

Incompatible: Phone Rate Hikes and Wet Weather ...

The City Councils of College Station and Bryan have received a proposal by the Southwestern States Telephone Company for general rate increases on all telephone services the company renders in this area.

Telephone rates in this area have not been raised since the Southwestern States Telephone Company received its local franchise in 1927, company officials assert.

Company officials further contend that their profits from local exchanges are only about 1.6%, but the proposed rate increases would bring their profits up to the usually expected 6% on their investment.

Both councils generally agreed that the quality of service by the telephone company has improved over recent months.

But our experience with the company's service is still not altogether satisfactory. We may be the only office in College Station to suffer a breakdown of telephone service frequently during wet weather; we don't think we are.

Complaints of poor phone service this past summer became so numerous that a local citizen's committee held public hearings to determine if the telephone company was living up to its franchise agreements.

Service has improved, but we do not feel that the improvement justifies the proposed rate increases. In fact, service could stand considerable more improvement before any rate hike would seem reasonable.

The Southwestern States Telephone Company was goaded into the improved services which now exist, and though we appreciate the improvement, it is no more than what they should have been giving all along.

That citizen's forced change has tempered our enthusiasm toward this public utility, and makes us cold toward their overtures for rate increases.

Salary increases come only after employees merit them, so should telephone rate increases.

Russian Victory Through Political Power ...

Shoved onto two large islands off the China coast, Chinese Nationalist forces are girding themselves for last ditch stands against amphibious landings soon anticipated from Chinese Communist forces.

Hainan and Formosa are the last places of refuge for the long-time American backed Nationalist government. On these islands several hundred thousand ragged hangers-on to the doomed Nationalist cause are preparing to defend themselves against the communist forces with their usual vigor.

When the Nationalist islands fall (our government has already written them off) the last footholds in China friendly to the United States will be lost.

This victory would then give communist forces complete control of China, her population, her resources, and her government. Another vast land area populated by hundreds of millions of people will fall under the Russian Communist influence.

Viewing Russian Communism's gains since the end of World War II, we note that she has achieved political and economic control over vastly more people and nations than Hitler ever did with his wermacht. Russian Communism has turned this trick without actual participation in

armed conflict. Rather, her victories have been through political maneuvers instead of military.

As long as Russia continues to win such brilliant political victories as she has in recent years, she has nothing to gain by launching war against anybody. Only after she discovers that she has reached her saturation point in subjugating peoples through politics would it be sensible for Russia to attempt war as a means to further her cause of communism.

American aid to western European nations has given them a firm economic and political footing. Spread of Russian Communism into those countries to the degree of threatening their national governments cannot be greatly advanced beyond what it is now without a Russian military invasion. Such a move in the near future is absurd; there are too many other areas in the world where political battles can be won.

Fatiguing and expensive though they are, cold wars are better than hot wars. And the cold war seems to be with us for quite some time.

Hot or cold, war is war and American efforts in the cold war should equal those we employ to win hot wars.

Department of Public Safety, said Tuesday in Austin.

Noting that these crimes are on the increase, he urged merchants to require positive identification when cashing checks.

That Aggie Identification Card is about as positive identification as can be had, even if the picture on the card is uncomplimentary.

"I never knew a man who wished himself to be a slave. Consider if you know any good thing that no man desires for himself."

— Abraham Lincoln

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 (4-5824) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209, Goodwin Hall.

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.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein.

Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1970.

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Engineer Writes Plea To Scared Youngsters

(Editor's Note—The following article was published in the Omaha, Neb., Evening World-Herald. We reprint it here for your consideration.)

A railroad engineer whose train nearly crashed into a car at Fremont last Sunday, Tuesday addressed an open letter to "the youth and his girl" in the car.

His letter, sent to The World-Herald, says: "I don't know who you are, it's true, but I do know you were scared to death Sunday evening near 9 o'clock when you drove your car across directly in front of a speeding passenger train. It was so close that I, in the cab, could see the young girl (your sweetheart, I presume) throw her hands up in front of her face and cringe up against you in stark horror."

"If I were that young girl, I'd pull away from you, fast. You don't have good sense, son. You probably say you love her. I wonder. Those we love we try to protect. But not you."

Wouldn't that have been a nice Christmas present to hand your mother—a broken and battered body. And how do you think we in the cab of that engine would feel. We are human beings, too. We have young ones waiting home for us to return. We, too, could have been killed."

"You and your girl were one second from eternity, Sunday, son. I hope you read this and know it means you, and that your girl will, too. Next time you go driving around, stop and look. We don't want to hit you, but we are helpless as we cannot swerve away from our given rail."

"If I were you son, and you, too, sis, I'd thank God for that split second He granted you Sunday evening."

"I said a prayer for all when I realized you were going across. Perhaps that's what saved us all."

"Now think it over, both of you. And I'll bet you are both still shaking in your shoes."

"And please, for God's sake, don't try it again."

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.)

GIG 'EM
Editors, The Battalion:
I have just seen the latest insult of Jack A. Farr, operator of Skyway Drive-in Theatre. Actually, I don't know whether to laugh at his stupidity or get boiling mad at his accusations.

I do know that I am all for the signs you have taken concerning this individual. Whatever his motives are, they are certainly not for the best interest of the students. I'm sure that if he wanted to take up a "cause" for the students as a whole, he could find a better one than trying to save us a nickel or two for something which is not at all necessary for our daily living here.

As far as I am concerned, when I can't afford the price of a ticket at Guion Hall as it now stands, I shall be in such a bad financial condition that I can't afford a movie at any price.

Besides, I haven't heard any Aggies crying about it. Nor has any-

one asked Mr. Farr to fight our battles for us. I think his tactics stink.

I might add, before closing this letter, that Guion Hall is doing something right now for which there is no charge—serving as a meeting place for those people interested in a really Great Cause.

If you heard Mr. Crane this morning, you will know what I mean. Perhaps Mr. Farr should scream about that (?).

Yours truly,
Robert M. Cox '50

ORCHIDS FOR TOM
Editors, The Battalion:

We, the undersigned would like to speak for the Aggie Players in expressing a vote of confidence in Mr. Puddy's management of Guion Hall.

Mr. Puddy is and always has been helpful, cooperative and generous with his time and talents during rehearsals and productions even though our use of Guion affected a decrease in the hall's income for those nights.

Here's hoping that Guion Hall will get back on its feet as soon as possible not only for our use, but for the sake of a man who deserves the confidence of his community and the student body.

George William, Pres.
George Dillavou, Sponsor
Lindy James, Ex-pres.

Official Notice

In order to permit students and faculty to attend services in Guion Hall and in the Annex Chapel during the annual Religious Emphatic week, classes will be suspended on the main campus according to the following schedule:

Monday & Tuesday, Feb. 13 & 14—10 to 11 a.m.
Wednesday & Thursday, Feb. 15 & 16—11 to 12 a.m.
Friday, Feb. 17—9 to 10 a.m.
Classes will be dismissed at the annex according to the following schedule:
Monday, Feb. 13, 9 to 10 a.m.
Tuesday & Wednesday, Feb. 14 & 15, 10 to 11 a.m.
Thursday & Friday, Feb. 16 & 17, 11 to 12 a.m.

M. T. HARRINGTON
Dean of the College

NOTICE
PREMEDICAL - PRE-DENTAL
STUDENTS

The Bulletin of Information and Application Forms for the Medical College Admission Test to be given May 13, 1950, are now available at the office of Dr. George E. Potter, Premedical-Pre-dental Adviser, Room 12, Science Hall. All pre-medical and pre-dental students who apply for admission to the professional schools in 1951 are required to take this test at the following date to be given November 13, 1950. Applications for the May 13 test must be in Princeton, New Jersey before April 25.

G. E. POTTER

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATE DEGREES IN JUNE, 1950

All candidates for graduate degrees in June, 1950, must be registered in the Graduate School this semester. It is the student's responsibility to both register and check with the Graduate School to see that his record is clear for graduation, both scholastically and in every other way. This includes filling out a request for admission to candidacy for the degree in June.

The faculty is requested to assist their students in meeting all these requirements promptly.
IDE P. TROTTER

'Home of the Brave' Has Guts And Plenty Of Gall

By HERMAN C. GOLLOB

Home of the Brave (Screen Artists Inc.) starring James Edwards, Douglas Dick, and Frank Lovejoy (Guion) the film which attracted publicity blurb has been blatantly announced as unmistakable evidence that Hollywood has guts, now awaits the socially-conscious moviegoers at Guion Hall. Dealing with the racial problem, "Home..." not only has guts, but considerable gall to boot.

An extremely delicate undertaking it is, this treatment of the nation's most compound social fracture on the silver screens of its theatres.

Handled without dignity, restraint and foresight the picture dealing with racial issues is hardly more than brash, vehement, and idealistic soapbox oratory which is not only absurd and empty, but tiresome and offensive as well.

Such is the case with "Home..." in which Messrs. Stanley Kramer and Mark Robson, the producer and director responsible for the virile and realistic "Champion," have tossed rationality and perception to the winds, so belaboring their ridiculous point that it seems as if they are trying to knock it into the heads of the moviegoing public.

Reduced to simple terms, the story deals with the crack-up of Moss, an army surveyor. The lone negro among five volunteers sent to scout a Jap-infested island, Moss is greeted with open resentment by all except Mingo, a cynical, wise-cracking sergeant, and Finch, a true and trustworthy friend with whom Moss went to school.

When Finch is captured and killed by the Japs, Moss feels responsible, and completely goes to pieces. The psychiatrist in charge discovers the underlying cause to be a feeling of inferiority engendered by racial intolerance. He convinces Moss that there is no difference between black and white, and tells him to behave accordingly.

Such a saccharine conclusion can hardly be expected to draw more than a desirous guffaw. This department recognizes the fact that there should be no difference between white and black, yet we are not so blind that we cannot clearly see the gap which does exist between the two, a gap which has been wide since Biblical days as the result of ignorance and fear, and which cannot, as our flaming idealists and irrational zealots would have us believe, be shut by snapping the fingers and shouting "Close, sesame."

To be sure, this social abyss is closing, but the process has been and must continue to be slow and deliberate. Statute law alone cannot produce the Negro the paradise of equality and tolerance.

One cannot merely legislate against prejudice; he must educate against it as well. And to inculcate in the minds of the white the ideal that all men are created equal requires time and patience, sensibility instead of idealism, forbearance instead of impetuosity. Otherwise, tolerance will be forever an iridescent dream, not a tangible reality.

Technically, "Home of the Brave" is above average. Performances are all of a high caliber, with the exception of Jeff Coby, who is miscast as the psychiatrist.

In the title role of Moss, Negro star James Edwards, performing on the screen for the first time, gives an intelligent and sensitive account of himself when he is not required to behave with the melodramatic histrionics of an Al Jolson sobbing "Mammy!"

Dimitri Tiomkin's musical score is appropriately stirring, and camera work is vigorous throughout.

We commend "Home of the Brave" for its admirable purpose in speaking out against intolerance, but cannot help but find fault with its proposed solution and method of approach.

Washington, Feb. 16 g—An official of Trans-Texas Airways testified Tuesday that if the line receives a five-year extension of its operating permit the government's mail pay rate to it can be expected to drop sharply.

M. L. Muse of Houston, secretary-treasurer of Trans-Texas, urged James Verner, Civil Aeronautics Board examiner, to grant the line's request for an extension of its certificate.

Invitations to the Brazos County Reserve Officers Association party Saturday night must be secured by Friday noon, February 17, Grady Elms, president, announced today.

The affair will be held in the Maggie Parker Tea Room at 8:30 Saturday night, Feb. 18. There will be a buffet supper with dancing afterwards. The Aggieband Combo will furnish the music.

Invitations may be secured from J. B. Hervey at the Former Students Office, Allen Madeley at the Housing Office, Harry Raney at 28A Vet Village, Fred Benson and Frank Smith at the C. E. Dept., Grady Elms at the Student Activities Office, Sid Loveless at American General Insurance Co. at the North Gate, Joe Vincent at Frank-Vincent Insurance Co., and Lt. Col. Joe Davis at Ross Hall.

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PALACE Bryan 2-8879

NOW SHOWING

Advertisement for 'Tell It To The Judge' featuring Russell Cummings. Includes text: 'The three on a HONORABLE... had it of the year... RUSSELL CUMMINGS Tell It To The Judge GIG YOUNG - MARIE MADONALD'

PREVUE FRIDAY 11 P.M.

Advertisement for 'Dakota Lil' featuring Edward L. Alperin. Includes text: 'EDWARD L. ALPERIN presents DAKOTA LIL CINECOLOR MONTGOMERY - CAMERON WINDSOR AN AMERSON PRODUCTION - RELEASED THRU FIFTEENTH CENTURY-JOE PREVUE SAT. 11 P.M.'

PREVUE SAT. 11 P.M.

Advertisement for 'Pinky' featuring Jeanne Crain. Includes text: 'SOON YOU WILL KNOW WHY PINKY The story of a girl who fell hopelessly in love! JEANNE CRAIN - STEEL BARRYMORE STEEL WARREN - WILLIAM LUNDIGAN Produced by DAVID L. BRAYSON - Directed by NELA BRAYSON'

PREVUE SAT. 11 P.M.

Advertisement for 'Captain China' featuring John Gull and Jeffery Payne-Russell-Lynn. Includes text: 'ADVENTURE Rides The High Seas! John Gull Jeffery Payne-Russell-Lynn in Captain China PLUS: CARTOON-NEWS'

PREVUE SAT. 11 P.M.

Advertisement for 'Home of the Brave' featuring James Edwards. Includes text: 'HOME OF THE BRAVE James Edwards Jeff Coby Douglas Dick Frank Lovejoy Stanley Kramer Mark Robson Directed by Stanley Kramer'