

Battalion Editorials

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1949

The High Freshman Scholastic Mortality Rate . . .

In spite of all their wrangling and inactivity over long spells, the last session of the Texas legislature achieved two outstanding services for the cause of better education in this state.

The Gilmer Aiken bill has given the teaching profession in our primary and secondary schools the incentive that it has long needed—dollars. Reports from teacher's colleges indicate that the bill has made the teaching profession attractive for many men and women who would not have, otherwise pursued it. Within a few years, the Texas teachers shortage is expected to be whipped.

Rating second, but of a more local interest to A&M, was the legislature's appropriation of roughly a quarter million dollars for the A&M Adjunct at Junction. The purpose of the adjunct—really a summer camp college—will be to give tests to freshmen entering A&M in the fall, and to provide summer preparatory courses for those who want to enter college but haven't the academic foundation.

A&M is famous for its freshman mortality rate. We feel that for every freshman who leaves A&M because he doesn't like the way he is treated, there are five or ten who drop out because of scholastic difficulties. Either the freshman who drops out couldn't pass his work because

he didn't know how to study, or because his high school foundation was too shaky for an A&M education.

The Junction school will help cut down the number who "flunk out" because these men will have a taste of what will be required of them when the full length semester begins. Perhaps of even greater service, however, the Junction school will enable entering freshmen to study six hours of college work that may mean the difference between scholastic success or failure at A&M.

These six hours could be in math, or English, or chemistry. They will carry college credit, enabling a freshman to enter A&M in the fall semester with a six hour handicap.

Many upper classmen will use the Junction facilities as bases for several summer field courses.

Actually the Junction project is an experiment. The College is attempting to reduce the number of freshmen who leave A&M for scholastic reasons.

Asking a man armed only with a stick to fight a lion is inhumane. Armed with a more potent weapon he has a much greater opportunity for success in his encounter. The Junction school will become that more potent weapon.

Sea Dog, Army Mule, and an Airplane . . .

Army and Air Force heavy A&M must be getting a lot of pleasure over the wailings of the Navy before a Congressional committee. Like gladiators who have been fighting among themselves, the Army and Air Force seem pleased to watch the pathetic death cries of their bell bottom trousered adversary, the Navy. Whether these cries are real or artificial, no one quite seems to know.

We have no Navy units near College and no Navy ROTC units on the campus, so we cannot observe first hand the claimed deterioration of moral that allegedly exists among the seafarers. Not even a peep of discontent has been heard from that great Naval ROTC bastion to our west, the University of Texas.

Underneath all the Navy's claims, we feel that much personal selfishness is involved in the squabble. Powerful admirals, who carry a lot of water in Washington, don't want to become subordinate to

"land locked strategists" from the Army and Air Force. Power once gained is seldom willingly relinquished.

Probably horse-conscious artillerymen thought the artillery was "going to the dogs" when horseless prime movers started moving cannons.

Our military strategists must regard the fearful consequences of a future war that may be fought with guided missiles and atom bombs. Such a war would reduce considerably the activity of the Navy. The role of the Navy is still great, but it does not stand now in the position of strategic prominence that it did a generation ago.

If asked what would be the most desirable defense set-up, Navy admirals would probably answer, "Put all men on ships and all planes on carriers. This would make the defense establishment the best of all possible defense establishments."

Legislation No More Than Farmer Deserves . . .

The farm products of this nation are basic to its economic and physical survival. In farming there is far greater risk taken by the farmer than most other forms of business enterprise. Rain, hail, droughts, dust, insects, and a lengthy list of other conditions can ruin a year's crop overnight. Before this era of farm legislation, the farmer was at the mercy of the elements, insects, and even those who bought his crops.

The farmer, and the nation remembers the dark days of the depression when

cotton was a nickle a pound, and a bale of cotton brought 25 dollars. When the farmer is prosperous, the nation is prosperous. Industry produces goods for farm consumption as well as other consumers goods.

Jealously the farmer is hanging onto his present favorable position and he is gaining further legislation that will give more worth to the products of his land and labors. Those who would bring the farmer again to his knees, would also bring this country into depression and chaos.

The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

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"Can you have it ready by the TCU corps trip?"

Letters To The Editor

All letters to the editor which are signed by a student or employee of the college and which do not contain obscene or libelous material will be published. Persons wishing to have their names withheld from publication may request such action and their names will not, without the consent of the writer, be divulged to any persons other than the editors.

Editor The Battalion:

In today's issue of The Battalion I found a letter which exhibited what I believe is the maximum in lack of spirit. An Aggie could not have written anything like this.

He said that he and other veterans did not like to stand up during the football games like other "more eager" students did. Although he was not "eager" enough to stand during the game, he thought he deserved to sit in better seats than the Corps. (The corps, and other Aggies, still have enough spirit to stand during the game.)

If Mr. Twopence (he was careful to withhold his real name) wants in the west stands, he can buy a regular ticket. He may listen to his radio also. Better still, he could get the rest of those sharing his ideas and transfer to Texas University where he can be among his own kind.

Disgustedly yours,
Merton Skaggs, '50
Bobby Carlson, '50
Jimmy Hester, '50
Clifford A. Taylor, '49
C. B. Jefferies, '49

Editor The Battalion:

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the privilege and honor of attending the Texas State Beekeepers Association meeting held on your campus. As a native Texan, I feel that the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas contributes a definite service to our country by reason of the wide scope of its informative and educational training program. As a visitor to A&M while attending the Texas State Beekeepers

Association meeting, I received many helpful and constructive ideas. As an enthusiast of bee culture, I trust that I may have the opportunity of attending all future meetings in connection with this field.

Of particular significance was the friendliness of the A&M students. No matter where I went or whom I met, there was always a word of greeting and a cordial handshake. Equally impressive were the religious teachings as evidenced by the prayers at the table in Duncan Mess Hall.

Our whole nation can point with justifiable pride to this fine institution of learning. Thanks to a splendid faculty and a wholesome student body—a tribute to our American way of life.

Respectfully,
Dave Tom Ozzane
Dallas, Texas

Editor The Battalion:

In Wednesday's Batt there appeared a picture of four luscious babes lying on what you called a pile of cotton seed. If you had taken the trouble to notice the lettering on the girls' suits, you would have seen that it read: Perryton, Texas. Now, Perryton is in the north Panhandle and who ever heard of growing cotton in the northern Panhandle.

Perryton is the county seat of Ochiltree county, the leading wheat and seed wheat producing county of Texas.
C. B. Thomas
E. F. A.

P. S. The one on the left is already married, Tough luck, Ole Army.

(Editor's Note: Our outline editor in charge of cottonseed, wheat and seed wheat dearly regrets his ghostly error in calling the wheat cottonseed. After being buried in wheat up to his ankles, head-first, that is, for several hours, he finally promised never to let it happen again.)

Pope Sees Douglasses

Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Oct. 11 (AP)—Pope Pius XII received Ambassador Lewis W. Douglass, Mrs. Douglass and their daughter, Sherman, in private audience yesterday.

MAKE PARTY PLANS NOW

To Attend The **SKYWAY DRIVE-IN THEATRE**

FRIDAY - 10:30 P. M. OCTOBER 21

And see the Hubba Hubba Girl so many of you know . . .

Boyle's Column . . .

'This Man's World' Now 'This Woman's World'

BY HAL BOYLE

New York, (AP)—This has been called the century of the common man.

It could be termed with more truth the century of the common woman, except that you'd better be smiling with all 32 teeth, partner, when you say that. For no lady, no matter how shrilly she presses her campaign for equal rights, wants that word common applied to her sex—and to her that seems only like commonsense.

Perhaps we could better call this "the century of the Miss and the Mrs. instead of the Mr." The latest victory of the powder-puff battalions is the decision of the Harvard law school to admit women to its classes. For 132 years only men honed up on Blackstone in this sanctuary by the Charles. Its breaching now by female bluestockings comes as a sour surprise, instead, to many old-timers.

"Aren't there already enough women laying down the law to men?" They cry.

The truth is the average man today is just a dazed victim of one feminine equal right campaign. He is living in a shakedown period in the new war between the sexes. For many women scream for more rights with one breath, and clamor for their ancient privileges with the next.

They insist they no longer have to ride a horse or a barstool saddle, but they eye-dagger a forgetful male in an elevator because he won't drop his packages and take off his hat in their honor. In the saloons they call for the television program they want, but it's the gent with them who picks up the tab when the martinis are all in.

Of course, they all aren't like this. Some girls still only want to boss in the house. Others just demand an equal chance at the office. But many, many modern females play both ends against the middle. They want to act like men and be treated like women.

Naturally, the ordinary man thinks this is a little unfair of the fairer sex, he'd like either to deal with a lady as a lady, or have the present code of ethics and etiquette modified to allow him to belt a presumptuous female with a baseball bat if she gets out of line. Right now he's confused. Should he take off his hat before or after hitting her?

Women say this is still a man's world. But where?

"The only man's world left is in Saturday."

Corps, Band Complimented

The following letter was received yesterday by Colonel H. E. Boatner, PMS&T and Commandant, from Lieut. Gen. Troy H. Middleton, USA, Retired, who is serving as Comptroller at LSU:

"My sincere congratulations on the excellent appearance and splendid conduct of the Texas A&M Cadets who visited the campus on Saturday.

"As for your band it was superb. It is not often one sees a military band comparable to your cadet organization. Your football team, though defeated, made a lot of friends."

Lieutenant General Middleton is a retired regular army officer and formerly PMS&T, Commandant, and Dean of Men at LSU. Colonel Boatner said, and he later assumed his present position as comptroller. General Middleton has never been lavish in his praise. Colonel Boatner said, and he considered the statement as a high compliment to the corps and school.

Gold Still Sought In California Hills

San Francisco, (AP)—They're still looking for more gold in California's hills. The October bulletin of the State Division of Mines reports activities at a number of mines and placer locations in Modoc and Amador counties.