

# Battalion Editorials

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1950

Page 5

## Welcome to A&M, Class of '54 . . .

Class of '54 and transfer students we are glad you chose to continue your education at our institution, which is now your school, too.

We hope that you chose our school because of some outstanding quality from which you wanted to benefit. And now that you are here, we hope that you will discover many another outstanding quality that will make your stay here a most profitable and pleasant experience.

You may have already heard that you are the first full Freshman Class since 1946 to be housed on the main campus. And you may have heard, too, of our new Basic Division of which you are now a member. It is an organization dedicated to help you and guide you into the channels of learning and experience best suited to your needs and your aptitudes.

We, the old returning students welcome you, and wish you the best in your college career.

## There is a Great Year Ahead of Us . . .

In its colorful history, A&M has experienced some highly eventful years, but probably no other has promised so much color, so many events, and so many problems to solve as the one we are about to begin.

Returning students are aware that the year ahead is an important one and those of you who are with us for the first time will begin to realize its import before too many weeks have passed.

Closest to the everyday lives of the student body will be our new two million dollar Memorial Student Center, which opens some of its departments this week. Someone has said that the MSC will be like the living room of a house. It will be interesting to note what the student body does now that it has a living room added to its house.

Another stimulant helping to make this year an unusually active one, will be the various activities of the seventy-fifth anniversary celebration. As now planned, the program will bring dignitaries from over the nation to visit our campus during the year.

These highlights added to the prospect of a winning football team make the social calendar for the coming year a bright one.

On the more serious side, the school will be going into a year of new leadership, both in the presidential post and in the office of his assistant, the dean of the college.

With new leadership usually come new ideas, and with new ideas will come a challenge to both the faculty and student body to try new ways and means in the continuous effort for improvement.

Academically, the college has added a new department, that of the Basic Division, an organization dedicated to proper guidance and counselling of the new student so that he may gain the most from his college efforts. And directly connected with the Basic Division is the return of the Freshman student body to the campus.

Of keener interest to the corps students will be those changes effected in the cadet corps for this year. A new freedom and choice never allowed at A&M will be tried this year when students will get somewhat of an option on military training. For those who want military full-time the cadet corps will be available, and for those who don't care for such an active program, a choice of living in civilian dormitories is being offered.

In almost every phase of activity, something new will be going on this year. Every student will be affected and people even beyond the borders of the state will hear of our activities.

There is real promise of a great year at A&M. We hope that you are as anxious get into, and become a part of it, as we are.

## What Do You Know About Student Government? . . .

More students on this campus know the dates various buildings were constructed than know how their student government functions. And each and every one of these same students will say with conviction that he is interested in the welfare of his school.

Student government can do only as much for the body it governs as that body will make it do. And they can make it do very little, if they fail to understand its operation.

Every year a surprising number of students, many of them seniors who should have a thorough working knowledge of student governmental affairs, awaken to find that student government at A&M includes a great deal more than class organizations. Indeed, class organizations often weigh least when important decisions are to be made.

On the right half of this page A&M's two house system of government and other lesser governing groups are discussed in detail. Throughout the year, when it seems appropriate, The Battalion will discuss these same groups again.

If you are one of those students who claim an interest in the welfare of the college, you can do a great deal toward making your ideas heard by getting acquainted with your government.

To those of you who are here for the first time this year, we can suggest no more valuable bit of campusology for you to begin to learn than the functioning of your student government.

Your newspaper is going to keep itself informed on student government. If you can't find the answers, we may be able to find them for you.

# The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions  
"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

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## Life Committee and Senate . . .

# A&M Has Bicameral Student Government

By CHUCK CABANISS

Student government at A&M has progressed greatly in the past few years as increasingly democratic agencies for student expression have been created and strengthened. The Student Senate was organized in 1947 and the Constitution of the Student Body under which the organization operates was approved in the spring of 1948.

Shortly before the emergence of the Senate the Student Life Committee was re-organized along broader, more representative lines, and in the spring of 1949 the committee was granted its first constitution by the administration of the college.

During the 1949-50 school year still another unit in the student government came into existence with the naming of the Memorial Student Center Council by the president of the college. The MSC Council joined the Student Senate, the Student Life Committee, and the Athletic Council as the college-wide agencies at A&M on which the student body is represented.

Functions of the Athletic Council, which governs the activities of the Athletic Department, are explained in a separate article in the sports.

### Student Life Committee

The Student Life Committee during 1949-50 strengthened its position as the "upper house" of the A&M student government. Under its constitution from the president of the college, the committee is to govern all matters pertaining to student life. Current amendments give the group authority to serve as liaison unit between all other student organizations and the college administration and to act on and forward any matters which need approval of higher authorities.

The committee is to review and make recommendations on all Student Senate business requiring the action of higher authorities. Under these amendments and an adopted "student government channels" chart, the group also is to act on and forward matters of class business not within the jurisdiction of the Student Senate but still of a nature requiring the approval of higher authorities.

### Students Form Majority

The committee is composed of eleven students and nine faculty and staff members, the latter appointed yearly by the president of the college. Four student members are elected by the Student Senate, three student members are selected in a general election by the non-corps students, and the presidents of the Senior and Junior Classes, the colonel of the corps, and the co-editors of The Battalion (who exercise only one vote between them) are automatically members because of the offices they hold.

The committee chairman is designated by the president of the college, who also designates a non-voting executive secretary, and the group elects one of its members as parliamentarian. Among its many duties, the committee distributes the Welfare and Recreation Fund, selects Who's Who award winners, and supervises and grants contracts for student publications.

### Student Senate

The Student Senate is the highest all-student unit in the A & M student government. The Constitution of the Student Body authorizes it to govern in matters of student affairs. The Senate corresponds to the "lower house" of

the common legislature as its members are elected by popular vote in fall elections except for the vice-presidents of the four classes, who are automatically members.

Of the remainder of its 43 members in 1949-50, 27 were elected from a corresponding number of dormitories and housing areas, four by the students living in Annex barracks, two by the day students, and five "at-large" by all of the students. A total of 116 candidates filed for Senate places in the fall elections.

Officers of the Senate, elected by the members, are a president, secretary, and parliamentarian. Constitutional amendments passed at the final meeting of the group add the office of vice-president this fall. Another amendment provides for nine non-voting, non-debating associate seats, three to be filled by each of the lower classes, to provide "experience" for additional underclassmen.

### TISA Officers

Subject to popular approval in a special fall election, A&M officers of the TISA (Texas Inter-collegiate Students Association) will be given seats in the Senate which would normally be filled by senators-at-large. If approved, a TISA committee to include any current state officers from A&M will function within the Senate and will represent A&M in affairs of the state organization.

Current TISA officers are Joe Fuller, parliamentarian; Allan Eubank, executive vice-president, and Charles Royalty, executive secretary. The latter two offices were filled by the Senate since A&M automatically receives them as the host school for the 1950-51 TISA convention.

Much of the work of the Senate is done by its nine standing committees, and a committee at least makes recommendations concerning such matters as concern it. Most important of the committees is probably the four senators group which is elected to the Student Life Committee. The four senators act as a liaison between the two groups but are not instructed how to vote by the Senate, rather voting individually on all matters.

### Executive Committee Important

Second most important is the executive committee which determines the agenda items and "guides" Senate business. The welcoming committee which handles relations with other student bodies and the social committee which participates in the selection of the Aggie Sweetheart and designates A&M representatives to social functions of other schools are next most highly regarded.

Very important is the election committee which handles all elections except class balloting. The Exchange Store committee distributes Exchange Store profits while the hospital and mess committees determine and investigate problems and make recommendations for improvements in those fields. The publicity committee cooperates with regular media of publicity in different phases of Senate work.

Special committees include the Campus Chest committee which directs the Campus Chest drive to provide funds for the Twelfth Man Scholarship, the WSSF, and a local contingency fund; the traffic committee which investigates campus problems and recommends solutions to the administration, and Job Clinic committee which cooperates with the Placement Office

in work towards a local clinic. MSC Council

A 16-member council was named by President Frank C. Bolton in February, 1950, as the first Memorial Student Center Council. The group, which is to supervise MSC activities, is responsible to the Memorial Student Center Board composed of five faculty and staff members appointed by the president. This board is directly responsible to the president.

The initial MSC Council was appointed by the president and included eight students, five faculty members, two former A&M students, and the MSC director.

In his directive to the council the president designated two principal duties for the group:

- organization of all activities and events concerned with the MSC.

- drafting and submitting a constitution under which the council will operate in carrying out its objectives, including a basis by which membership of the council is maintained.

The council is not concerned with the business operation of the MSC, this function being carried out by the director as a representative of the administration.

Objectives of the MSC and its governing council were listed as follows:

- to provide a social and educational program for students and the college staff.

- to foster the social, cultural, and spiritual phases of student life.

### Social Opportunities

- to provide more adequate opportunities for social and personal contacts among students, former students, faculty, and friends of the college and of its students.

- to provide facilities for meetings, short courses and conferences of citizens of the state and of farm, business, industrial, cultural, and educational courses and organizations, thus making the Center a useful and helpful factor and facility in the educational and cultural life of Texas.

Current members whose terms continue until the beginning of the spring, 1951, semester include seniors Joe Fuller and Lavon Masengale, juniors R. A. Ingels and Dan Davis, and sophomores J. T. McNew and J. C. Wallace. Two freshmen will be named this fall. Chairman of the council is Dr. J. H. Quisenberry of the Poultry Husbandry Department.

## Nine Get Degrees

Nine students from Bryan received their degrees at A&M's August 25 graduation.

School of Agriculture, bachelor of science in agricultural administration, Thomas John Arhopoulos; in animal husbandry, James R. Vernon.

School of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of arts in liberal arts, Joseph Cullen Frazier Jr.; Bachelor of Science in business, John Franklin Higgins; in chemistry, Henry R. Grove.

School of Engineering, in civil engineering, Walter J. Ware and Fred E. Grothaus; in mechanical engineering, James Camille Kouchler Pannagan, Rex L. Hardaway; in petroleum engineering, Rex L. Hardaway.

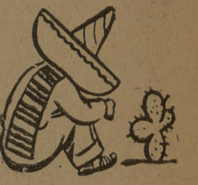
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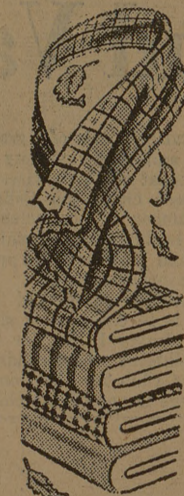
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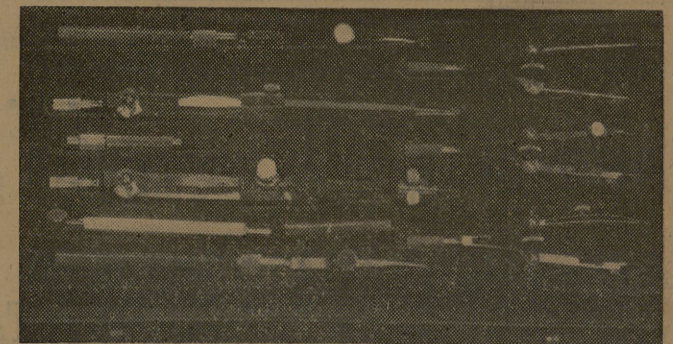
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