

Battalion Editorials

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FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1949

Young Man's Fancy Turns to Politics . . .

Thus far the campus has not been disturbed by any shooting or coup d'etat. Of course it's still rather early for serious politics, but the time is almost upon us.

Next Wednesday, April 27, is the deadline for filing for any of the campus offices. At present only a dozen applicants have signified that they are going to enter the lists. Most of the prospective politicians are probably playing it cagey and waiting until deadline time to file so that their opponents will be thrown off guard.

Most of the opponents seem to be waiting too. They will all meet in the Student Activities office Wednesday at five minutes till five and shoot it out. The ones who live to reach the counter will automatically be elected.

How Multicolored Was My Tower . . .

Looming over the campus like the wicked mushroom of an atomic bomb stands the local water tower. Its gaudy presence proclaims to all pilgrims trudging over this hill that they are journeying through Aggie land.

But the tower does it in such a sloppy manner that many pilgrims leave here thinking A&M means Adolescents and Minor's College.

Some civic-spirited corps members announced several months ago that they favored repainting the water tower a bright silver and inscribing the insignia of the different units around the base in order to proclaim proudly that this is Aggie land.

No one raised his voice against the plan—who would openly oppose progress?

The constant delays toward repainting the tower were attributed to the difficulty of getting the money, painters, scaffolding and paint together in the same spot at

the same time. But according to "the word" as it came down from on high, the tower was to have had its face lifted during the Easter holidays. All necessary elements for repainting were to have labored together then to make the tower as near a thing of beauty as a tower can be.

Mother's Day fast approacheth. Soon the campus will be a swarm with dotting parents come to inspect the clean, healthful, stimulating environment of their progeny. If they are first exposed to the sight of that mottled eyesore which contains College Station's water, they might be so stunned that they would not be able to notice another thing about the school.

Or is that perhaps the ulterior purpose of the water tower as it now stands? We can all be prouder of our campus when the thing gets painted.

Which of the Worlds Is Unique? . . .

Architectural students going on the tour to Europe this summer will look upon the ruins of many cities that echoed with the dull thud of bombs during the war and screamed with air raid sirens and spat up ack-ack shells at enemy raiders.

So many are the scenes of destruction that they become commonplace, and even the American visitor asks himself which world is real—the rubble strewn cities of Europe or the gaily lighted cities of America?

The following is a part of an editorial printed in the Saturday Review of Literature headed "Berlin":

No, there is nothing unique about Berlin. The only uniqueness in the world is in the Western hemisphere; and you wonder whether the American people know just how unique they are—that their cities are standing only because of the accident of history or the twist of fate that saw the V-2 developed at the end of the war instead of at the beginning. You wonder whether this uniqueness holds any special meaning to Americans, whether

they are able to see the world whole and understand what has happened to the larger city of man in our time, or whether they are accepting their good fortunes as having no particular significance or consequence.

You wonder, too, as you walk through Berlin, what it will feel like to walk again through the streets of New York or Philadelphia or Chicago. Will the cities at home seem like temporary outposts, like the stage setting for an illusion? Will they show outwardly how weak are the foundations on which they and our times are built? Or will you get over the feeling of a false reality and merge yourself with it, allowing what you had seen in Europe to slip away from you? Will you become walled in by the general feeling of adequacy, self-satisfaction, and security?

As I say, you wonder about all this and are almost afraid to return home and learn the answers.

We would like to know the impressions of those who make this interesting and enlightening tour.

Newsorthy in the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Evening Independent:

"Bystanders said that the dead man had been in good spirits all during the week."

Interesting bit from Salt Lake City (Utah) Telegram:

Overcome by gas while taking a bath, the young lady owed her life to the watchfulness of the janitor."

The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

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On Other Campuses . . .

Aussie College Politicians Take Blasting From Papers

By C. C. MUNROE

Politics, the food of a special breed of college students, will come into the local spotlight soon. And, if all goes according to form, this year's verbal battling should provide some interesting conversation material.

A&M, however, isn't the only school that suffers from the political scourge. The collegiate backslapping and name-calling isn't even confined to the United States. At least that is the conclusion that has to be drawn from an article we spotted in the George Washington University newspaper, The Hatcher.

The Washingtonians in true journalistic style, had lifted a quote from the student newspaper of the University of Sydney in Australia. It seems that the people from "down under" have trouble with their campus politicians too.

The U. of Sydney's paper's back page carried this comment in an article on their student government:

"Student self-government during the past year had reached an all-time low for corruption, machine organization, and complete disregard for the fundamental rights of the self-governed."

As if this blast wasn't enough to rock the Australian college politicians back on their heels, the paper went on to present some brief sketches of the local campus politicians. About one of them it said, "He started the year as a student dabbling in political affairs—now he's a politician dabbling in student affairs."

About another student government climber, so the Washington paper quotes the Aussies as saying, "adheres to archaic principles of honesty, even in student affairs, but is a fairly good bloke, even though he owes us a whiskey."

One thing that A&M student politicians have never been accused of is adhering to principals of honesty, archaic or otherwise.

SMU Angles

College politics are also the subject of much talk in our own state. Southern Methodist University, which at last report was still holding classes in Dallas, comes out into the open now and then with a political squabble that is worthy of notice.

A few weeks ago The Campus, SMU's student newspaper, editorialized on a dispute which had developed between the Student Government and one of the "cheerleaders." The case itself was not significant, The Campus said, but the fact that it brought one of the "less-known departments of student government" to life was considered important. The paper was referring to SMU's Student Court, which was charged with the responsibility for settling the gov-

Job Calls

Positions are open for staff positions in various Boy Scout camps all over America. Experience in camping as a Scout or Scout Leader, is preferred.

Special training in administrative, accounting, aquatics, and medical work, or some program specialization may qualify a man without Scouting or camping background for a specialized position.

Period of employment in Scout camps varies between four and nine weeks, including a pre-camp training period. Positions will be filled by end of May.

Interested applicants should contact the Placement Office.

Official Notice

Students who will be classified Juniors or above at the close of the current semester and who expect to register in the School of Engineering for the SUMMER or FALL semester will be required to have in their possession at registration their degree plan card. This degree plan card must be initiated by the department head or some representative of the department. No appointment card will be approved without this degree plan. It is necessary that this information reach all second term sophomores. H. W. Barlow, Dean of Engineering

'There Shall Be Laughter' Is Tough Novel of Depression

By HERMAN C. GOLLOB

There Shall Be Laughter by Asa Bordages (William Goodwin, Inc. 1934, \$2.)

There Shall Be Laughter is a tough, fast-moving, unpleasant little novel concerning the effects of our last depression upon five of America's youth; five among the thousands who were forced to wander aimlessly across the country, seeking jobs that didn't exist and finding instead hunger, pain, and misery.

Bordages' prose is simple—so simple in parts that it seems almost primer-like. But it has a staccato quality that hammers away at the reader like a fast left jab to the face. His acute descriptive power lends to the book a raw, rough realism, and enables him to turn up an arresting assortment of characters. He has dramatically interwoven the lives of Whitey Logan, John Smith, Sulo Trokel, Simon Traub, and the girl, Blackie, into a powerful novel which raps the government for its bungling inefficiency before and during the depression.

For instance, Whitey is turned into a hardened cop-hating killer after his father is killed by the police during a strike. He is finally caught and sent to the electric chair, was recorded on earth for only 20 minutes last Dec. 7.

The discovery was made by Dr. Willem Layten of the University of Minnesota.

Star Explodes Like Billion Atom Bombs

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., April 22 (AP)—The explosion of a star with the force of a billion Hiroshima-type atom bombs was reported last night by an internationally-known Harvard scientist.

Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of Harvard College Observatory, said the explosion must have occurred six years ago. The flareup, however, was recorded on earth for only 20 minutes last Dec. 7.

The discovery was made by Dr. Willem Layten of the University of Minnesota.

Letters

GOOD TO BE AGGIES

To the Student Body:

I have always said that it is a good thing to be an Aggie. And the longer I am one, the more things I see to prove it.

During the Easter holidays, the track boys were at work on the Teasippers in Corpus Christi. It was a nice holiday (we won), but it wasn't like being at home. However, a group of ex-Aggies there in Corpus took the time and trouble to take us out to the Country Club after the meet and sit us down to a feast that only a starving man could do justice to.

And this was not the first time. They did the same thing last year. Also last year, when the conference meet in Houston was over, the Exes took us out to a tremendous sea food dinner at one of Houston's finest places.

These are just a couple of experiences that I have had. I know that there are many other guys that have had similar ones. And yet, after more than three years of athletics, I have never seen the Exes of any other school sponsor this sort of thing for the boys from their school.

It seems that the words "Texas Aggie" mean just a little bit more—that the spirit is a little more lasting—that being an Aggie is a lot better than being from some other school, when it comes to things like school spirit and lending a helping hand.

It is just a thought, Ole Army—something to think about when it looks like A&M is going to pieces—or when it seems that being an Aggie isn't so much after all. There are still an awful lot of fine Aggies perpetuating the Aggie Spirit all over the country. It would certainly be a crying shame to let the Spirit die out right where it all started.

Just a thought, Ole Army—just a thought. I still say, it is a good thing to be an Aggie.

E. G. Bilderback, '45

God would forgive."

Pros and Cons

All for labor and those who make up the union, Bordages nevertheless vents his spleen against the union leaders for their exploitation of the men under them.

TSBL leaves the reader with a pungent taste in his mouth and realization, if he doesn't have it already, that the communistic microbe shrives in the body of an economically sick country, racked with the fever of unemployment, the headache of low wages, and the consumption of a stagnant standard of living.

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