

Battalion Editorials

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1950

Giraffes and 'Dead Week': About the Same . . .

Aggies have come to a about the same conclusion regarding "Dead Week" as did the farmer when he saw a giraffe and exclaimed, "There just ain't no such animal."

"Dead Week" is a figment of the imagination of some of our most ardent optimists.

There's no rule, no regulation, no policy of anyone to reserve the final week of a regular semester for review work, and not last-minute quizzes.

There is an Academic Council recommendation to all departments of the College and instructors in those departments that the last meeting of a course not be used for a major quiz. Otherwise, the professor has free reign to quiz or not to quiz as he and his students decide.

We are of the opinion that the Academic Council's recommendation should be followed by all professors. Giving a major quiz on the final class period of a course is hardly fair to men who make less than a hundred on it.

For we like to have our letter quizzes worked-out afterwards in-class so we can find out our mistakes. That reason alone should be sufficient to convince professors that more could be gained by planning their courses far enough ahead to permit this final period to be used in review of the last major quiz or in review of the course.

A second, and to many, a just-as-important consideration about quizzes given on the last class period, is the fact that many students finish the regular semester one day, and begin final examinations the next. Preparation for final exams should require more time than is given to study for a major quiz. However, if major quizzes consume the first five days of the week, then final examination study is cut to an evening and possibly part of an afternoon.

We agree that the Academic Council action is as far as it should go. Giving quizzes is, and should be a prerogative of the professors who set their own pace in presentation of courses they teach. The recommendation doesn't trod on academic freedom.

We strongly suggest to professors who are practiced in the art of giving major quizzes on last classroom meetings of courses to weigh the reasoning behind their students' protests against those quizzes issued at so inopportune a time. And in the future arrange their courses so that they may follow this recommendation of the Academic Council and the reasonable desire of their students.

Germany; Seems Like Old Times . . .

A new generation of Germans has arisen in allied occupied Germany. This new youth group has never known those devices of the military contorted "Hitler's Children" system—the blast of trumpets, the booming of drums, and the flicker of torchlights.

But in East Germany's Soviet zone, a youth organization flourishes whose marching antics are too grim a reminder of a few years back when the militarily bedecked children of the fatherland paraded by a reviewing stand filled with high ranking Reich brass and a little uniformed man with a small moustache and a self satisfied look in his eyes. East Germany's Free German Youth Organization is on the march, with drums and trumpets and the old Reich paraphernalia.

The FDJ, as it is known, is the only youth organization permitted in the Soviet zone, just as the Hitler Youth was in Nazi Germany. Hitler Youths wore brown shirts; FDJ, blue.

Its executive council declared that "today youth must be won for the fight of peace with all available means," including these Hitler Youth costumes. "The drums and trumpets of the Free German Youth are the bitterest enemies of reaction, because they are the drums and trumpets of peace," the council added.

Contradicting this statement, these very same drums and trumpets were used by an FDJ group at Leipzig to break up Catholic church services. The group

marched around a church and made so much noise that the mass had to be discontinued.

Before FDJ parades in honor of Red Army heroes, peace fanfares precede speeches calling on FDJ members to help defend the Communist "democratic order" against "western war mongers." FDJ members have publicly pledged themselves to do so with the weapon in their hands.

On September 6, 1948, the FDJ, was the first to storm the Berlin city hall and drive out the duly elected representatives of the city's population. They acted as strike breakers during the six-weeks walkout of West Berlin's anti-Communist railway workers. This time their trumpets and drums had been traded for wooden clubs and rocks.

Without FDJ membership card there's only a small chance of being admitted to a high school, university, or administrative job. Sports are also controlled by the FDJ. The "Democratic Sports Movement" of Communist-ruled East Germany is supervised by the FDJ and a Communist trade union federation.

The FDJ and its possibilities as a source of converting young Germans to the Red side by the use of emotion, military extravaganzas, and bugle blowing is nothing new to Communist leaders.

Youth is a nation's lifeblood, and converting and controlling this youth would be the logical first few steps in extending the control of the Kremlin over all Germany.

A wise father today is one who disciplines his teen-aged daughter by threatening to take his shirts and slacks away from her.

Defensive halfbacks
And freshman lasses
Should always be ready
To intercept passes.



Young Germany marches on. Time Marches backward. See Germany editorial.

Engineers Council Unanimously Receives Campus AGC Chapter

The Campus chapter of the Association of General Contractors of America was unanimously voted associate membership to the Student Engineers Council last night, announced Emmitt Ingram, council president.

"We consider this an honor, and we feel it increases our prestige on the campus," said Bob Page, campus AGC president upon being informed of the Engineer Council's action.

This will bring to 30 the membership of the Engineer's Council, a student executive group of presidents, junior and senior representatives from each of the societies of departments in the School of Engineering and the presidents of the several associate members to the council. The council meets monthly with the Dean of Engineering and discusses academic matters of the School of Engineering. Their meetings are closed sessions with publicity announcements limited to their approval.

Other organizations holding associate membership to the council are the ASHVE, Geology Club, Industrial Education Club, American Association for Automotive Engineers, and the Agricultural

Engineers Club.

Page, in giving information about the campus chapter of the AGC, said that his organization began this semester and now boasts around 75 members. Junior and senior students in Civil Engineering, Architecture, and Contracting are eligible for membership to the AGC.

The local student chapter, the only student chapter of the AGC in the United States, is sponsored by the Houston chapter of the AGC. The Central Texas chapter is also vastly interested in the local chapter and have recently given a \$200 scholarship to A&M for a student interested in contracting.

For several years the various chapters of the AGC in Texas have been working with the college in preparing a special curriculum for students desiring to study contracting. This semester is the first time such a major course of study has been offered at A&M. "I think it is the only such course offered in Texas," Page said.

As president of the campus AGC, Page will represent his organization on the Engineers Council.

Bubbles, Cocker, Plagued By Bees—Not a Dog's Life

By CHARLES E. COX

Bubbles, the small black cocker spaniel that makes the Entomology 307 (Beckers) lab every Tuesday, has a hard luck story to equal that of any Aggie.

For an entire semester the plucky little canine played and nosed about the college apiary with the arrogant disregard for the bees and their little stingers. Bees normally hate dogs, but Bubbles seemed to be the exception.

The little dog's mad luck began when she attended the first lab of the new year. A cantankerous bee settled on Bubbles's stubby little tail and proceeded to ride for some fifty yards.

As Bubbles dashed through a hedge and under a house, one student was heard to remark, "It looks as if Bubbles has an overdrive." Next the class climbed aboard a truck to visit another apiary, leaving poor Bubbles to get there as best she could.

With flanks heaving and tongue dragging the ground the tired pup-

py eventually rejoined the beekeepers. Being somewhat wary of the bees after her recent experience, Bubbles retired to a fenced weed patch to investigate a strange movement therein. She only found trouble in the shape of a tom cat which scratched the little dog's nose and sent her in hasty retreat through a cold puddle of water.

If Bubbles could talk, she might have said, "I've been stung, deserted, mauled and half-drowned. It shouldn't happen to a dog."

A student took pity on the pathetic little canine and helped her on the truck for a free ride home.

Caudill Attending Washington Meet

William W. Caudill, research architect in the Texas Engineering Experiment Station here, is attending a research conference of the Building Research Advisory Board of the National Research Council in Washington, D. C., Jan. 11-12.

Caudill will participate in a round-table discussion on "Climate and Design of Buildings." The conference will study "Weather and the Building Industry."

Official Notice

An examination for credit in C. E. 3008 will be given in the C. E. Lecture Room at 1 P. M., Saturday, January 14, 1950. Only those students authorized by the Executive Committee may take the exam.

J. A. Orr, Professor
Civil Engineering Dept.

JOBS WANTED:

AP Newsfeatures

WASHINGTON — A growing America enters the new year faced with the problem of providing upwards of a million new jobs or seeing unemployment go back to pre-war levels.

The year 1949 provided more jobs than any year except boom-time 1948, but unemployment nevertheless rose sharply because the number of Americans ready for jobs hit an historic high.

To that capsule summary of the situation, government officials added a note of moderate hopefulness on the strength of an apparent rally in job opportunities near the end of 1949.

By early December, E. W. Clague, commissioner of labor statistics, and Secretary of Commerce Sawyer were seeing the job picture, respectively as "more encouraging" and "more favorable" than it had been all year.

Clague cautioned that unemployment in January-February 1950 may surpass 1949's peak of a little over 4,000,000, but added that will be largely a result of the usual spring upturn should cut it back.

Taking a look at the 1950 job problem beyond that, the Labor Department official listed the following as chief reasons that job opportunities must expand steadily to avert growing unemployment:

1. An increase of perhaps 1,000,000 in the number wanting work, with some 250,000 veterans who are finishing training courses being added to a normal increase of 750,000 in the labor force in 1950.

2. Prospects that in a period of increasing competition, employers will be "cutting corners on costs, which leads them to exercise care in expanding employment."

Census Bureau records show 1949 didn't make the grade on holding down unemployment although it afforded some 60,000-000 jobs on a monthly average — if you count in 1,500,000 in the armed forces along with other 58,500,000 civilians with jobs for one hour or more weekly.

Take a look at how the civilian job picture shaped up in a report the bureau made in December on a sample survey the previous month:

The labor force, which means both those having jobs and those hunting them, grew, (along with the population) by 1,203,000 over the 12 months ended with November.

But the 1,203,000 new jobs sought didn't materialize. Instead the number of existing jobs dropped—by 375,000. Add the persons who missed out and you get the increase in unemployment for the 12 months: 1,578,000.

The brunt of the shrinkage in existing jobs fell on factory workers as non-farm jobs drop-

A Million More Seek Employment

ped by 292,000. The milder, 88,000 decline in farm jobs followed a long-time trend to fewer persons in agriculture.

The 1949 range in job openings was from a seasonal low of 37,168,000 in February to a summer-season high of 59,947,000 in August. It never hit 60,000,000 civilian jobs, though 1948 had five months above that mark.

Unemployment, which never got above 2,339,000 in 1948, never got that low in 1949. In every month except January, it held above 3,000,000 and in July topped 4,000,000, highest since the war began.

Officials say the unemployment problem could be solved by greater withdrawals from the labor force along with expansion of job opportunities.

That's a big factor in the growth of private pension systems and expanded, increased social security benefits: unemployment has risen most among persons over 45, and the proportion of the population older than that is gaining steadily.

Women job-seekers have had a lot to do with keeping the labor force big—63,815,000 at its mid-summer 1949 peak. Officials see that partly as: (1) an economic matter—desire to add to family income, especially in times of high living costs, and (2) a social trend—more and more women seek careers or financially independent status.

Boyle's Column . . .

Americans Work Too Hard, Play Too Hard; Die Young

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—Many people today are shortening their lives trying to find a way to live longer.

The main idea seems to be that if a man puts his whole energy into earning money he can pile up enough chips in the bank to retire at 50 or 55, and spend his declining years clipping bond coupons.

This is a fine theory except that it is often the widows who do the coupon clipping. The overly ambitious men have a bad habit of ending up under the daisies at 40 to 45, dead from a busted heart artery or valve brought on by worry and lout living.

The United States has more miles of arterial highways than any other country in the world. It also has more miles of arteriosclerosis in the veins of its fretful citizens. Its apoplexy rate is a matter for medical apology.

It is true that Americans live longer—on the average—than most peoples. But this is a triumph of mass sanitation rather than individual commonsense.

In the opinion of this poor man's philosopher the trouble lies in the fact that as a nation we have never learned that "easy does it."

We take an unjustified pride in living the strenuous life—so we work and play with the throttle wide open. And we eat, drink and smoke too much. We treat our body as if it were a tuned-up machine in a lifelong race on the Indianapolis speedway.

But ordinary flesh can't take that pace. And the body rebels by breaking down. It has to have the pause that refreshes. Older civilizations realize this physical fact, and allow for it. We have a tendency to ridicule our British counterparts for breaking their routine with 11 and 4 o'clock teas. But don't we, in effect, do the same thing?

What office workers don't try to slip down for his morning and afternoon cup of coffee? And he works the better afterward for this brief relaxation.

Another custom America might well borrow is the siesta popular in all Latin countries. Thomas A. Edison is supposed to have gotten by on four to six hours sleep a night—but he rarely missed also taking a good snooze after lunch.

If he hadn't he wouldn't have lived so long.

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The Battalion

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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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