggies

By BUDDY LUCE

Although accused of everything from button-snatching to collar curving, the A&M Laundry has in the last few years traveled a long way on the road to speed and efficiency.

James H. Kingcaid, manager of the laundry, came to A&M in the fall of 1946 and landed in the midst of a deplorable situation if there ever was one in a laundry. Kingcaid came here from a position of laundry supervisor for National Hotels, located throughout the nation.

Practically born in a laundry, Kingcaid, is one of three brothers who grew up working in his father's laundry business, the Home Steam Laundry in Cleburne, Tex. All three brothers are still in the laundry business.

During a two-year stay in the U. S. Navy as a Commander, Kingcaid, was in charge of Navy laundries in Memphis, Tennessee.

When Kingcaid came to A&M in 1946, the laundry was working both night and day shifts seven days a week and giving six to ten day service to the students. At present time, he has whittled away bottlenecks enough to put the laundry on a five-day week, one shift per day basis giving Aggies one to three day service. If you can't figure that out, ask a management engineer if that isn't an increase in efficiency.

The biggest bottleneck found by Kingcaid when he came to the A&M laundry was the marking department. A high degree of labor turnover was present due to the inherent odor and undesirability of the work. Speed was held up by the lack of organization of laundry marks, station separation, and the like. Kingcaid installed the different colored laundry tickets and solved many of the problems. Also, each student was designated a laundry mark to keep as long as he attended A&M, thereby eliminating different laundry marks each time the student moved to a different dormitory.

Added to the laundry equipment to speed up a slow pants department were 21 new up-to-date air-driven pants pressers and two new stainless steel washing machines. Four new dry tumblers and a \$4,000 no-truck extractor were also added to speed up the drying processes. Thirty-five thousand dollars' worth of new equipment has been added to the laundry since

1946. A new shirt unit is on order. Most students have no idea of the volume of laundry handled by the 144 people employed in the plant. Two-hundred seventy-five thousand bundles are handled each year. Supplies necessary to handle this volume include 50,000 pounds of paper, 20,000 pounds of starch, 20,000 pounds of alkali, 10,000 pounds of soap, and 2 million feet of string.

Three menders are kept busy all the time along with one button-repairing machine. Seventy-two thousand buttons are replaced each year. Although the annual number of pieces of laundry averages about 5 million, almost three million pieces have already gone through the plant this year.

Kingcaid agrees that gripes are a part of the laundry business although it is possible that Aggies

work at it a little harder. The jovial fellow who literally fills the position of manager of the laundry welcomes Aggies into his office and invites them to come to the laundry to see what actually goes on when a pair of dirty socks comes in for a cleaning.

Several departments within the laundry still present many problems: to Kingcaid and Aggies have many legitimate gripes including torn shirts; excessively marked shirts; handkerchiefs, and undershirts; and the occasional use of too-strong washing solutions.

With time, patience and more badly needed equipment, Kingcaid hopes to wipe out the last traces of bitterness between Aggies and the laundry. There is always room for improvement.



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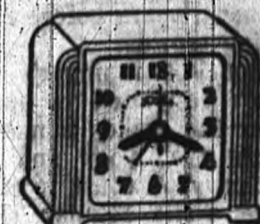


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Because newspaper men are human, they, like everyone, make mistakes at times. And whether it was anticipation or confusion of dates, THE BATTALION erroneously advertised THE SNAKE PIT as opening at the Palace theater Sunday. That feature actually opens next Sunday.

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