

Another Step in the Right Direction . . .

This past weekend a Student Senate delegation journeyed to Denton to participate in the organizing convention of the Texas Inter-Collegiate Student Association. The A&M delegation, besides taking an active part in the discussions and organizing, was complimented by the election of the state vice-president, Dan Davis, from its delegation.

"The purpose of the association," reads the constitution, "shall be to encourage and promote government by students; to foster an intelligent interest in the phases of college citizenship; and to act as a clearing ground for the discussion of the problems of student government for the mutual benefit of all members of the association."

Nearly every college and university in Texas has expressed a desire to become a participating member in the association; twenty-three colleges and universities sent delegations to the convention. Upon their respective student government's ratification of the constitution, they will become charter members.

Actually, the Student Senate must ratify the constitution before A&M becomes a member.

Perhaps the greatest advantage in belonging to the association is that the association is a medium for exchange of ideas between member schools and they may consult other colleges in matters which are under consideration. Inquiries as to what approaches and methods they used could be made. From their experience others may profit.

A&M, as well as every other member in the association, could contribute much to the association and A&M could receive many valuable suggestions about student government from other schools in Texas whose problems and interests are akin to our own. Projected to the level of including nearly every college in Texas, we become conscious of the great possibilities the association has. Like most everything else in life, we can expect to get about as much out of the association as we put into it.

The convention in Denton testifies to the fact that Texas colleges and universities have recognized the desirability of such an organization as the TISA. We have taken another forward step that eastern schools took a generation ago. Someday we will catch up.

Learning to Live Near Our Neighbors . . .

There is good news from Mexico today. Governor Jester has announced his intention to visit every state in Mexico on a good will tour. During the swing he will discuss common problems involving our state and our Mexican neighbors.

Topics discussed either by the governor, or the Texas Good Neighbor Commission, yesterday included the Mexican laborer problem, a Pan-American Educational Foundation to be established at the University of Texas, control of the hoof and mouth disease, transportation and commerce between Texas and Mexico, development of an international park, the increased teaching of Spanish in Texas schools, and a number of minor problems.

Governor Jester apologized for "several unfortunate incidents of discrimination against Latin Americans."

President Aleman, of Mexico, assured Jester that he had "great hopes" that Texas would soon be removed from the black list which forbids sending Mexican laborers to the state.

This amiable and serious discussion between the leaders of our state and the Mexican republic is another step in the path we should have long ago entered and further penetrated.

Since the early nineteenth century

Texans and Mexicans have been suspicious and distrustful of each other. Long after our military disagreements were settled, the distrust remained and both groups suffered because of it.

Because of the lack of understanding, barriers were thrown up to prevent the trade that should have developed. The same misunderstandings have hindered us in defense against common enemies.

The recent confusion and difficulty in handling the hoof and mouth disease and migrant laborer problems shows all too clearly how we could benefit from a better mutual understanding.

The only way to understand people and sympathize with their problems is to know that people and their problems. Governor Jester's trip will help to further that condition. We can do many things ourselves to aid relations with our Latin-American neighbors.

Our nation has proven, in its relation with England, that a former colony can become a strong ally of its mother country and, because of their similarity, form a fast friendship and beneficial relationship.

Let Texas follow that example in her relations with Mexico.

The Passing Parade . . .

Every afternoon before the AP turns off our wire, they send a short resume of the days activities and a few congratulations to papers which have filed several stories. All this makes the editors feel good and builds up the volume of news. But even in this good service the 60-word a minute rate is sometimes too much for the operator and he makes an interesting

mistake now and then. As this one, concerning a new member. (AP quote)

Jon consistently sparkled the report with his stories from West Texas, and now that he has a direct wire to file on we are certain his contributions will be better and better than ever. (end quote)

Probably is swiping them from a cub reporter!



"I knew it would happen sooner or later, Father. The ME department has finally figured out how to give pop quizzes on Sunday!"

Sneak Preview . . .

'Paisan', Foreign Made Film, Tells Six Separate Stories

By FRANK CUSHING

Paisan (Italian made and acted)—Queen Theater. A person conditioned to the standard acting, plot and direction of American movies will find "*Paisan*" somewhat confusing to say the least. This movie actually deals with five different locations and six unrelated stories.

The central theme of "*Paisan*," if such can be pointed out, centers around the American invasion and subsequent drive through Italy. The reactions of the population to the GI fighters and the counter-reactions of the US troops are sincerely recorded.

A monastery is the scene of the first sequence. An Italian girl, who distrusts the Americans as much as the Germans, consents to lead a patrol through the minefields and thus gain access to the monastery. She eventually comes to know and like one of the soldiers in particular; after his death, she passionately starts killing Germans.

The second sequence is concerned with a Negro MP who, when drunk, is taken for a quick roll by a group of Italian urchins. The MP later, in a sober state, finds the Italian boy who has taken his boots. After understanding the lad's true plight, the MP releases him and allows the boy to keep the stolen boots.

The most important story, seemingly, is the third one. It tells of a US tank-driver named Fred who in a hurried trip through Rome with the spearhead troops, meets a pure and pretty Italian girl. He is forced to leave but comes back to Rome some

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.

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Aggie Call to Arms (orthumbs)

Chaos Threatens As Fiends Seek To Ban Hitch-Hiking

By C. C. MUNROE

Sound the call to arms! A battle is looming on the horizon for millions of Americans and particularly for the men of A&M, for this battle is threatening to wipe out that symbol of honest poverty, the hitchhiker.

The enemy is formidable. Already the opening blasts have raged from his journalistic assault guns. The first one landed within the innocent appearing covers of a Sunday newspaper supplement. This week.

In an obviously well-intended, but uncharitable article a Donald Keyhoe painted the hitch-hikers of the nation as a band of potential thieves, robbers and murderers. Calling to the nation's drivers, Keyhoe said that only stupid drivers stop to pick up thumbers. He asked that people play safe and never pick up anyone.

Another blast aimed at the art of thumbing came from the army, which has produced some of the finest hitch-hikers in history. The culprit was none other than the provost marshal at Camp Hood. In an article reprinted in the Dallas News, the marshal appealed to the troops to give up their thumbing practices.

To back up his advice, the army

officer quoted the Texas state law which says that no person may solicit rides from the sides of the highways.

These are just two of the many volleys aimed at creating chaos on the campus. Imagine the confusion, more than that, imagine the disaster that would strike Aggie-land during football season if Texas' drivers suddenly stopped picking up Aggies.

And the confusion would not be confined to A&M, for already the legions of college thumbers are rising to the battlements with answers for Keyhoe's article. One counter-attack came from a group of 44 students at Pennsylvania State College. Writing to *This Week* magazine, they said:

"Of approximately ten thousand students at Penn State an estimated six thousand resort to hitch-hiking. Mr. Keyhoe has probably done more harm than any other person to make it difficult for a college student to get home to his friends and loved ones."

Such letters, however, are only delaying actions. To make our position clear, it will be necessary for the thumbers to prove that they are worthy of being "picked up."

And Aggies, as the deans of the hitch-hiking profession must take an active part in the campaign to build up our art of thumbing.

We've got to keep the people of Texas convinced that they can't go wrong in picking up an Aggie. And we've got to educate the other thumbers on the road that their

actions are a reflection on all of us.

But just for the sake of a mere ride is not the only reason that the A&M man of the road must arise. There is a heritage to protect, for, as you know, it was an Aggie who first raised the thumb of travel to begin the national sport.

It all happened in the early 1890's. An obscure mechanic has just wheeled a strange looking contraption out onto a street in a northern city. He fiddled with some controls and a motor sputtered to life.

Jumping onto the vehicle's seat, he grasped the steering rod and sped down the street at a breakneck speed of 7 miles an hour. He had gone only two blocks when a wandering traveler, halted in his journey to gaze upon the horseless carriage. As he looked at the man perched on the clattering machine he thought to himself, "Why should he ride and I walk?"

Thereupon, the traveler stepped to the curb and raised his thumb to the driver—a gesture familiar in the wayfarer's part of the country as a salute from one school buddy to another.

The mechanic, surprised at the man's action, stopped his contraption and invited the man to join him. Accepting, the traveler hoisted his body into the high seat and turned to the driver. Above the roar of the motor he stuck out his hand and yelled, "Ag O. Kneec is my name sir, I'm from Texas & Aggie College."

The driver grasped the student's hand and yelled in return, "Ford's a mine, glad to know you Ag O. Kneec. And so were born the modern automobile and the hitch-hiker. Stand by troops, the world is against us."

Letters

CORRECTION, PLEASE

Editor, The Battalion:

The Battalion of April 21 carried a notice referring to the Tau Beta Pi Association as a fraternity. It stated that "frat" rule books were available. I wish to call to your attention that the Tau Beta Pi Association is not a fraternity but is a national scholarship honor society. In no place in the Bylaws and Constitution of the Association is there any reference made to it as a fraternity.

The Texas A&M Chapter of the Association was established here with the approval and consent of the president and the board of directors of the college. Its aim is to reward in a fitting manner those who have conferred honor upon their Alma Mater by distinguished scholarship and exemplary character as undergraduates in engineering, or by attainments as alumni in the field of engineering, and to foster a spirit of liberal culture in the engineering colleges of America.

This information should be brought to the attention of the students at A&M College so that they may have correct information concerning the Society.

Very truly yours,
Howard R. Oliver, President
Texas Delta Chapter

(Editor's note: The use of the word "frat" in reference to the Tau Beta Pi Association was for expediency alone. In writing headlines for a story it is necessary to consider the size of type and the number of columns being used. When the headline is of small type and confined to one column then the shorter words used, the better the headline. It was for this reason that The Battalion erroneously used the word "frat.")

Plaintiffs Blame US In Texas City Suit

HOUSTON, April 26.—Attorneys for plaintiffs yesterday charged that the United States government manufactured the ammonium nitrate which was aboard the ill-fated SS Grandcamp and failed to warn students of the dangers of the mixture before the explosion which all but wiped out Texas City two years ago.

The charge was made as trial opened in Federal Judge T. M. Kennerly's court to determine whether or not the government is legally liable for the explosions and the damage that followed.

A total of \$200,000,000 in damage suits have been filed against the government in connection with damage done during and immediately following the explosion.

Trial opened after Judge Kennerly overruled a motion by assistant United States Attorney Joseph Cash that the trial be postponed for several weeks while additional facts are assembled by the government.

Thomas Fletcher, one of nine attorneys representing the 300-odd complainants in the suits, charged that the government was responsible for the manufacture of the ammonium nitrate on the ship and that the government officials "knew it was dangerous and failed to warn people in the area."

Clue to a Hit!

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