

# Battalion Editorials

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MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1940

## An Experiment In Janitorial Service . . .

Student labor performing janitorial work in dormitories came in for some active discussion at the last Student Senate meeting. There are many good reasons for both sides of this matter and for the information of those interested we shall present several of the arguments pro and con that have been voiced. The ultimate decision whether students could do a better job than present janitors cannot be made before the experiments which the Senate suggested are carried out.

Opponents to replacing present janitors with student labor point, first, to the fact that once (way back before the war) students were employed as janitors and they were found unsatisfactory. These student janitors often left their posts to follow the Aggie team or go off corps tripping at most inopportune times. There was a large turn over of janitorial jobs and training new men was always a problem.

The opponents to student janitors further contend that students would not demonstrate as sincere interest in their jobs as a man whose livelihood depended on keeping floors and latrines clean and sanitary. A loss or serious reduction in efficiency and service to men living in dormitories would probably result upon innovation of student janitors.

Plans are underway, say the opponents to educate present janitors to handle more effectively the disinfectants and soaps that they use to clean the dormitories. Germs will go along with dirt when the new pro-

gram of education of janitors is complete. A&M's janitors now clean an average of around 42,000 square feet of floor space whereas commercial buildings in Texas have a janitor for every 8,000 square feet.

Those in favor of student janitors point to the rising number of men coming to A&M who must find employment to help earn their way. These students would the proponents feel, work as diligently at their janitorial positions as present janitors. With the plans of the Former Students Association to increase their number of scholarships, more jobs must be found to help these men supplement their scholarship money.

Student labor could (and probably would) be better than present service, they claim. With times coming when money will not be so plentiful as now, we must provide a larger number of men the opportunity to come to A&M and work their way through. There is already a noticeable decrease in spending among students and the lists of students seeking jobs is lengthening every day.

The experiment recommended by the Senate would employ student labor (about four students in a dormitory getting one fourth of a regular janitor's wages or about \$25 a month) in a military and a non-military dormitory for one semester.

Upon completion of the experiment a more accurate picture may be drawn as to the desirability of either expanding student janitorial services to all dormitories or to continue the system now in practice.

## Why Not Carry A Good Plan Further? . . .

We have come so far in this rating business that we cannot turn back now. We have graded our professors mercilessly and told them just how they stack up in our estimation.

To be logical we must carry the process farther. Rating must go through the higher echelons to the very top.

The instructors and assistant professors were carried forcibly to the electorate last year. Now has come the time for the instructors and assistant professors to rate their department heads.

The original purpose of the prof grading program was to show the profs and department heads how the students reacted to current teaching methods and to the profs themselves. We should now like

to have the department heads see in what light they are held by their satellites.

But that need not be the end. Department heads could next rate their deans. The deans could rate the president. And all the college presidents of the A&M System along with the directors of the services could combine to rate the chancellor. The board would then be rated by the last named group including the Chancellor.

Department head and dean rating would show the department heads and deans how they might better perform their duties, just as the instructors were shown last year.

If everyone could see himself as others see him, we might make a definite improvement in our scholastic arrangement and methods.

## The Passing Parade . . .

This tale of maritime fortitude, from Tampico, Mexico, reminds us of something it probably shouldn't. (AP quote)

Six American seamen who existed for two weeks in a drifting lifeboat on six bottles of tomato juice and a few quarts of water were rescued yesterday by a Mexi-

can fishing boat.

The men were the crew of the Caicos Trader of Miami. They are all of Miami. (end quote).

We know some people who visited Miami and had to exist on tomato juice for quite some time just because they didn't stick to quarts of water.

★ Another unusual implication is deducible from this headline in the Portland (Ore.) Journal:  
"Women in Japan's Diet Continue to Decrease."

★ An unusual measure, this, if it's as reported by a headline in the Hartford City (Ind.) News-Times:  
"Drops Four Children To Safety in a Fire."

# The Battalion

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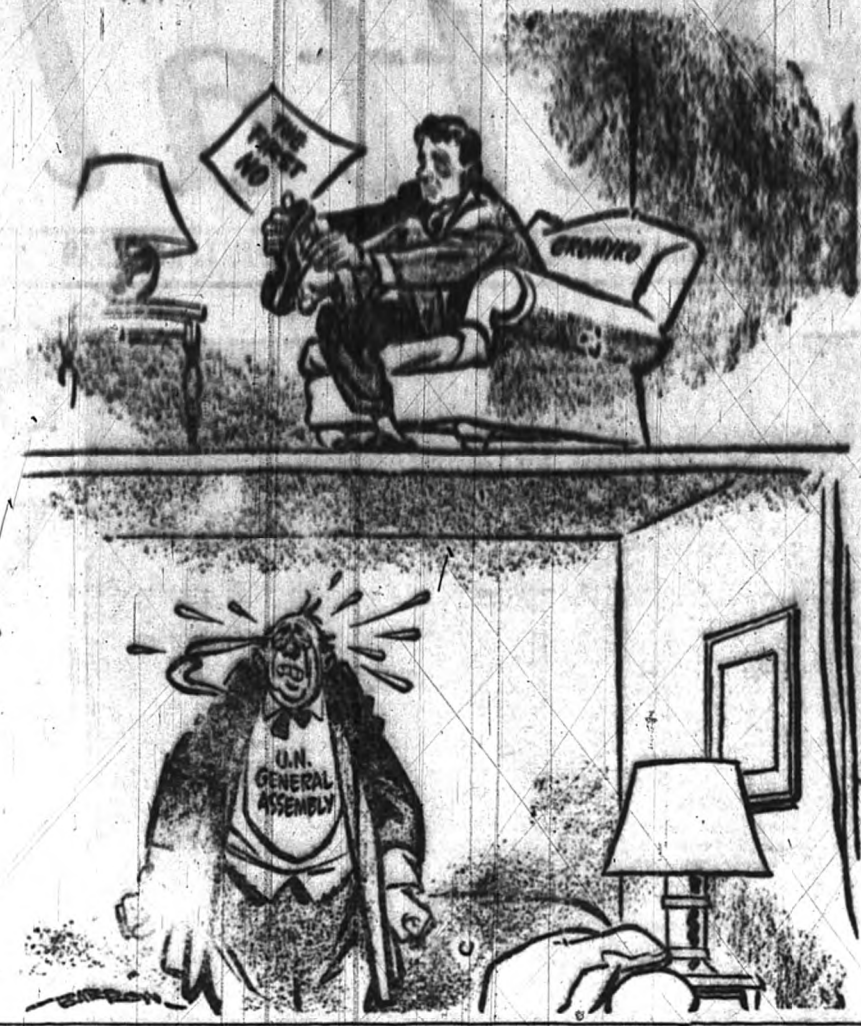
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## Sneak Preview . . .

### 'Human Reactions Typified In 'Boy With Green Hair'

By FRANK CUSHING

"The Boy With Green Hair" (RKO) starring Pat O'Brien, Robert Ryan, Barbara Hale, and Dean Stockwell.

The Boy With Green Hair is a very unusual story. Although there are at least two morals involved in the theme, I for one am not certain that I understood any of them.

The plot opens with the bald-headed Dean sitting in a police station refusing to tell his name, place of residence, or what happened to his hair. A sympathetic doctor, Robert Ryan, finally gets Dean to tell his story.

Utilizing flash backs, the camera reveals how Dean was orphaned at an early age, shuffled among various relations, and eventually ended up living with "Gramps," Pat O'Brien, an ex-vaudeville performer and now a singing waiter.

Since Dean at last feels wanted, everything goes well until one day he learns the up-to-now concealed fact that his parents are dead and that they were killed in the war. Before he had fully recovered from this shock, he awakens to find that his hair has changed to a brilliant hue of green.

### Think Of This

"Get wisdom, get understanding; forget it not, neither decline from the words of my mouth," Proverbs 4:5.

All of us in a college community are intensely concerned with trying to get an education. We hope that such will lead to wisdom, although just unrelated knowledge is not necessarily such. The next, and ultimate step, is understanding that which we learn. Only as man roots his thinking firmly in God, and relates all of the knowledge which he gains to this one central fact of God and his concern for mankind, can there be meaning in a maze of facts.

The peculiar color of his hair is unexplained for some time. Dean is subjected to a difficult life by the people of the community. The normal human reaction of disliking and distrusting everything different is brought out quite well in these scenes.

One remark, which certainly hit a lot of nails upon their respective heads, was said by a classmate of Dean's. Subject to a world of interpretations, the remark was, "How'd you like your sister to marry a boy with green hair?"

Eventually the reason for Dean's change of hair-coloring is brought out. The movie proves to be rather slow in parts. Never-the-less, the story doesn't become too-emotional as it might well have done. It's very difficult to either condemn or recommend The Boy With Green Hair. Each had better judge for himself the worth of this movie.

### Child's Death Raises Hotel Death Toll to 75

EFFINGHAM, Ill., April 10 (AP)—The toll of dead and missing in Tuesday's fire at St. Anthony's Hospital rose to 75 Sunday with the death of Richard Lee Scamma, eleven.

Scamma, of Sailor Springs, Ill., died in a hospital at Olney, Ill., of injuries he suffered during the terrifying blaze.

A rheumatic fever patient, he was tossed from an upper window of the hospital by his father, Fred, when flames cut off escape. The father survived the blaze.

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## Letters To The Editor

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Editor, The Battalion: In this little exchange of ideas as to the correctness of our commandment, I would like to make this point clear (especially to Mr. Name Withheld). It never has been good policy to publicly reprimand a man for a small misdemeanor. The Colonel has pulled this stunt on several occasions.

At one meeting of C. O.'s and first sergeants, he ate out one man before the whole room for "asking such a question when you, yourself, are not a member of this meeting." It seems one man, a junior asked "Dog" Dawson a question which was answered. The question brought on a bit of "discussion." The Colonel saw no stripes or buttons and asked him if he were a member, then started chewing.

I agree with Thursday's letter on many counts. However, I'm opposed to the practice of public reprimand as the field manual on leadership and drill also seems to be. Officers are supposed to set examples for their men to follow. You may or may not withhold my name. Suit yourself.

Name Withheld

A REPLY

Editors, The Battalion:

I am grateful for this opportunity to reply to the above letter at the same time it is published. So that cadets who were too distant to know what went on and for readers of this column, it seems desirable to expand on previous letters.

The incident referred to above took place in one of the cadet lounges at an after-supper meeting which a group of cadets asked be called and that I preside. In cooperation with the Athletic Department, those cadets had obtained and mimeographed a list of outstanding Texas high school athletes. A group of about 75 cadets, company commanders and first sergeants, had assembled to obtain the list and be briefed on the project of assigning appropriate cadets to interview and report on each prospective student. Near the conclusion of the meeting, which had lasted longer than the allotted time, a cadet who had been playing cards with some young men in civilian clothes in the lounge when the meeting assembled, stood up and asked, in effect: "Why don't they make the athletes live in dormitories with the other cadets like they do at

West Point?" It is obvious the question was irrelevant and would probably cause long argument and destroy much constructive work done by the group of cadets who had worked for what they thought was the good of their College. "Buttons and stripes" had nothing to do with it. As presiding officer and senior officer present, I confirmed for the information of those present that he was not a member of the meeting and ruled him out of order in accordance with both parliamentary and military procedure. I, later, privately explained the reasons to him.

The Corps Review incident should be amplified. It was and had been announced as a practice review, in preparation for the Federal Inspection and Mothers Day Review. This was evidenced by the fact that senior guests had not been invited and were not present. The cadet colonels were driven around their regiments in jeeps so as to inspect them and provide practice for the troops in "Eye's Right" and that another officer took the review so as to free me to make necessary corrections on the field.

It was not an Army Day Review as no Air Force Review had been held last fall. The presentation of the medal resulted from a request received at four o'clock the afternoon before. The recipients informed me before the presentation that they desired to leave immediately after receiving the medal. They did so.

There was no mix-up of commands. The unsatisfactory performance of duty resulted in forming the lines of about 175 cadets, six sets of colors and 32 guidons at the command, "Officers and Colors, Front and Center," into marching form. At no other place in the United States in parades do they attempt such a large-scale movement—it provides color, large-scale individual performance under observation, but requires precision in execution. We have had continuous trouble with that movement and our performance of duty of that phase during the Corps Review for the Military Ball festivities had been criticized. Two officers seeing this execution recommended on the spot that we discontinue its use. On two occa-

sons in the last month of Regimental Review, this phase was repeated with resultant great improvement. It would have delayed the evening meal to do so on this occasion, and it would also have been unfair to the 2000 cadets standing in ranks. This part of the review was the poorest I have ever seen. I said so and I believe it will be better next time.

It should be evident that I believe in good leadership and am showing increased responsibility in the officers, noncommissioned officers, and individuals in the Cadet Corps. It is much easier to avoid detection of errors and do nothing. It is hypocritical to praise when one believes praise is not justified. It is common knowledge that mistakes corrected on the spot are generally not repeated. It would not be good leadership if I failed to support that very large majority of cadets who have loyally and conscientiously raised real values in our Corps of Cadets so that it was officially described as "pre-eminently outstanding."

In addition to good leadership, I believe in discipline, performance of military duty in such a way as to justify the time and money spent on its performance of duty in spite of probable personal unpopularity and a willingness to do myself what I expect subordinates to do. I also, believe in a cohesive College and Corps spirit in which we iron out our differences of opinion in a face-to-face manner. I have repeatedly stated that I am available to any individual of this Corps of Cadets on a twenty-four hour basis.

(Signed) H. L. BOATNER

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