

# The Great Issue Series Is On Trial . . .

THOUGH known by only a few students and faculty members, the Great Issues series this year faced sudden death. Begun at the request of a large number of seniors and veteran students who realized the value of such a program, the course is now entering its third year.

But this came very near being its final year. Taught only during the Spring semester, the course this year faced grave danger until a few weeks ago.

Enrollment for the course was promising when it was first offered. This was primarily a result of those students signing for the course who had made the original request for it. Last year, enrollment dropped to almost half.

# War Threat Complacency Is Dangerous . . .

HOW MUCH chance do we stand of avoiding war with Russia? College students are not usually pessimistic, but most of us would answer that question with "about as much chance as a snowball in hell." And that seems to be the accepted idea all over the United States.

Tom E. Shearer, president of Parsons College up in Fairfield, Iowa, realized the "inevitable war" attitude of his students, so when school opened in September, he was ready with encouraging criticism.

Said President Shearer, "I am shocked to see the complacency and the apparent indifference with which our people everywhere are accepting this threat of total war. Why must we accept World War III as inevitable? We do not need to accept another world war as inevitable. We must not.

"Even death, which each of us knows to be absolutely certain for himself, we do not accept without resistance. When disease or injury threatens the health of our body, we take all possible measures to preserve that health—to stave off the certain death which will, we know, one day overtake us.

"But when, as now, the health of our nation, of our homes, our families, and our very lives are at stake—when all that we hold dear is threatened by this horrible war, we sit back and resign ourselves to this certain death and obliteration and say that war is

For this reason the Executive Council hesitated to allot several thousand dollars for Great Issues this spring. The Council questioned the expenditure of such a sum for a course which was apparently not going to be utilized by many students. Feeling that it should get at least one more try, they voted to present the course again this year, and necessary appropriations were made.

Their action will bring nationally known and recognized speakers to our campus again this Spring. Men who are experts in their fields of endeavor will pass some of their experience on to A&M students.

Whether Great Issues will be offered another year depends upon the number of persons showing interest in it this year.

inevitable. "Why, I ask you, why must we be less determined to stave off this loathsome disease of war by every possible means than we are determined to do so when disease by germs strikes our bodies.

"This acceptance of the inevitability of another war is the cry of little people who feel that they have no solution. They don't know the answer. Neither do I. I am little people and I don't know the answer either. But I am one of those little people who doesn't like to be pushed around. As one of those little people, I hereby offer a challenge to those who, by reason of their high and exalted position, claim to be big people. To them, you and I must say, "Find a way to stop this awful holocaust while there is still time."

"Fortunately, we can speak to these political officeholders in a language they understand—votes. We can demand that the candidates for office who expect our votes will have a solution to offer. You and I can expect and, by our votes demand, that those who occupy or aspire to occupy political offices shall find other and more constructive solutions. If we make that demand strong enough, if we make it clear that we will not be satisfied with war as the only answer, the candidates will certainly exhaust all possibilities in finding a peaceful solution."

# Letters to The Editor

Let's Do Some Thinking Before We Write

Editor, The Battalion:

Recently, these columns have been filled with letters to the editor, many of which revealed the total lack of serious thought before being written; others were sensible answers to legitimate gripes.

One of the sensible letters was published in yesterday's Battalion and was written by Don Joseph '51 in answer to a letter by Frank Manitzas '52 in which Manitzas voiced objection to our yells during the Baylor Queen presentations.

The other letter—the one we consider as totally ill-founded as to content and showing absolute lack of reasoning and, in places, even downright ignorance—was also in reference to the aforementioned letter by Manitzas.

Class distinction at A&M is one of the oldest and most revered traditions of this school. Our beliefs are in accordance and complete harmony with this tradition—as it was originally intended. We believe it in because there are many good arguments in its favor and we have been a part of it.

But the day a senior sets himself up as a campus "zeal" and believes that all his actions, as well as his written and spoken words,

express the divine will of the school and are beyond question, it is time a few of the artificial props were removed.

A letter was printed yesterday and was signed by 18 members of the Class of '51. A portion of this letter read; "also any complaints of the Senior Class which Mr. Manitzas may have, he may keep to himself." Another portion read; "the Corps would be better off with less . . . complaints by undergrads about subjects of no concern to them, and attempts by different parties at changing old traditions and customs."

We contend that every man, be he a lowly frog or a member of the class of '80, has a right to express his opinion without fear of censorship, or retaliation from his superiors.

If Manitzas believes that we were in the wrong by giving yells during Queen presentation, that is his right. It is not the right of any member of the class of '51 to say that he can't believe so. If he believes we should have played the Aggie War Hymn, that is his right. And, it is the right of anyone to give a sensible answer to his accusations as was done in the aforementioned sensible letter. It is not

however the right of a member of the Class of '51 to say that Frank was in the wrong by questioning the yell leaders, simply because the yell leaders are one class higher than Manitzas.

Without a doubt, there are freshmen on this campus today who could offer good advice to seniors concerning common everyday decency and the rights of a man to freedom of speech. But these 18 seniors would undoubtedly be the last to recognize that fact.

A&M is an institution of higher learning and as such tries to teach students how to think. Thank God most of them learn this. But judging from the actions of what we hope is a minority around the campus, we can't help but believe that some people leave here without ever learning this art.

Lacking this knowledge, these men will always be a thorn in the side of a school that has always, and we hope will always, had the tradition of turning out the best men in the world.

We are not writing this letter to chastise any member of the student body. Rather we are writing it in the hope that more men will use a little reason before making such a dogmatic statement as "underclassmen have no right to question anything said or done by a senior."

Think it over. And as far as Senior Ring waving goes, we can do that too. Sid Abernathy '49 Jerry M. Zuber '48

# Some Things Considered . . .

# Our Sophomores Need Waking Up

By Clayton L. Selph

Our sophomores certainly are a dynamic lot. They held their election for class officers and student senators Wednesday night. Two-hundred-sixty-three out of an approximate 950 voted. We've never heard of a group more interested in the welfare of their class and its influence in campus affairs.

This same 950 will be the very group who will complain loudest when their Soph Ball isn't up to snuff and when the Student Senate puts them off in a corner at Kyle Field. It will never cross their minds that they are responsible for a considerable part of it.

Within the Cadet Corps a sophomore has very little say-so, but in student government he does have a voice. Sophomores can't expect to get a square deal if they aren't interested enough to present their case.

Officers elected by a class so little interested in class activities can't be expected to be very enthusiastic in their jobs.

The Sophomore Class officer run-off is scheduled for Monday evening. If you sophomores are at all concerned with the success of your class activities we suggest you make it a point to be there. If you are not interested, then make no complaints when you get a raw deal.

# Our Letters to The Editor Policies

Today's "Letter to The Editor" marks the second time this week comment expressed by a member of The Battalion staff has appeared in that column. Because we have heard several questioning remarks about Batt staffers writing letters to the editor, we feel an explanation of our policy and of the purpose of the letters column is due.

Our letters column is maintained for the express purpose of providing a forum for student opinion, regardless of whether the student is a freshman or senior, hometown club member or Batt staffer, civilian or corps man.

The Battalion letters column is controlled and edited by the co-editors. All Battalion opinion expressed there is found in "notes" written by them.

Letters written by Batt staffers, like letters written by all other students, are completely unsolicited and represent the opinion of the writer and not especially the opinion of The Battalion. Batt staffers must follow the same rules as any other student when submitting a letter for publication.

Battalion opinion is expressed in our editorial column, in editor's notes and in articles signed by the co-editors.

Because we think it a good policy, we do not answer or comment on letters written by our own staffers. If you want to know our opinion you will have to ask us in a letter of your own.

Our general policy on letters: We print all letters written by students and employees of A&M College and residents of College Station, if they are free from obscenity, and properly signed. We reserve the right

# No Big Black Bear For Big Bend Park

Washington, Nov. 3 — g—The Interior Department says Texans need have no fear of the Big Bend National Park being stocked with black bears.

Paul Franks, acting director of the National Park Service, told the office of Rep. Clark Fisher of San Angelo, Tex., that he had looked into reports that it was planned to import bears into the park.

Franks said he found there was no such intention. Complacence has been made to the congressman that there already was a predatory animal problem in the Big Bend area.

From the City Desk . . .

# Fights Fizzle, Ideas Forgotten

By Joel Austin



It's extremely amusing to us to sit back and recount the many things that have come about since the middle of summer in this small, but active city of College Station. Everyone seems to get excited over an incident and with all the pledges they make to fight for various things, these fights seem to just fizzle out and be forgotten.

The item which to us is the most outstanding in this list is that little epic resulting from a mid-night fire which thoroughly destroyed a home in College Hills on the night of July 28.

# Fire Call Delayed

After careful examination (to our satisfaction anyway) the cause for the local fire department's delay in answering the fire call could be attributed to faulty telephone service at the college power plant. The signal was finally given by a local policeman who had been radioed from Bryan that the fire was blazing away unattended.

After the incident was past news, a group of people in the immediate area of the destroyed home began a campaign to "see that something was done about fire protection" in College Station. They circulated a petition which bore some 100 signatures the night it was presented to the City Council.

A committee was appointed to find out just how the present means of fire protection was lacking so that the council might have something to go on if fire protection is inadequate.

The petitioners seemed satisfied and left the meeting with the idea that something was evidently going to be done about their requests. This all took place late last summer and as far as we know the committee has never met.

# Water Rates Considered

At one time last summer the city council considered the possibility of setting up a new system of water rates in College Station. The idea was discussed to some length and members tentatively agreed to investigate Bryan's new system of charges for water.

After much publicity concerning the "lower" rates, which Bryan had established, the council met one month later only to find that approximately eight people would benefit from the new rates, and in a few cases some water consumers would even be paying more than was required under the present rates.

# Parking Meters Dropped

And digging back a little further into the summer's activities we find that some discussion was made by the city council about the installation of parking meters in the North Gate area in order to provide parking space for shoppers in that section.

The city manager contacted more than a half-dozen companies who manufacture the meters asking for prices, contract terms, samples, etc. For weeks after this deal began, several meters of various types were on display in the city hall.

Any person who dropped by the office to pay utility bills or carry on business with city officials would most likely have been led to believe that the council was going to have the meters installed.

But again, after many ways to get around the meter installation had been discussed, the matter was dropped.

# How About the Electricity Rates?

And now with the electricity rates question facing people of this city, is the same thing going to happen, or will the matter be settled before all interest is lost and residents of the areas concerned in the project forget the savings that could be there?

The Bryan City Commission must be dealt with about the power lines which they operate in College Hills. Why should these people be required to pay almost one-third more for electricity than other College Station residents?

We're hoping the College Station City Council will tackle this incident at their next meeting Monday, Nov. 13. That's still a long way off, but by that time the Bryan officials may be ready to do business with this city.

# Behind the Scenes . . .

# 'Petty Girl' Gets Whistle

By FRED WALKER

If you are a respected critic of the drama, a rigid connoisseur of the body beautiful or plagued by acute ulcers "The Petty Girl"—showing today and tomorrow at the Campus—won't do much to improve your temperament, but if you are a normal individual, who suffers no phobias or illusions, this two hours of pure paradoxical entertainment will prove to be a welcome spark.

Columbia must have had the Aggies in mind when "The Petty Girl" was put into production for rarely has anything been so well received at College Station. Talk about an oasis in a desert.

For the title role of George Cummings was in no way erroneous. Whether the original Petty lead such an "uninhibited" life is unimportant, for all that glimpsed Cummings' performance will be unwilling to connect anything but a non-

chalant, persuasive light-heartedness with the artists name. Cummings is an artist himself with dead pan repartee, and his added expressions of chagrin are a riot. As for Miss Caulfield—ay, yi, yi! The young ladies' limbs are no mean example of cheesecake and the abbreviated costumes that so emphatically exhibit these charms are a wonder to behold. If Miss Caulfield's dramatic ability were to be questioned of the audience of Nov. 2, 99% would probably ask, "She can act yet?"

Call this picture a glorified flesh show, cheap advertising, Hollywood burlesque or anything you like, but to a healthy male of active age (And, brother, do we fit that description), who eternally seeks an outlet from an "unfemalium" outpost, this zany little ditty outells Hadacol.

The plot is not the important element involved and for that reason it will be dealt with in short order.

It embraces nothing more than the adventures of an unsuccessful commercial artist who, while persuaded to change his style to the higher forms of art by a seductive patroness, really yearns for "the good old days." He meets an old-fashioned school teacher (Caulfield) whom he proceeds to "un-old-fashion."

The picture ends with a pitched battle between both females for possession of the middle man, plus the exhibition of 12 lovely Petty Girls.

The music is not the best ever written, but it remains pleasant and refreshing throughout. Lyric writer Johnny Mercer is as good as ever.

Elsa Lancaster is thoroughly delighted as the semi-old maid school-marm and Melvin Cooper is his usually reliable self.

The screen play, based on a story by Mary McCarthy, is not too good, but it breaks forth with many sharp cracks when they are needed most.

# The Battalion

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

Page 2 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1950

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published five times a week during the regular school year. During the summer terms, The Battalion is published four-times a week, and during examination and vacation periods, twice a week. Days of publication are Monday through Friday for the regular school year, Tuesday through Friday during the summer terms, and Tuesday and Thursday during vacation and examination periods. Subscription rates \$6.00 per year or \$5.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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# TALK OF THE TOWN

Where Everyone Meets

To Enjoy Good Food at Popular Prices

Air Conditioned



Loupot's Trading Post—Agents

By Al Capp

There's No Accounting For Taste

Snake in Eden

By Al Capp

The refined, bullet-proof New York apartment of Big Stanislaus

WELL, DOC—WHAT'S YOUR VOIDICIT? YOU NEED TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL! IF YOU STAY HERE, YOU'RE APT TO SUFFER FROM A SHOCK—ABOUT 25,000 VOLTS, I'D SAY.

OKAY—BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE A SOFT BUCK IN DIS JOIKY DUMP—HERE?

IT'S UNCIVILIZED!! NO POOL JOINTS, NO PROTECTION RACKETS, NO SLOT MACHINES!! NO CHANCE T'MAKE NO BETS ON NUTTIN!!

AH!! BET DAVEY MAE DON'T KETCH L'L' ABNER, AGIN!!

AH!! BET WIDDER YOKUM NARS BASIL RUMBONE!!

EF YO' ADMIRES -USH-HIM, YO' KIN S'OBLE HAVE HIM!!

HE BEZ GOT CAUGHT ON ANY SADDIE HAWKINS DAY!!

WHO IS YO' LOOKIN' AT WIF SECH AD-MEE-RAY, SHUN?

AS SAFE AS UP YO'RE MIND, WHO YO'D LIKE IN MAH MAMMY'S ARMS.

YO' GOTTA MAKE FO' A NEW PAPPY--P.-P.- WHO IS YO' LOOKIN' AT WIF SECH AD-MEE-RAY, SHUN?

DON'T BE SILLY!! WHO'D WANT ME? TAKE A LOOK AT ME. TAKE A DEEP SNIFF O' ME!! AH AN' UNSANITARY.

IT MIGHT BE YO!

YOKUM IS PICKIN' OUT A HUSBIN? KETCH COME SADDIE HAWKINS DAY!!

RUN FO' YO'RE LIFE, BASIL RUMBONE!!