

The System's Head in Good Hands . . .

Nine men sat around an oval shaped table on the campus last Saturday morning to decide the affairs of the A&M System. The affairs of the System ranged from the acceptance of gifts to the various colleges in the System to decisions on basic curricula matters, from donations of tractors, to the new Department of Oceanography here at A&M.

Members of the Board of Directors are average looking men, either in or approaching middle age. Each man has been successful in his field and has been appointed by the governor, approved by the Texas Senate to manage the over-all policies of the System. Three of them depend on the soil for their living, either ranching or farming. Three others are

executives, in oil, in business, in industry. Another member is an engineer-contractor. A publisher and a merchant round out the Board.

We have been greatly impressed by the sound judgement manifested by the present Board of Directors of the A&M System. They conscientiously serve the people of Texas and the several divisions of the System, without compensation beyond travel expenses and personal satisfaction derived from membership to the Board.

After attending Saturday's Board meeting, we are still convinced that the administration of the A&M System is in capable hands acting in the best interests of the state, and students, present and future, of colleges in the System.

Brightening the Outlook for Freshmen . . .

Saturday's decision of the Board of Directors to create a separate Basic Division designed for freshmen should prove a monumental milestone in academic advancement here.

Creation of this division should definitely decrease the number of freshman failures due to unwise choice of courses. A stern leadership and guidance program, yet one in which each individual can be aided, is the major factor in the success of this plan.

Under the present set-up, if a freshman enters the School of Engineering or any of the other schools, he starts aiming immediately towards a degree in his chosen field.

Now an entering freshman will be placed in the Basic Division. Here he will receive college work; yet he will be faced with no major decision as to his field of endeavors. The Basic Division also will be required for transfer students with deficient academic backgrounds in certain respects.

The Basic Division is but one of the two major decisions of the Board which will affect future A&M freshmen. The lease on Bryan Field was ordered terminated on or about June 1. President Bolton immediately announced that all classes will be held and all students will be housed on the main campus beginning next Fall.

The June Commencement Speaker: A Private's General

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States military services Gen. Omar Nelson Bradley will address men who have served under him in World War II and men entering officer reserve status at the June commencement ceremonies. Omar Nelson Bradley will also receive the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from Texas A&M College on this commencement occasion.

Before him will be assembled one of the largest graduating class in the history of Texas A&M College. The larger portion of this graduating class will be veterans of the last war.

The presence of Bradley is compatible with history. His generalship in the great war that postponed these veterans' graduation two, three, or four years meant much in this nation's achievement of vic-

tory in Europe. His leadership in the post-war defense establishment of the United States affects every American, whether he is a reserve officer, a man on active duty, or a taxpayer contributing over 25 cents of every tax dollar to military preparedness.

General Bradley is now concerned with unifying the branches of the Armed Forces to more efficient and less costly operation. He is also concerned with keeping America's military position strong and prominent among world powers.

In this period of shaky international peace, the words of Bradley could easily be addressed both to A&M graduates entering their careers and to the people of this country. Whatever his views expressed at commencement, they are worthy of our consideration.

Towers and Frustrated Bookmakers . . .

Men who have wagered on when the tower on the Petroleum Engineering Building will topple down will be disappointed by the Board of Directors authorization last Saturday of \$20,000 for repairs.

The cracks in the tower have been

growing noticeably and several campus bookmakers have taken bets on the date of the tower's collapse. These enterprising bet takers will be frustrated for a few days, but there are other buildings on the campus deserving of wagers on when parts of them will drop to the ground in compliance with the laws of gravity.

A few wheel barrows full of gravel would remedy the situation fine, and our nomination would no longer be appropriate.

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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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.)

COMMAND PERFORMANCE

Editor, The Battalion:
On Tuesday, Jan. 10, I ran an open letter in your paper regarding the operation of Guion Hall. I was answered by an article on the front page by Mr. Puddy (the manager) and an editorial on the second page of the Wednesday issue.

The first thing I want to say is that I hold the highest regard for Mr. Puddy. He is a good theatre manager and the college is lucky to have a man of this calibre in such a position. Secondly, I don't want to get in to a running gun fight with the heads of the college as to their crude way of operating Guion Hall. Third, my interest in the matter deals with the admission price, a ten cent admission at Guion Hall would afford many of the students the opportunity to see motion pictures that are now not attending Guion Hall only because of the high admission price. Motion pictures should be used by the college as a relaxation for the students instead of trying to show a big profit from its operations.

I note with interest that Mr. Puddy states that the theatre showed a profit of \$200.54 for a two-year operation. To a man in the theatre business, this is an unreasonable statement. I would say that the candy counter would show that much more profit in a two weeks' operation and at the longest over a one-month period. I have seen the records of film companies regarding the amount of gross that percentage pictures have made, and this information is what makes Mr. Puddy's statement so unreasonable.

Guion Hall is paying top film rental for its old pictures and the

amount of rental would be a surprise to any interested party if it were made public. Of course, the film company wants to see the college charge a high admission, because the movie firm will reap more money from its percentage pictures. If Guion Hall were to lower its admission price to ten cents, the film company would be forced to continue to serve the college with pictures as it does now. There is a federal law that the film company cannot tell a theatre what admission to charge. Spike White and Mr. Puddy are both well aware of that.

As to its cost of operation—Mr. Puddy is the only man on a full-time salary (and it's not high enough). The operators and the other students and student wives who work at the theatre receive a low hourly wage rate, and work only a certain number of hours per week. Mr. White, these figures should be made public. In a statement of operation cost of Guion Hall, I am sure the Batt would like to print a true statement of "cost of operation". Be sure to mention what the operators, cashiers, doormen, and concessions handlers get for their work and the number of hours each work per week.

Another reason that Guion Hall is not making money is on account of its huge pass list. While you are going to make public some figures, let's have a look at the names on the "tax only" pass list. "For the love of Mike, Spike", you couldn't operate any kind of business if you give away your merchandise. I would like to make the college a deal—I will lease Guion Hall on a 12 month basis, not change any of the personnel, but raise their wage scale, lower the admission price to ten cents for students, give them a day a week for their Town Hall and other student shops, etc., show better pictures quicker than is now being done, and give the theatre a better operation. For this lease, I will pay \$10,000 per year with option of renewal at the same figure.

Again I say that the theatre admission should be ten cents for students and their families only. Rid it of the commercial angle and it will show a huge profit and allow all students a chance to relax and enjoy motion pictures. And PLEASE don't mislead the students with the fact that you can't get good pictures at this figure, because YOU CAN. And you can buy all your pictures on a flat rental basis for a figure under \$25 if you really want to, since the theatre is part of the non-theatrical operation and for the students of a state college.

I hope you will give the above operation a try for 30 days.
Yours truly,
Jack A. Farr
P. S. I might also add that you operated FREE SHOWS at the Grove last summer for all who wished to attend. You had some big crowds that would number in the thousands. Your concessions sales were big. If you can do this in the summer you should be able to charge a ten cent admission price throughout the regular school year and draw big crowds and increase your concessions business in Guion Hall.

(Editors' Note—Since you are in no way connected with the college, we were under no obligation to reprint your letter. We did so in order that you might have the opportunity to clarify your position in regard to your previous statements on Guion Hall's operation. (Henceforth, your actions on this matter will, if they are newsworthy, be covered in our regular news columns. (In line with our policy of submitting letters such as yours

Wrong Teachers Get Credit, Dallas News Columnist Says

(The following article is a portion of Lynn Landrum's column "Thinking Out Loud," in the Jan. 12 issue of the Dallas Morning News.)

Dr. Frederick Eby, professor of the history and philosophy of education at the University of Texas, thinks young Texas should go to school the year round. He is quoted as saying that public education is not really a function of the state whatever he may have meant by that, and that education is 100 years behind the times in meeting social needs.

Dr. Eby declared that "the profession" (the teaching profession) "is held in such disesteem that its judgment is not considered of value."

Again: "A century ago the people of this country were solemnly advised that the enlightenment of the minds of children would insure against want, vice and criminality, and lead to a higher civilization. Want has decreased, but vice and criminality have not. Crime and delinquency are today at an all-time high in this land of liberty and plenty."

Dr. Eby thinks the remedy is more school.

Both the church—the latherday church to a considerable extent—and the school have fallen into error on one point. It is a vital point. And that point is this: Rightness and character are not taught. They are caught. There is nothing new about that. There is nothing new in the phrase-

to affected parties for comment, we asked C. G. "Spike" White, assistant dean of students for activities, for a statement. He said, "Mr. Farr and I are in agreement on the matter of not wanting to indulge in 'running gun fight' on this or any other matter. I do not intend to do so."

"As it has been pointed out before, Guion Hall Theatre Account is audited regularly by the proper authorities. If Mr. Farr has any doubt as to the accuracy of statements made previously by Mr. Puddy on this matter, I suggest," White concluded, "that he take his complaints direct to my superiors in the A&M System or to the State Auditor."

FARR'S WILLINGNESS

Editor, The Battalion:
One wonders to what extent Mr. Farr's altruistic Help-the-Poor-Texas-Aggie campaign is inspired by his "willingness" to lease Guion Hall for \$10,000 a year . . . and to what extent a virtualistic monopoly of second-run shows in the College Station area would affect play dates at the Skyway and at Guion Hall.
Sincerely,
Peggy C. Owens
(Eds. Note: Miss Owens read Farr's letter, printed above, and which appeared first in a Bryan paper.)

FULL COOPERATION IN GUION

Editor, The Battalion:
I have noticed with regret what appears to be an effort by certain commercial interests to discredit the present management of Guion Hall as campus entertainment center.
In building up the course in

Guion Hall
LAST DAY

DANNY KAYE, VIRGINIA MAYO
A SONG IS BORN
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

COMING TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
PAUL HENREID, BENNETT
"THE SCAR"

ing of the idea. But the cold fact is that there is no essential relationship between a Ph.D. and either righteousness or character. Anybody can become a Ph. D.
But our school system is built on the proposition that better teaching comes of higher degrees. It isn't so. Dr. Eby's remarks show that isn't so. A Ph. D. may be a saint or he may be a sex pervert. The school system of Texas, from the bottom on up to the University of Texas, has found that out from actual experience.

Mistaken System

The trouble is very simple to diagnose. It is hard to cure. The trouble is that when we hire a teacher, we judge him by his pupils. Here is Adimir G. Whizlephat. He studied mathematics under Einstein, has a Ph. D. from Harvard, can't add up a laundry bill, puts his name down on every Communist-front list that is offered for signature, and is pretty shady in his patriotism, but has "published" in a number of mathematical journals.

Then, again, here is Adam Hardigger, who has raised a family of fine lads, is a natural leader of young people, is still in love with his wife after thirty years and has turned out of his classes a succession of fine citizens who went on to be engineers, astronomers, researchers and business leaders of note. But Hardigger never got his Ph.D.

According to the system, Hardigger rates the little job at the low salary. Dr. Whizlephat is a great liberal educator with big pay.

It Needs Changing

We need a new degree. Why not a Doctor of Education which will not be awarded until after ten years of actual teaching? By that time, you know, a suitable survey

"Great Issues" by bringing such men as Randolph Churchill, Kermit Roosevelt, Walter Duntz, and others to the campus, it has been necessary on a number of occasions in the spring of 1948 and 1949 to use Guion Hall from about 7:30 to 9:30 p. m., thus preventing its use for movies at such time.

I wish to say that in every one of these instances the Great Issues Committee has had the fullest, promptest, and most efficient cooperation from Mr. Puddy, Guion Hall's present manager, not only on having the building "all set" for such use, but also by installing maps and other small items of equipment which were needed. In short, his assistance to this committee's work has left nothing to be desired, and has been given pleasantly and cheerfully.

Very truly yours,
S. R. Gammon, Chairman
Committee on Great Issues

PALACE
Bryan 2-8879
SHOWING TODAY

CHIN... IT'S THAT HITCHHIK MAN... IN NEW KIND OF ROLE!
Mr. Ward-Tip-Gee Goes Downright
METCHUM
LEIGH
COREY
A NEW ADVENTURE PRODUCTION
HOLIDAY AFFAIR

QUEEN
TODAY thru TUESDAY

RAFT IN ACTION!
DANGER!
Red Light
GEORGE RAFT
VIRGINIA MAYO

of the man and his work will determine his character, his influence upon the private lives of his students—and his ability to "spark" his students, into putting a little of their own drive and steam into the project of toughening their own brains, awakening their own intellects and dedicating their own talents.

But no Hardigger, however fine he is, can put character into a blackboard education or certify to it on an examination grade. He has got to be so upright himself that others will take him for the norm of uprightness, so kindly that others will want to be like him, so honest that his students will be ashamed to be dishonest with Old Hardigger.

None of this is new to Dr. Eby, who undoubtedly is in favor of teachers who can teach and in favor of teachers who are wonderful examples in character. And yet the good doctor is as right as right can be when he says that schools are failing to turn out the sort of citizens that most of us seem to expect of the schools.

Head of Tessie Ex Students to Speak

Mrs. Vada Francis Hale of Dallas, president of the TSCW Ex-Student Association, will be guest speaker here for the Extension Service Club on January 19 at 3 p. m. Mrs. Hale will speak on "Hobbies and Crafts," using her collection of dolls as illustrative material.

At 7 p. m. Mrs. Hale and Miss Zou Alken, executive secretary of the Association, will meet with ex-students residing in the Bryan-Collage Station area for the purpose of organizing an Ex-Student Chapter.

Mrs. Hale, who received a degree in art at TSCW, is the mother of Herbert Hale a sophomore engineering student at A&M.

SKYWAY
DRIVE-IN
"MY FRIEND IRMA"
—with—
JOHN LUND
MARIE WILSON

Campus
TODAY & TUESDAY
FIRST RUN
Features Start
1:30 - 3:40 - 5:45 - 7:50 - 10:00
Color by TECHNICOLOR
DANCING in the DARK
William POWELL, Bert STEVENS, Betty DRAKE

Plus: Tex Avery
Cartoon "Counterfeit Cat"
News

FRIDAY PREVUE
11:00 P. M.
FIRST RUN
JOHN WAYNE
SANDS OF IWO JIMA

WANTED TO BUY YOUR USED TEXTBOOKS
BOOKS APPROVED FOR NEXT SEMESTER
BRING HIGHEST PRICES NOW!
SHAFFERS BOOK STORE
North Gate

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SELLING OR TRADING YOUR BOOKS AND RECEIVING THE BEST DEAL OR PRICE
Drop in And See "LOU" He's for "YOU"
LOUPOT'S TRADING POST