

Battalion Editorials

Page 2

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1949

And With Open Arms We'll Greet Them . . .

Thousands of football fans will begin their trek toward Aggieland today and tomorrow morning. Those who arrive today and tonight will witness the burning of our bonfire, always a thrilling sight to visitors.

Tomorrow they will witness an even more thrilling sight, the annual clash between A&M and the University of Texas on the gridiron of Kyle Field. In the stands for this game will be our parents, our friends, the Texas supporters, our former students, and other guests. When they start on their many ways homeward, we would like for each of them to have as pleasant memories of Aggieland as possible.

The Turkey Day game is annually the acid test of Aggie friendship and courtesy. On this day A&M—especially while at

home—is probably in the spotlight of the state more so than any other day of the year.

Even with such a heated rivalry as that with T. U., we cannot forget our duty to uphold A&M's reputation of one of the friendliest campuses in the nation. Many other schools in this area are now seeing the light; our position in sportsmanship and courtesy is being fired upon by the enemy.

We feel that no air of false, insincere cooperativeness will be exhibited by our students. We feel that it will be something which originates much deeper than a skin-deep smile.

By joining together to make this one of the biggest Thanksgiving holidays A&M has ever seen, we will all be able to point with pride to our school as we are home this weekend.

It's a Great Life if You Don't Weaken . . .

It's great to be an editor of a student publication. As such, we are in an almost unique position on the campus. It is our responsibility to publish news and, to the best of our ability, to comment on the news which has the most affect on the student body and the college.

We knew before we started that we could never please everyone; our views and comments will never be acceptable to 100 per cent of our readers. And, on an important issue, it isn't long after our comments appear that we can pretty well judge what per cent of our readers are in agreement with us.

Recently, on several issues, the majority of our readers have not been in agreement with our views. Naturally, we hear mostly from those who disagree with our stand, but occasionally we also hear from those who think as we do.

But all this disagreement, and agreement, has one special reward. That is when a man walks up and says, "I like you personally, but I damn well don't like what you write." It might not seem like much of a commendation, but to know that a person respects your right to comment, as you see fit is ample enough reward for all the slams you expect, perhaps deserve, and always get.

Monday we printed an editorial in which we expressed our regret that several students had probably put an end to our chances of winning the Southwest Conference Sportsmanship Trophy. We still regret that our chances of winning that trophy are considerably slimmer today than they were several days ago. We believe, and think we are not alone in our belief, that when A&M wins that trophy we show not to one school but to all schools and to all the state, that we at A&M can more than hold our own when it comes to friendly dealings with other students.

In our editorial we had no intention of "crucifying" the men who went to Austin. We do not believe that our editorial had that connotation. The actions of those students have a parallel in practically every college in the country. This does not make their actions right, but it should serve as an extenuating circumstance in their case, and we believe that any action taken against these two students should be in consideration of this.

When we said Monday that burning another school's bonfire "serves only to indicate to the opposition that you can't meet them on an even basis, but have to stoop to underhanded tactics . . ." that was, and still is, our belief. You may disagree.

agree. That is your privilege for we, too, can say, "I like you personally, but I damn well don't like what you write." We provide a place for you to disagree with us in our "Letters to the Editor" column and, as you can see, several people have disagreed with us today. Staff members worked until past 2 a.m. today to be sure these letters would be in today's paper. This column, incidentally, is the best read of the paper.

This newspaper, as with every newspaper, must, of necessity, represent the opinions of those who edit it. There is no possible way for any group to run The Battalion. It just wouldn't work.

And, so long as any newspaper has editors, the material that is printed in that paper will represent their views. You may not agree with our views, but we attempt to do what is right. On every editorial we try to get all the available facts. To do this, we have at our disposal many sources of information not readily reached by other students. We try to get both sides of every story. We try to weigh all our facts before writing.

We followed this procedure in forming our opinion that we do not believe it is right to burn the bonfire of another school.

This belief is based on several convictions. First: It doesn't appear to us to be an above-board operation. Second: Can you visualize the consequences if students from another school tried to burn our bonfire? Even if they didn't succeed—and they are just as smart as we are—it is very possible that in the confusion that would result from such an action, somebody could be seriously and perhaps fatally hurt. Third: The inevitable tension which will result from our burning of another school's bonfire creates an atmosphere in which it would be very easy for students to lose their heads and start fights. These incidents make fine meat for state consumption and A&M cannot help but come out on the short end of the stick. Fourth: As coaches have frequently pointed out, there is nothing better for the opposing coach to fire up his team with than a description of how the opposition burned the team's bonfire.

Those are our views. We state them here for you to read. We hope you will consider them in mapping your own future plans. If you disagree with us, that is your right, just as much as it is our duty to comment as we see fit.

We add for emphasis, "Beat the hell outa TU," but let's keep the battle on Kyle Field.

AN OLD AMERICAN CUSTOM



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

DISAGREEMENT NUMBER ONE Editor, The Battalion:

In regard to your article concerning the burning of the TU bonfire, it is our belief that the editors are speaking for a small percentage of the students. We feel that these sophomores did much toward reviving the old A&M and its traditions.

It is a sorry state of affairs when members of our own student body reprimand Aggies for a job well done. If the co-editors are so worried about the welfare of the Teasippers' bonfire, perhaps they could transfer to the forty acres and help guard the bonfire themselves.

We know that true Aggies here at A&M have and always will stand behind men such as these sophomores who at least have enough fire to carry on the spirit which has made A&M famous.

- L. A. Bates '50
- R. W. Borshall '50
- G. L. Shafer '50
- Don Kutch '50
- C. E. Bucek '50
- Y. R. Doiron '50
- B. E. Bunow '50
- Leo Plur '50
- Bill McMillin '50
- Bryan N. Dooley '50
- Sherrell Whyte '50
- Jim Bennett '50
- R. S. Schuller Jr. '50

DISAGREEMENT NUMBER TWO Editor, The Battalion:

I've read your editorial of Nov. 22 and don't agree with your views. I think you are too harsh on the sophomores that had enough spirit to go to Austin to burn the bonfire.

These two Aggies who went down and suffered the burns will no doubt say it was worth it. I can't see why The Batt must criticize them unless it is for political reasons. If I or an other Aggie had been there I wouldn't doubt a second as to whether we would do the same.

I am a senior in the Corps and interested in seeing A&M win that Sportsmanship Trophy. But, if winning it means cutting out good bull and spirit like these sophs had I say to heck with it. We guard our bonfire, let TU guard theirs or suffer the consequences.

These two Aggies worked on our bonfire then went to Austin to give those Teasippers a fit. I think they did OK and, if they must be criticized do it for not burning more.

I figure this should be played up around the state. I'll tell all my friends about it, proudly. It will show that we still have some good spirit down here as we always have had. I've yet to find an Aggie who didn't think it was good bull.

The editors can say what they please. I say, let's beat hell outa TU and burn their bonfire, too.

Donald P. McClure '50

DISAGREEMENT NUMBER THREE Editor, The Battalion:

Your editorial, "Support, Both Positive and Negative", is very arousing. It made me mad as hell! You talk of goodwill, respect, et al, but I doubt very seriously if you were in Austin for the Fish

Official Notice

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
November 5, 1949
NOTICE—ID CARDS—With all students in all schools having ID Cards numbered below please phone or call at the Dean of Engineering Office (phone 4-5744 or 4-8344) at 210 Petroleum Building and give the name corresponding to their card number. A new list will be published each day.
H. W. BARLOW,
Dean of Engineering

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TU Amusements Editor Piqued by Commentator

By HERBERT GLOBE

Epicurean, Gourmet, and Infatigable Appraiser of TU Diversion (The following is reprinted from an article appearing in yesterday's Daily Texan.)

O that this too too ethereal and cultured mind, steeped in the philosophy of Kinsey, the lyric majesty of Service, and the artistic grace of Parth, had never been exposed to the libelous and blasphemous assortment of satiric calumny printed in the new issue of the Commentator, Texas A&M's ineradicable stigma upon the journalistic profession.

Our beloved and sacred traditions, our unquenchable and passionate school spirit, our democratic society—all suffer at the undermining and ridiculing hands of those unscrupulous fellow journalists from the Brazos Bottom, the Commentator staff. With the exception of three articles, the entire magazine is a vile parody upon our manners and morals. To George Dillavou, Otto Frischmuth, and Floyd Humphries goes a TU herculean handshake for their refusal to besmirch its impeccable name.

Dillavou, an Aggie English prof whose bitter task it is to verse sharecroppers in their ABC's, authors "No Risk," a suspense story minus the suspense. Cartoonist Frischmuth, an intrepid lad, dares to mock his fellow farmers in a chaffing burlesque of the business major, a laggard in any man's college. And photographer Humphries contributes photographs of two comely maidens who were no doubt lured to the A&M wilds with promises of the sun, moon, and stars.

But for co-editors Mack Nolen and Frank Welch, Feature Editor W. K. Colville, writers George Charlton and John Fuller, and cartoonist Emmet Trant, the use of the poisoned pen has been disastrous. There now lies on the infamous head of each a fabulous price; photographs of the knavish scribblers have been distributed to all frats and sororities, who have been requested to keep on the constant alert.

Not only have Nolen and Welch been so brazen as to pass off a bovine monstrosity plagued with (See REVIEW, Page 3)



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