

# Battalion Editorials

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1949

## The Midnight Yell Practice Controversy . . .

The circumstances surrounding the cancellation of the midnight yell practice in Houston next Friday night have been questioned by many people. Rumors that the letter was a "plant" have cropped up, and several people we know of have publicly condemned the meeting held Wednesday afternoon in the Dean of Students office.

The Battalion was represented at that meeting, and we feel that we are in possession of enough facts to explain the background of the yell practice controversy.

First, the midnight yell practice was cancelled at the request of George Smith, past president of the Former Students Association and presently serving as chairman of the Houston A&M Club's corps trip committee. Smith made the request in a letter to Dean Penberthy which we read and which was exhibited to the students called together in the dean's office Wednesday.

In addition to the letter, Smith phoned Dean Penberthy and indicated that Houston city officials would not grant a permit to hold any night-time yell practices.

The letter, reinforced by the phone call, left no alternative. Midnight yell practice was out of the question. The reason behind this cancellation was stated by Smith. "It is believed that such a meeting would only serve to arouse possible acts of violence by persons not connected with either institution (Rice or A&M)."

Dean Penberthy stated that he had called together what he hoped was a representative

group of students and college officials to decide whether or not the students wished to have a yell practice Saturday morning since one could not be held Friday night.

The group consulted by Penberthy included the colonel of the corps, the regimental commanders, members of both the student senate and the Student Life Committee, the athletic director, the senior yell leaders, and several other representative students and officials.

This group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of midnight yell practice, and instances where fights had occurred at the Fort Worth midnight yell practice were talked over. It was brought out that several cadets had to be taken to medical aid after being attacked by street gangs. These attacks occurred in spite of police protection.

A vote was taken at this meeting and, with only one dissenting voice, the men present expressed the opinion that the student body would prefer a Saturday morning yell practice rather than no yell practice at all.

This expression of opinion does not mean that there will be no more midnight yell practices. It means only that there will be a yell practice in Houston Saturday morning immediately after the parade.

We believe that the expression of opinion given by the men present at Wednesday's meeting reflected the opinion which would have been given by the student body had they been faced with the same question—"Do you want yell practice Saturday morning or not at all?"

## What, No Fire, Book-Banners? . . .

Houston, the largest city in the largest state, is confronted with a problem. Or at least Houston's school board, school teachers, and school students are.

Ruling against teaching from a civics text in Houston's high schools, the school board now must either continue using the book for the remainder of the year, or not use any. State textbook laws require a book which is chosen by the school district to be used until the text goes out of adoption.

"American Government," by Frank Abbot Magruder, is the text in question. In the 1945 edition, Magruder has a footnote calling certain practices in the United States Socialistic and Communistic. He does not capitalize the terms, however, inferring that he is speaking of the economic theories, not the corrupt practices.

There are many things in the United States which are not absolutely what we define as democratic. Perhaps they reflect Socialism, Communism, or even Fascism. They have been operating under the present conditions for years, and have yet to be removed from our scene. There is very little in the world today which can be defined as pure democracy.

The school board based its decision to ban the book on one paragraph. Civics classes had already passed the paragraph and the chapter in question. We have not seen a huge red flag waving from the top of the Gulf Building yet.

The member of the board who first brought up the proposal of banning the text consistently refers to the Houston schools' boys and girls as "children." Now, Mr. Werlein, most of your civics students are high school seniors, with some juniors and sophomores. They are preparing to enter college next fall, or to go out into the world, competing with society. Certainly when they enter colleges they will find many more suggestive books than the one just outlawed.

Some of the most Communistic and Socialistic books, printed and being read in the higher educational institutions. Yet they are being studied to enlighten the student on the various types of governmental control, and not to recruit him into the ranks of radical systems.

Things such as this schoolbook incident happen daily over the world; the people whom we give credit for having the most intelligence often perform the most asinine acts.

PAUL ELLIS' United Press story came out this way in the Columbus (O.) Citizen: "A Study by three physicians

showed today that perhaps two out of three births in the United States result from pregnancies."

## 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 (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209, Goodwin Hall.

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## Letters

(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 these names will not, without the consent of the writer, be divulged to any persons other than the editors.)

Editor, The Battalion: Please refer this to the committee that is in charge of the seating at Kyle Field.

Thanks a million for the good seats you gave the juniors at the Baylor game last Saturday. Since when do sophomores get to sit from the 20 to 40 yard line and the juniors get the choice seats between the 20 to the rear of the end zone?

Sincerely hoping it is better in the future.

- A. J. Dennis '51
- Sid Goodloe '51
- Dub Anderson '51
- F. E. Neill '51
- Kenneth Schaake '51
- W. D. Barnes '51
- R. C. Miller '49
- Hugh Morris '51
- J. H. Edwards '51
- Tom Ball '50
- Bob Naylor '49
- Jim Connevey '51
- Dick Graves '51
- Rip Stults '51
- Patt Patterson '51
- Russ Hagens '51
- Ralph Gorman '51
- Jerry Lambert '51
- Bo Damuth '51
- Don Pittman '50
- David Britt '51
- Donald Lee '51
- Charles Pence '51
- Howard Shelton '51
- Bill Noll '51
- Jack Sanders '49
- Tom Turner '50
- Bill Neal '51
- Jim S. Williams '51
- Roy Reed '51
- Richard Van Court '51
- John L. Fuller '51
- Boogie Hanfield '51
- Jake Leissner '50
- Dago Davis '51
- B. W. Budde '50
- D. J. Wichmann '51

## Veterinarian Soon Released

The Southwestern Veterinarian, sponsored by the A&M Junior Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association, will be published Nov. 1, according to editor Hugh Wallace.

The feature articles in the magazines will be "Veterinary Jurisprudence" by Arthur Stewart, associate professor in the Business Department, and "Hospital Management" by Dr. N. B. Tennille, Head of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at Oklahoma A&M. Both of these articles were talked delivered at the Veterinary Conference in June, 1949.

Other articles that will appear in the magazine are "Rabies Control in Corpus Christi" by Paul Brandes, senior veterinary student here. "New treatment of Bloat in Ruminants," reprint from the Journal of Veterinary Medicine, and "Separative Inflammation or Phlegmon" by Dr. E. R. Frank of Kansas State College.

## Billiard King Demonstrates Trick Shots

A nine cushion shot, a ball in every pocket, jumping a dime into a shot glass, jumping a cue ball into a hat held by a spectator—and many other trick shots were in the billiard exhibition staged in the YMCA chapel Monday night by Charlie Peterson, world's champion fancy shot artist.

Approximately 200 amateur enthusiasts saw the performance. Peterson has been touring the various colleges and universities since 1931 in an attempt to stimulate interest in billiards, which he calls the "greatest game of all."

At 79, Peterson does not acknowledge old age; he continues to speak of such dates as 1894, when he played Cutler for the world's balking championship, or he may mention he knew Hoppe as a boy.

Peterson first explained the fundamentals of billiards and the three basic shots. After finishing his presentation he remained for over an hour giving instructions and answering questions about the game.

Jimmy Flowers, president of the newly formed club, has asked that all students interested in participating in tournament play, enter the elimination tournament to be started soon.

By intracollegiate play of this type, the club will choose the eight men who will compose the team to enter the intercollegiate tournament next spring. All those who enter the elimination matches will automatically become members of the club, Flowers added.

At the last meeting of the club, J. C. Girouard was elected secretary and Ralph Gorman was named vice-president to assist Flowers.

**SKYWAY DRIVE-IN THEATRE**

LAST DAY  
Judy Garland  
Van Johnson

"In the Good Ole Summertime"

SATURDAY ONLY  
"Merton of the Movies"

—and—  
"Allegheny Uprising"

From Where I Sit . . .

## Ives Wins Audience With His Skill And Showmanship

By HERMAN C. GOLLOB

A capacity Town Hall audience had the time of their lives last night at Guion Hall as Burl Ives unraveled a program of folk songs and ballads with his inimitable warm and vigorous style which has made balladeering a true art.

Attired in a neat brown sport jacket and contrasting tan slacks, his hair sparse on top but curled up in thick waves on the back of his neck, Ives looked like a sophisticated fur-trapper. We caught ourselves from time to time envying him clad in a buckskin jacket and coonskin cap, flintlock rifle cradled in his arms, and a soggy lump of "chawin'" tobacco cached in one side of his mouth.

The very moment he strolled on stage, the incarnation of sedate and plump jollity with his twinkling blue eyes, Mopple-closed brows, wily, bushy grin, and impressive punch, the Way-

faring Stranger made himself—and his audience—right at home.

For he is a master showman. The prim atmosphere that as a rule hangs heavy over the ordinary concert gave way to a genial informality when the affable, easy-going Burl took command. In quiet and measured tones, one or both hands thrust into his coat pockets, Burl gave each of his songs an unpretentious introduction and talked to his audience as if he were chatting with a friend over a cup of coffee.

Nothing flustered the jovial balladeer. A momentary loss of memory, sporadic popping of flash-bulb cameras, an out-of-tune string stentorian requests for practically his entire repertoire—none robbed Ives of his gracious presence of manner.

The easy nonchalance which marked his grit-box strumming and the delivery of his soft, high, mellow voice belied the keen sense of drama and intricate mastery of technique which are so abundantly his.

To overplay the dramatic effect and technical adroitness would have been to forsake the people whose songs he sang and whom he so generously epitomizes—the rustic, with simple passions and child-like naivete.

So casually, with an occasional soft chuckle and wistful gleam or impish roll of the eye, he wrung the humor and pathos, the sadness and the joy from each of his tunes, achieving earthy warmth through a com-

ing simplicity.

Burl was at his litting, haunting best in "The Boll-Weevil," "When I Was Single," "Midnight Special," "Cowboy's Lament," "Golden Vanity," "Mr. Froggie," and "Riddle Song." Especially did he do proud by "The Cowboy's Lament," which he presented with unusual poignancy and feel for dramatic high points.

In response to the unbounded enthusiasm which greeted him at the conclusion of his program, Ives returned to the footlights and obliged his enthusiastic audience with "The Blue-Tail Fly," "The Foggy Foggy Dew," "Big Rock Candy Mountain," and "Frankie and Johnny." Even then the omnivorous beast that is an audience was not sated, and departed only reluctantly so.

A happy and successful occasion it was, this inaugural performance of this year's Town Hall season. Yet every ailment must have its fly, and every concert has its stragglers who filter in after the entertainment is well under way. Their parade down the aisle along with their tortuous journey across the rows to their seats creates a minor furor or distraction to those who find it not impossible to be, in their seats by certain time, and disturb to the artist on stage as well.

This department feels, that the Town Hall staff should adopt a policy whereby the doors will henceforth be closed at eight sharp, making it impossible for latecomers to mar future attractions.

## Vets Pay Same Premium Rate

Washington, Oct. 28 — (AP)—War veterans holding National Service Life Insurance Policies may expect to go right on paying premiums at the same old rate, big dividends or no dividends.

In answer to query, Harold W. Briening, VA administrator for insurance, said there is "no likelihood at all" of a change in premium rate.

Many veterans have suggested that since the forthcoming \$2,800,000,000 (B) dividend on GI policies is the result of a surplus in the insurance fund, a reduction in premium might be expected.

"Any change in premium would have to be established by law," Briening told a reporter.

"Furthermore, each insurance contract could be changed only by mutual agreement.

"There is no likelihood of a change."

## Uncle Sam to Dig In Vets Insurance

Washington, Oct. 28 (AP)—The Veterans Administration said today it may dip into the forthcoming ex-GI life insurance dividend to collect up to \$30,000,000 that veterans owe the government.

"Somewhere between \$20,000,000 and \$30,000,000 of such debts may be collected from National Service Life Insurance dividends," it said in a news release.

"All of the individuals concerned are aware of their indebtedness to the government and know that it is deductible from other VA payments to which they may be entitled."

The agency said around 600,000 veterans owe it about \$70,000,000. The individual dividend payments will be sufficient to wipe out less than half of the total.

## Guion Hall

LAST DAY  
"Comedy Carnival"

First Run  
SATURDAY ONLY  
Jeanne CRAIN - Dan DAILEY  
YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME

PREVIEW SATURDAY  
Sunday & Monday

UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL presents  
Zane Greys  
RED CANYON  
color by Technicolor

Ann Howard  
BLYTH DUFF  
George BRENT

with EDGAR BUCHANAN JANE DARWELL  
Produced by GEORGE SHENBERG - Directed by LEONARD ROSSITER

SATURDAY PREVIEW  
VAN JOHNSON  
GLORIA BELANGER - MARLENE DIXIE  
TOM DRAKE  
"Scene of the Crime"

with JOHN IRELAND  
BONNIE PERRY  
PERRY KILBRIDE  
Plus Cartoon

## A&M Student Is Air Performer

An A&M student was one of the featured performers at the air show Sunday afternoon at Timberlake Airport.

Bill Bowen, senior mechanical engineering major from Paris, gave an exhibition of aerobatics which included loops, slow rolls, snap rolls, spins, and clover leaf, a series of loops which form a design resembling a four-leaf clover.

Bill is a former Air Force pilot and has remained active in flying since returning to A&M. He has taken part in several local air shows, and is a licensed flight instructor. He works as a crop dusting pilot during the summer.

Other attractions of the show included a crop dusting demonstration and aerobatics by Ed Bowles, and Jack MacBride stunting a conventional light plane. Guy Davis thrilled the spectators during his impersonation of a rather thick-skulled student on his first solo flight. A bomb dropping contest was held with local and visiting planes competing, in which small sacks of flour were used as bombs. Near misses on both the target and the spectators were recorded.

## Range, Foresters To Have Barbecue

The Range and Forestry Club will have a party and barbecue November 4 at the American Legion Hall, Leland Kiker, club reporter, said today.

The party had originally been planned for October 28, Kiker said, but it was necessary to change the date so that more of the members could attend.

A charge of \$1 per person will be assessed, Kiker continued. The party, which will begin at 5:30 p. m., will be open to all members, their wives, and guests, Kiker concluded.

## Campus

TODAY & SATURDAY  
—Features Start—  
1:00 - 3:00 - 5:00 7:00 - 9:10

THE LIVING TIGERS  
JOHN WAYNE CARROLL LEE

Plus  
RICE - TEXAS  
Football Game

News & Bugs Bunny Cartoon

PREVIEW TONIGHT 11 P. M.  
Feature Starts 11:25  
SUNDAY thru TUESDAY

COMING!!  
JUNE HAVER  
MARK STEVENS  
OH, YOU BEAUTIFUL DOLL

Plus Cartoon

PREVIEW SAT. 11 P. M.

Half Heel... Half Hero  
Glen FORD  
Evelyn KEYES  
MR. SOFT TOUCH

Plus Cartoon