

Battalion Editorials

Page 2 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1949

A Letter to Our Letter Writers . . .

Our "Letters to the Editor" column is the best read section of this newspaper. All the readers with whom we have talked have said that it is the first thing they read in each day's paper.

This is a good sign. It means that people are interested in both sides of every question, and that they expect to find both sides in this paper. When our editorial stand on any subject does not meet with general approval, the people who disagree with us use the letters column to express their opinions. We are glad they feel free to write us when they disagree, for only in that way can we, and our other readers, get all the many viewpoints on every campus topic.

We have always respected a person's right to say what he wished in our letters column. When the letter writers requested their names withheld, we have always respected those requests.

But, while adhering to this policy, we also believe that a person should be responsible for what he writes. We who work for The Battalion are personally responsible for everything that is printed in the paper. When we make mistakes, as all of us do, we expect to answer for them. When we take a stand on any topic, we expect and get criticism.

By the same token, we believe that persons who wish to comment in the letters column should expect to be responsible for what they write just as we are. We realize that an occasion might arise when it would be expedient to withhold a letter writer's name, and it is for that reason that we have agreed to keep con-

fidential the name of any letter writer who requests such action.

But there are some people who take advantage of this policy.

More and more of the letters we receive come to us with the statement, "Please withhold my name." Except for the fact that the majority of these writers do not wish to subject themselves to criticism or to accept responsibility for what they write, there is no earthly reason for them to request us to withhold their names.

We do not believe the majority of such requests are valid, but until this time we have continued our policy. However, the abuse of this right to request a name withheld has made it necessary for us to revise our policy.

We will still honor any reasonable request to withhold a name, but we ask the letter writers who request such action to personally contact either of the two co-editors. If, in our opinion, we concur with the writer's statement that his future would be unduly jeopardized by printing his name along with his letter, we will withhold his name and it will be made known only to the two co-editors.

However, if we believe the request to withhold the writer's name is not valid, then we will expect him to permit us to publish his name.

We believe this policy change to be a fair one. Any person who is eligible to submit and does submit letters for publication in this paper should be man enough to admit to the public that he is their author.

Another 'John Paul' Makes His Mark . . .

In the rush surrounding the Thanksgiving holidays, an important change in our school's staff was overlooked by many, including us.

Dr. J. P. Abbott, former dean of the Annex, has been appointed dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, replacing Dr. M. T. Harrington, who will take over the presidential rains in June.

In our opinion, a wiser and more popular choice could not have been made. The little silver-haired gentleman—and a true Southern gentleman he is—was the logical man for the position.

At the Annex for the past few years, he has handled well a job which definitely demanded an outstanding man. As dean there, he earned the friendship, admiration, and respect of the students as freshmen. Now in upper classes, they still hold him in the same high esteem.

Dr. Abbott's program at the Annex was one which had a simple, constructive outline. The program, however, needed a man of a very high calibre to lead it. Mediocrity could not have done the job.

He brought to the student who lived under otherwise undesirable conditions an academic program in which he could dig in, and reap results. He brought the student-proof relationship there to probably a higher level than it has attained elsewhere in the college.

With his own friendly ways, his sincere and man-to-man speaking, he upheld the dignity of his office without reverting to any restrained veneer of supremacy. Whether it was in diagramming an English sentence or changing your major, he was helpful.

A&M—and any college—can well be proud to have such a man in such a position.

A little boy returned from an oculist and was proudly showing an admiring little sister his first eyeglasses.

"You know," he said, "I don't have to wear them for always — just for close work, the doctor said."

"What is close work?" asked the little girl.

"Well," stammered the boy, "you know — for eatin' and such stuff as that."

Vulnerable. In Honolulu, Laura McConnell got her divorce after she testified that her husband spent five nights a week playing bridge, the rest of the time talking bridge.—Time.

I like to consider myself a go-getter, But all of a sudden I'm sick . . . I've just read the list in the three-page letter My children have written St. Nick!

The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

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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DEAD OR - ELSE



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.)

THANKS

(Ed Note—This letter was received yesterday by C. G. (Spike) White.)

Dear Dean White:

I am in receipt of a copy of your letter to the Baylor Stadium Campaign stating that you have purchased a one hundred (\$100) stadium bond on behalf of the Student Life Committee at A&M College. The Athletic Department of Baylor University is sincerely appreciative of this fine evidence of the feeling on the part of the A&M student body toward a Baylor University venture. This is appreciated by the students of Baylor University, faculty and administration, as well as by the Athletic Department.

I hope that we here at Baylor may have the opportunity at some time in the future to reciprocate and show our appreciation to you and the A&M students in a material way.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Most cordially yours,
RALPH R. WOLF
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

CULPRITS NAMES WANTED

Editor, The Battalion:

Referring to the article about the Christmas Holidays which appeared in Friday's Batt, what is meant by a "good number" of students requesting shortened holidays? We think that if a poll were taken, the result would be that the "good number" favoring shortened holidays actually would be a small minority.

There are many reasons why most of us would like long holidays, the main one of which is that some of us need to work and the time we now have is too short to satisfy any employer because the holiday rush brings quite a few days before Christmas.

As to the complaints of forgetting what one has learned, we do not agree. We know that four more days would not make too great a difference. Anything can be forgotten in two days as well as two weeks.

Incidentally, just who are the "good number" that made up our

minds for us?

R. H. Falke '51
C. J. Junek '50

(Editor's Note—The article in Friday's Battalion was based on a Student Senate report. Subsequent investigations, as reported in yesterday's paper, revealed that student suggestions had very little to do with the shortened Christmas holidays.

(The reference to student requests for a shorter Christmas vacation were not actually requests as first reported at the senate meeting. Rather, some students—we don't know who—had blamed long holidays last Christmas as the reason for poor grades on final exams which were given in January of this year.

(For further information, we refer you to the stories on the front page of yesterday's Battalion.)

SO NEAR, YET SO FAR

Dear Student "Without a Brain" I cannot express the ecstasy which flooded my soul while reading your letter. You see, I too am going through A&M without a brain. That is, almost without a brain. I am handicapped to a certain extent for I have the misfortune to be afflicted with a small fraction of cerebral cortex. The cell therein causes me no end of trouble. Not in my studies for as you say, the pros are no good and grades mean nothing to a "Red Blooded Aggie"; however, this brain fragment insists on evaluating Campus issues and oftentimes even comes up with an "un-Aggie" sentiment.

This brings a deluge of gloowering stares and more often than not the title of two-percenter. This ostracism forces me into the ranks of the unregenerate, unfortunate individuals who think, "Oh, how I long for your cranial void! If I could but rid myself of this neuroglia I could join you in your happy state. Then the mere mention of the word "Tradition" would send me into that narcotic state where consideration of an issue is pointless.

Not wishing to be known as a celebrated oddity, I request that my name be withheld.

Name withheld by Request

TOUCHE'
Editor, The Battalion:
I suggest that, in the future, readers limit their letters to the editor to a few short paragraphs, and the editors limit their answers to a few crisp sentences.

Too much space in the Batt is being used for private bull sessions.

Concisely yours,
Bee Landrum '50

Official Notice

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT
December 5, 1949
Several vacancies exist in the staff of student assistants in Physics Department Laboratories. Men who were proficient in sophomore physics or who have some knowledge of photography are needed at various periods throughout the week. Compensation is \$1.50 per hour for students. Applicants kindly come to the office of the Physics Department.

POTTER
Head, Physics Department

When a doll's got you down, let us doll you up. See our complete line of *Manhattan* shirts, neckwear, pajamas, sportshirts, handkerchiefs; *Mansco* underwear and basque shirts.

Waldrop & Co.
MEN'S CLOTHING SINCE 1848

Boyle's Column . . .

Ugly Can't Become Uglier, But Beauty Soon Will Fade

BY HAL BOYLE

New York—(AP)—The first day I went to junior high school—just 25 years ago—there was a pretty girl sitting in front of me in English class.

She was blonde, in a shaggy way, and had cupid bow lips and a little brown freckle here and there. I thought to myself, "Boy, if junior high's like this I certainly wasted a lot of time getting through grammar school."

My new dream girl turned around, grinned at me and whispered:

"Wonder what you looked like before the mule kicked you?"

I waited until the teacher looked the other way, and then whispered in her fair ear:

"I never was kicked by a mule." She turned around and gave me that heartbreak smile again, and whispered:

"Oh was it a horse then?"

For a moment I didn't understand what she meant. And then I blushed clear down to my new \$2.95 tennis shoes. What this darling doll was trying to tell me was that my face looked like it had taken a hoof massage.

No one before had ever told me I was homely.

That blonde was right! No doubt of it. No nose needed to spread that wide just to fill one pair of lungs with air. Were those really ears or coat hangers? That hair

—or was it moss? Why did anyone need a mouth that big unless he wanted to swallow crackerjack boxes?

For the next ten years I hated that face that looked out at me from the mirror.

But at 23 I made an astonishing discovery—I was still pretty ugly, but I wasn't getting any worse. In the years since then I have learned the fine consolation that time brings to the homely. There is only one way for them to grow—and that is better. On the other hand, those who are beautiful or handsome when young can only fade with age.

It's better to be homely young, realize it young, and go on to other things. But some day I hope again to meet that blonde I knew in junior high. I'm going to look at her drab, towseled hair, her wrinkled face, her crepe paper throat and whisper:

"What did you look like, dear, before you got caught in that clothes wringer?"

Campus

LAST DAY
FIRST RUN
Features Start:
2:00 - 4:40 - 7:20 - 10:00

Milton Berle
Virginia Mayo

PALACE
Bryan 2-8879

LAST DAY

Young hearts that long to
"GIVE" with the country side
with the
"GIVE" with the country side
with the
"GIVE" with the country side
with the

FARLEY GRANGER
CHARLES BICKFORD
Roseanna McCoy
RAYMOND MASSEY JOAN EVANS

STARTS WEDNESDAY

"Always Leave Them Laughing"

Plus: Tom & Jerry Cartoon
"THE LONESOME MOUSE"
SMU - NOTRE DAME
Football Game

WEDNESDAY thru THURS.
FIRST RUN
Features Start:
1:40 - 3:45 - 5:50 - 7:55 - 10:00

SHOOT THE SOUTH IN AN HOUR!

BALL HOLDEN
MISS GRANT TAKES RICHMOND
JANE CARTER

BOGART AT HIS DEADLIEST!

HUMPHREY BOGART
IN
Tokyo Joe
Alexander Knox Florence Marly

LAST DAY

HALF-CRAZED MEN
DEEP OIL AND
MAD MEN
HEAT!

THE LOST PATROL
Victor McLaglen
Boris Karloff

Guion Hall

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

OUTPOST MOROCCO
starring
GEORGE RAFT
AND A CAST OF THOUSANDS
Released thru United Artists

A Merry Xmas With PORTRAITS
HEY YOU ! ! . . .

YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO GET THAT PICTURE MADE FOR CHRISTMAS.
Don't wait too late . . . do it now!

She'll be pleased with a picture from—

A&M PHOTO SHOP
College

17 Shopping Days till Christmas

SHOP TODAY IN THE ADVERTISING COLUMNS OF

The BATTALION

Two things every college man should know!

This is a prom trotter. All she needs for a weekend is a hop, sip, and a clump. Thinks colleges are halls of yearning. Usually dances to meet the band . . . but goes wild about "Manhattan's" Wildlife ties.

2. These are "Manhattan" Wildlife ties. Hottest thing under a collar this fall. Bright colors, gay prints—made to tie right, resist wrinkles.

CAMPUS FAVORITE

Manhattan
THE MANHATTAN SHIRT COMPANY
Coll. 1948, The Manhattan Shirt Co.