

Battalion Editorials

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1950

Public Speaking in the Basic Division . . .

The Battalion has, in the past, recommended a slight change in the curriculum of all students which so far has been in vain. In hopes that perhaps our previous appeal went unnoticed, we'd like to go on record once again for requiring public speaking in the Freshman schedule instead of the Senior.

Public speaking is largely a matter of practice. The more opportunity a person has to speak, the better speaker he will become if given a start in the right direction. Here at A&M we wait until a man is read—or should be ready—to pick up his diploma before we expose him to a speech course. Undoubtedly he benefits from that course. But during the four years preceding that course he has probably had many opportunities to speak in public which he either passed up or muffed because he was unsure of himself.

Today's Graduates and the Uncertain World . . .

The words of thousands of Memorial Day speeches are still being repeated today, two days since the actual observance of the day honoring America's war dead. All of them stress two basic themes: (1) the desperate need for maintaining the peace for which so many men give their lives and (2) the necessity for preserving our military, economic and moral strength to withstand the batterings of communism.

These two themes may appear to be contradictory but actually they are not. There can be no argument for the first. All people agree that peace should be the goal of all our negotiations. As Gen. George C. Marshall said Tuesday when he spoke at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, "Whoever wins another war, their generation will lose it—the victorious power will stand amidst its own ruins."

There has been some disagreement on the second theme. Certainly our moral strength must be preserved. Our economic strength has to be fortified too, for without that we will eventually lose our power to combat communism. And our military strength must also be preserved and kept streamlined, for the time

What Means 'Economy' . . .

All this talk in Washington and over the nation about governmental economy doesn't rest well with us. Not because we want the taxpayer to spend more money, but because if this economy business goes too far the taxpayer will realize that not a crying dime of his money is being spent where he can see it.

National policies seem to have jelled such that a big bite of our budget must go for aid to countries overseas. This is well, good, noble, fine, etc. We agree that our foreign friends need our help, and dollars.

While we give a sizeable chunk of our budget to places most of us will never see, we would also like to see some of our tax money spent here at home—so we can observe what it buys. We'd like to help everybody, and we'd like to help ourselves, too.

Too frequently economy means strip-

ping vital domestic functions of government in favor of maintaining a good front overseas. Domestic governmental functions oftentimes assume the proportions of pork barrel schemes—"I'll vote for your post office if you'll vote for my hospital" deals.

There is an attempt to encourage greater student participation in representative campus government. Each year more and more men file as candidates for offices in the Student Senate. And each year, as elections are held, more men are placed in a position where they will be called upon to speak in public.

Why don't we teach the fundamentals of public speaking early? Why not give freshmen the right start in speaking, then allow them the opportunity to practice in their remaining years here what they have learned? It would fill them with more confidence and, if they are called upon to speak to a group of visitors, they will be able to better reflect their training here.

Public speaking should be a course in the Basic Division, not the next thing to a post graduate study.

may come, despite our efforts to the contrary, when the issues between our nation and Russia will have to be settled on the battleground regardless of the ultimate end. This is an unpleasant fact, but as Gen. Marshall further pointed out, war "is better than appeasement" and "far better than submission to tyranny and oppression, because without freedom and respect for human dignity, life would not be worth living."

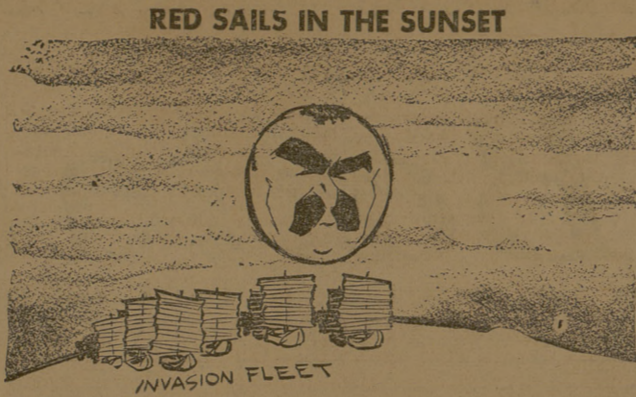
This Saturday more than 1,100 A&M men will be graduated. They stand as part of other thousands of American youth who, in the face of continuing crisis, have pursued successfully training designed to fit them better for their places in the world. They all will be called upon to support and defend our struggle for peace and they are well equipped. Using knowledge gained here and at home and, for many of them, on the battlefields, they stand ready to assume their obligations.

Today's graduates are entering an uncertain world. Let us hope that their knowledge and judgment may, in some measure, help to bring stability out of uncertainty.

Too rigid economy measures clear across the board while pursuing wasteful and inefficient practices elsewhere in government strip the people of one of the necessary ingredients of government—helpful and necessary domestic services.

We'll go along with the proponents of foreign aid. We'll support some economy measures.

But we want to be sure these economy measures won't lessen domestic governmental service. We've poured too much money down rat holes—China, for example—to not assume the questioning attitude on all governmental expenditures.



President Says Goodbye, Welcomes Successor

To the class of 1950 go my best wishes for a successful business and professional life. As you assume new responsibilities and take up new duties you will find need for the knowledge which you have acquired and the judgment you have developed in your college life.

Whatever your sphere in life, you must work with other people. You need the friendship of your fellows—remember that to make friends one must be friendly and genuinely interested in others. For those whose college careers are not yet complete, I wish a pleasant vacation and a safe return to college in the fall, determined to prepare yourselves fully to meet the responsibilities and take advantage of the opportunities that may come your way.

After I confer the degrees tomorrow night, I shall retire from

the presidency of your college and place its guidance in the hands of my worthy successor.

I bespeak for him your cooperation and support. I shall continue to be connected with the college in a non-administrative way, and I hope to have opportunity to know you better and to render you any service I may.

F. C. BOLTON
President of the College

Navy Plans Tests For New Weapon

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Navy is planning to turn its newest weapon—the guided missile—against one of its own vessels to find out whether the giant rockets can sink a warship.

Officials who refused use of their names disclosed this project, but they declined to say when or where the experiment will be staged.

They indicated, however, that the test may alter naval tactics almost as radically as did the late Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell when he proved almost 30 years ago that a battleship could be sunk by aerial bombs.

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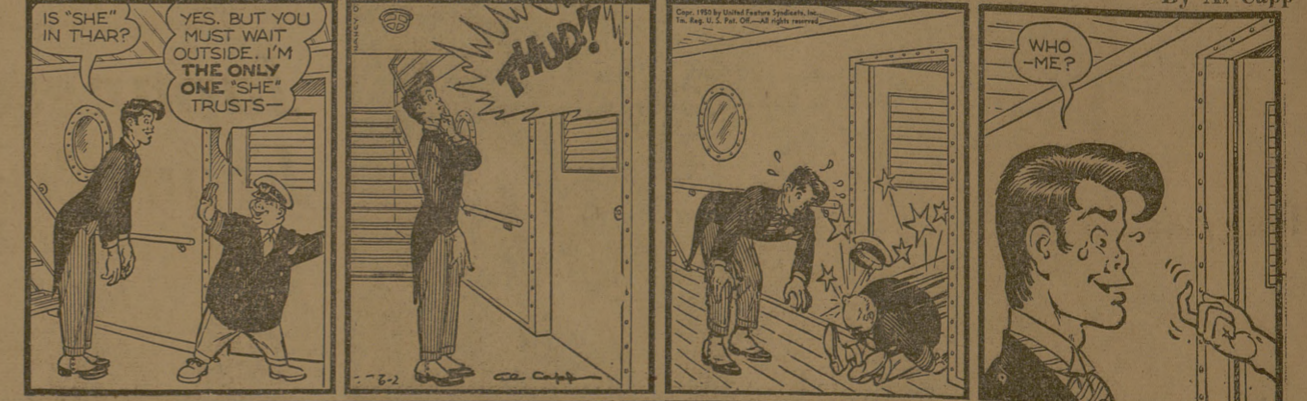
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L'L ABNER Come Into My Parlor By Al Capp



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