

# Battalion Editorials

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1949

## Let's Not Start Something We Can't Stop . . .

Yesterday morning the votes for senator-at-large from the military areas were counted. Votes for the first five men (five were to be chosen) ran from 2,049 for the first man to 1,760 for the fifth.

The sixth place man, however, got 87 votes. Votes for the other twenty-odd candidates ranged downward from that figure.

It requires very little study to see that the election was almost completely "fixed".

For the past three days it has been common knowledge about the campus that the corps-voters were to be "instructed". The only question was the degree to which the self-styled political bosses could force their fellow students into line. From the terrific drop in fifth-to-sixth place votes, it seems the drive was extremely successful.

To us, the most terrifying thing is the completeness of the fix. In almost every dictation in history there has been a substantial number of dissenters to help maintain a healthy balance. In the senate fix, however the dissenters were pitifully few.

There can't be that many foolish people in A&M. Most of that group must realize in the back of their minds that what they have done is destructive and self-damaging. But they ignored logical thinking and were swayed momentarily by fear or misplaced loyalty.

Let there be no mistake about it. They have not only done themselves personal harm, but damaged a part of A&M as well.

The Student Senate has been built up slowly and laboriously by many students and friends of the college. It is the only assurance A&M has ever had of a completely representative student government. As long as the Senate is kept on a representative basis, every faction on the campus will have its due voices in student affairs. If the balance is broken, and the sen-

ate jammed, A&M's student body, like so many other groups which have chosen minority rule, may be shortly dominated by an unpopular handful of people.

In stacking the Senate, the fixers have taken a narrow viewpoint. Thinking only of a few foolish privileges, they have ram-rodged people into the Senate who will vote their way on these minor issues. They fail to consider the thousand-and-one important issues which make for a better or worse A&M College and in which their "special representatives" may not be able enough or interested enough to contend with.

It is possible that the men chosen by the "block" group were the better men and would have been elected anyway. If they were, they would have been chosen by a democratic vote. If they aren't, they can do tremendous damage to the Student Senate. By following this packing precedent, vote-fixers could completely wreck what so many others have worked so hard to build up.

To be a success, the Student Senate must have, absolutely, the finest students on the campus. Their selection cannot be made by a few; they must be chosen by a democratic majority. If the students jammed into the Senate are the slightest bit below the highest standards, their inabilities will be magnified and reflected throughout the school, the conference, and the state.

The one great evil of a majority stacking a governing body is that tomorrow they may be completely in the minority. And today, on many issues, they will be the lesser group. When that happens they will come to appreciate what a truly representative governing body could have done for them.

Then and sadly enough, probably only then will these people fully realize the damage their precedent may have done to themselves and A&M College.

## Meyer, Mountaineers, and Mayhem . . .

The Southwest Conference has always been a rough one. The teams here play for keeps, and we would not want it any other way. Yet when a mild little fellow like Dutch Meyer from TCU files a protest against roughness in a game, the time has come for each school to stop and look at their tactics.

Meyer's protest against the Arkansas group brings to a head a number of objections in Southwestern football this season and during past ones. Only last year Aggie tackle Marion Setegast was the victim of a mauling at the hand of the Razorbacks. He suffered the loosening of quite a few teeth.

Though the complaint is against the University of Arkansas team, the entire conference seems to be obsessed with the idea that they must make a rough game of it, using elbows, legs, and illegal methods to insure their being called "outstanding" in the Sunday a.m. writeup.

During the heat of battle, retaliation is the only human thing to do when you

have been personally fouled, flung, or flipped. Even Dutch Meyer admitted that this recourse was taken by his Horned Frogs in their Saturday game.

We do not believe that many of the conference coaches will send their men on to the field with instructions to maul and maim; we do however, believe that a very few of the coaches would discourage their tooth-loosening tactics.

Besides the coaches, another group could do much to eliminate any unfair play in the games. The officials could, as Meyer has suggested, "throw a few players out of the game." This all may be the aftermath of the new blood flowing into the officiating, since a number of rough-and-readies from the old school of calling the penalties are not around this season.

Whatever the causes are, whatever the remedy may be, one fact remains. This roughness is not cricket. It is not even football.

## The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

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 \$4.30 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Member of The Associated Press

Represented nationally by National Advertising Service Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444) or at the editorial office, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5824) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209, Goodwin Hall.

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## A LIKELY CUSTOMER



## What's Cooking

AGGIE CHRISTIAN FELLOW-SHIP, Wednesday, 7:15 p. m., YMCA.

MEETING OF A&M AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7:30. Club room E.E. Bldg.

BAYTOWN A&M CLUB meets Wednesday, Oct. 5th at 7:30 p.m. 106 Academic Building. Election of officers.

BRAZORIA COUNTY CLUB, Thursday, October 6, 7:30 p. m., Room 224 Academic Building. Election of officers.

BILLIARDS CLUB, Wednesday, 7:30, Reading Room of YMCA. Organize new Club.

DISCUSSION AND DEBATE SOCIETY, Wednesday, 7:30, Room 326, Academic Building. Discussion of nationalization of industry.

EAST TEXAS CLUB, Thursday, October 6, 7:30 p. m. YMCA Reading Room.

EL CAMPO CLUB, Thursday, October 6, 7:30 p. m., Room 207 Academic Building. Election of officers.

FIVE-O-CLUB, Thursday, 8 p.m., YMCA Solarium.

HEART O' TEXAS CLUB, Wednesday, October 5, 7:30 p. m., ME Shop Lecture Room.

HILLEL CLUB, Wednesday, October 5, 7:15 p. m. Y M C A Cabinet Room. Election of officers and discussion of coming business.

LAREDO CLUB, Friday, October 7, 7:00 p.m., Room 123, Academic Building. Dance Plans. Over before game starts.

NTAC CLUB, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m., Room 10, CE Building, Organizational.

NAVARRO COUNTY CLUB, Thursday, October 6, 7:30 p. m., Room 228, Academic Building.

PETROLEUM WIVES' CLUB, Thursday, October 6, 7:30 p. m., YMCA.

## Official Notice

All students majoring in Animal Husbandry who have not worked out their Degree Plan are urged to attend a meeting in the Lecture Room of the Animal Industries Building at 7 p. m. Wednesday, October 5.

The purpose of the meeting is to acquaint you with the Degree Plan and its purpose, to discuss what should be done before making out the Degree Plan, and to answer questions concerning any phase of the Degree Plan.

You will find it definitely to your advantage to attend the meeting. Please be there.

R. R. Dana, Animal Husbandry Department

All students majoring in horticulture are required to register with the secretary of the Horticulture Department in Room 307, Agriculture Building not later than 5 p. m., October 14.

Guy W. Adrance, Head, Horticulture Department

SKYWAY DRIVE-IN THEATRE

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SECOND FEATURE

Features Start - 2:50 - 5:50 - 8:30

LAW OF THE BARBARY COAST

PLUS: CARTOON - NEWS

## From Where I Sit . . .

# 'Friendship, Friendship' Ours Will Still Be 'Hot'

BY HERMAN C. GOLLOB

This gregarious and convivial soul, who so fears and abhors solitude that he has rendered "How To Win Friends and..." to tatters from constant usage, is the despondent recipient of surprising news from John Chapman, drama reviewer for the New York News.

In the face of an avalanche of correspondence from aspiring drama critics seeking the "inside dope" on the reviewing racket, Chapman has condescended to conduct a question and answer series in print for their edification—and amusement.

It is Chapman's latest lesson, entitled "How To Become a Drama Critic . . . and Friendless," that has moved us to such poignant fits of self-sorrow and despair. Our future is bleak, gentle readers. Listen.

To the question, "Can I lose many friends . . . by writing nasty things?" the cynical Mr. Chapman bluntly replies, "That helps, but writing nice things is quicker."

Impossible! we bellowed in wild disbelief. Surely all those glossy phrases of commendation which we had been attaching to the latest movie weren't engendering ill will! All the same, we continued reading Chapman's words of wisdom.

"The more you praise an actor, the more he despises you," he warns. "This goes for other theatre people, too."

## Navarro County Votes Cooper to Presidency

L. T. Cooper was elected president of the Navarro County A&M Club Thursday night. Other club officers elected were Albert Frey, vice-president; Eugene Ewing, secretary; and Al Westbrook, social chairman.

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MORRIS - PAIGE - BENNETT

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"Say you praise a director. This makes two people sore right off the bat: the director and the playwright."

"The director says, 'What does the book know about directing?' And the playwright, I know authors whose plays have run a solid year and who maintain the director ruined the script."

"If you praise an author, it burns the director and the producer. The director says the script was a shambles and only a miracle (himself) pulled it together. The producer says that if that damned author hadn't been underfoot all the time, making silly complaints, he'd have a better show for less money."

"And readers. They will write in and say, 'You have been my favorite for years, but your notice this morning is so stupid that I have lost my faith in you and will never read your drivel again.'"

A pestilence upon you, John Chapman! Until we received your pessimistic yet realistic outlook on the reviewing situation, we had been complacently bestowing ardent pats on the back to everything we saw on local screens, naively believing that we were incurring unshakable friendships by so doing. We had faith in the "you scratch my back" doctrine John.

But now we learn that on pain of a life pathetically void of friends, man or beast, our column must serve as a receptacle for only the most passionate invective against amusements in any shape, size, or form.

Our only wish, John, is that some day you should write, direct, and star in a film or a play which reaches our humble community.

We shall then win your tenuous friendship by putting into practical application your sage theory.

PALACE Bryan 2-8879

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