

Sophomores Throw Vote to the Winds . . .

ALTHOUGH A&M's system of student government has its many fallacies and undefined duties for various divisions, there should be no reason for condemning the ability of students to gather and do such a simple thing as scratch ballots for class officers.

But actions undertaken by members of the Sophomore Class during their run-off election for officers warrants some discussion along these lines. Not only did the '53 members conduct themselves and their balloting in a most disorderly fashion, but they also placed their class among those which are deemed to get only limited results in any undertaking.

After voting with little confusion and misunderstanding in the primary election held in the Assembly Hall November 1, those same sophomores came back and almost ob-

Borrow if you want to, but just remember you will have to pay the money back, whether you do it in your own name, that of your business or your government.

We Want More, And More, And More

THE RUSSIANS have submitted a new plan for the unification of Germany. While this plan will undoubtedly be rejected by the United States, Britain, and France, it represents a study in the objectives of Soviet "power politics".

The plan consists of these four points:

- The big four should guarantee that Germany "will not be dragged into any aggressive plans", and that the Potsdam agreement will be re-affirmed.

- All "hindrances" to the development of a peaceful German economy will be removed, and all German war potential eliminated.

- A peace treaty with Germany would be concluded without delay and all occupying troops evacuated one year after its signature.

- An all-German constitutional council should be created with Eastern Germany and Western Germany represented on a "balanced" basis.

Roughly translated, this proposal is just a Russian assertion that "we want Germany on our side of the geo-political fence." If the plan is carried to completion, 68,000,000 more people will go behind the iron curtain to be exploited and militarized to oppose "capitalist aggression."

Secretary of Defense Marshall has long held the view that Western Europe is the critical spot in the "balance of power," and that the Russians would eventually make a bid in this direction. We can only hope that the Atlantic Pact will define the situation in such a manner as to prevent another "police action."

We do not mind being classed as favorable to labor, organized and unorganized, but we are old-fashioned enough to think that a paycheck is entitled to respect, expressed in work.

The Battalion

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

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 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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literated the run-off count because there were those who couldn't wait long enough for all the 400 voters to receive ballots before leaving.

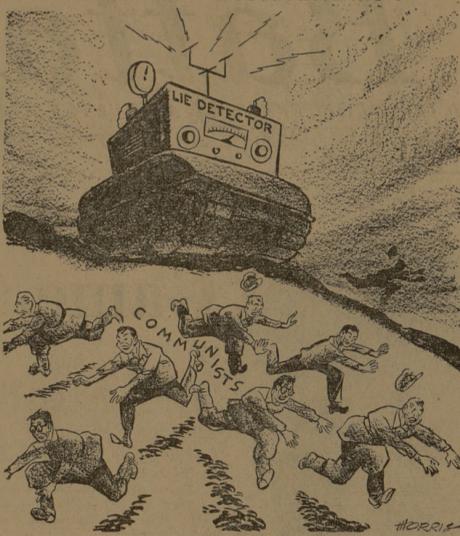
According to reports from the class election committee chairman, students were seen crawling out of windows and forcing their way through the entrance where ballots were still being issued. When election committee members refused to take the ballots before all voters had received their tally sheet, many students merely dropped the ballots on the floor or placed them on chairs, causing the ballots to scatter all over the room.

When order was finally brought about and only a handful of voters left in the room, election officials made their way about the room and picked up the discarded ballots.

The election has been ruled official and results will stand as announced. But how many members of that class will be proud to look back on those proceedings if any future class election, conducted in a similar manner.

Possibly a little more respect for rules set about for the voting procedure would be in order for the sophomores. They have much to lose if they continue as they have in the past.

THERE OUGHT TO BE AN INVENTION



From the City Desk . . .

Coffers Grow As Bryan Waits

... By Joel Austin



We have received several inquiries from College Hills residents concerning the proposition for reduced electric rates for this lone area which is not enjoying the new rates established by the city council this month for the rest of College Station.

In its efforts to secure power lines in College Hills now operated by the Bryan-REA, the city council has received bids from several companies in this area which are capable of supplying College Station with a sufficient amount of power.

The Brazos Valley Transmission Co-operative was low bidder in the deal, but no contract was signed by either party because the Bryan-REA made an offer at the last minute which caused the city council to hold up their plans.

REA Agrees to Sell Lines

Rather than have the city of College Station parallel their lines in College Hills, the REA representatives and the Bryan City Commission agreed to sell the lines to this city. Also included in the deal was a price quotation for supplying water to College Station residents from Bryan reservoirs.

But when asked to give a price for their electricity service investment in the east side addition of College Station, the Bryan people hesitated to answer.

According to Mayor Ernest Langford, the Bryan City Commission and the College Station City Council can do nothing now until the Bryan group hears from the Washington REA office concerning approval of the sale.

Many people have asked just why such approval is necessary, and although Bryan city dads say the national headquarters must pass on a sale of this sort, it's hard to see how and why it would take this long.

City Council Convenes Monday

Of course if the property is mortgaged without authority to sell, there is reason for delay. But nevertheless, when the College Station City Council convenes for its regular session Monday night, the group will have little to go on concerning the electricity question, unless the Bryan offer is presented.

Of course the longer the Bryan commission waits to make its offer for the lines, the more money they receive for their own coffers.

According to information we have been able to obtain, this isn't the first time the question of electricity has come up with the Bryan group. In fact the same problem has existed for quite a number of years. Bryan originally served this area when it (College Station) was nothing more than a group of newly developed sub-divisions.

Times have changed now and College Station is an up-to-date incorporated city which shouldn't have to look to other towns for power at a figure much higher than it is capable of supplying itself.

Fire Committee to Meet

L. P. Gabbard, chairman of the citizens committee appointed last summer by Mayor Langford to study methods of improving fire protection in College Station, says they will meet this week.

And the meeting will come not a bit too soon. With the alarms which the college fire department had to answer to extinguish grass fires yesterday, it looks as though an old problem has been re-hashed.

The question which the committee has been asked to study deals with methods of fire protection. Of course the people fuss and ask for better service, but to put it in the words of Fire Chief Cled Warren, "The people have a lot to say and do little about fires when they break out."

He was referring to the large group of people which had gathered at a fire in the extreme South portion of the city near Lincoln High School. And then the people say "fight our fires; get there in a minute or two so we may be assured of as little loss as possible."

Trash Burning Is Prohibited

But we made a personal investigation of both fires yesterday afternoon and they could be traced to trash cans and garbage piles for their origin.

Remember! College Station ordinances definitely state that it is unlawful to start a fire anywhere in the city. This ordinance includes garbage and rubbish which the city will collect for a nominal fee.

Better methods of fire protection may be necessary, but they certainly won't stop the number of fires if some of the people who do the fussing don't abide by city fire regulations.

This Year's Campaigns Subtle And Intellectual

By JAMES MARLOW

Washington, Nov. 8—(AP)—The political campaign which closed yesterday was distinguished for its very high, but very subtle, intellectual tone.

For instance, the phrase—"he's a bum"—appeared more than once, giving a staccato effect to sentences which otherwise seemed ponderous.

You can see the advantage in the repetition of a phrase like that day after day, used by a politician to sum up a rival.

Forms Link

It forms an instant link between the speaker and the voters because there hardly breathes a man who at some time or other:

- Hasn't known a bum or two and formed opinions of them; or
- Has himself called some rival—in love, dice or business—a bum; or
- Hasn't been called a bum by some rival.

So the beautifully simple phrase—"he's a bum"—penetrated immediately to the emotions and imaginations and recollections of the voters.

Save Wear and Tear

Such a phrase has an added utility: It saves an amazing amount of literary wear and tear on the speech writers whenever they can find a place for it.

But, having flexed their mental muscles with such one-syllable collocations as "he's a bum," the

speakers were then able to display their command over much more complicated words that ran up to as many as four syllables, words like:

"Thief, liar, crook, faker, trickster, barbarian, nefarious conspirator, little Stalin, and hypocrite." Since this country has assumed world leadership, it may have been a little disquieting for any foreigner who heard the speeches to think that one of the people so described might get elected to high office.

Politicians Are Conservative

There was no need for them to be disturbed. In spite of any notions to the contrary, American politicians, by and large, are an extremely conservative group, as you can see from what follows:

They could have reached out for some new-fangled ideas not tested by politicians in previous years. But politicians know from experience that the new is always dangerous. Such a step by itself would have been proof of radical tendencies.

So whole herds of this year's politicians, modestly and conservatively, stuck to the old political stand-bys, giving a kind of familiar touch to all they said.

One Thing and Another

So this one was "tarred with isolationism," that one was "leading the nation down the road to socialism," this one was "handpicked by Wall Street" and that one was a "rubber stamp for the administra-

And, geographically, this year's politicians displayed an astonishing range and versatility, giving individual interpretations of what happened at Yalta, laying the blame for Korea, and disclosing in no uncertain way the strategic importance of Formosa, or lack of it.

While such themes as "Communism" and "witch-hunting" are no longer exactly new, they were by no means overlooked by the politicians who, being human, are sentimental enough not to want to discard old things because they're old.

All Was Free

All of this was free, and sometimes was accompanied by a barbeque without charge. But not content with the wide variety of themes, the politicians even provided variety in techniques.

Some descended in helicopters, fully equipped to begin talking on landing. This may have had a symbolic effect on voters: a man coming from the general direction of heaven, uttering prophesies.

Some had pretty girls hand out comic books at their rallies so that the voters, in the pauses between speeches, could bone up a bit on this latest American art form.

An although it may have been a little difficult for some of the dull-minded voters to see what it had to do with fitness for office, one 69-year-old candidate for governor challenged his rival to a foot race.

First Volume of Boswell Papers . . .

'Boswell's London Journal' Takes Frank Look at Life

By W. G. ROGERS

New York, Nov. 8—(AP)—Even the most thrilling story about pirates' buried treasure is hardly a match for the fantastic history underlying the publication of "Boswell's London Journal 1762-1763."

Copyright by Yale, published by McGraw-Hill, edited by Frederick A. Pottle and with a preface by Christopher Morley, it is the first volume of the recently unearthed Boswell papers which Joseph Wood Krutch has described as "perhaps the greatest literary find ever made."

"Your Strange Journals . . . A Register of Your Follies," was the disapproving comment of Boswell who unscrupulously stole a peek at them. Strange is right, and so is Follies, but there is also a lot more wisdom than most young men of 22, Boswell's age when he wrote, can lay claim to.

Nearly 200 years have passed since the father, eighth Lord Auchinleck, sneaked a look at them, and few other people have had a chance for even a glance, because they have been both hidden and lost. The family was a little reformed about James Boswell and his gay, dissolute career in London; the papers were the skeleton in the closet.

Boswell named three friends his executors; they saved but did not publish his papers. In the 1840s an Englishman, a major, found Boswell letters being used as wrapping paper by a frugal French shopkeeper. That was the tip-off. In the 1920s Yale's Prof. Chauncey B. Tinker got on the track of a great treasure of manuscript near Dublin, in Malahide Castle occupied by a Boswell descendant. They

Silsbee to Celebrate

Silsbee High School of Silsbee, Texas will hold its annual homecoming Nov. 10.

The homecoming program includes an assembly scheduled at 1 p. m. in the high school auditorium.

Where The College Crowd Meets For FOOD and FUN

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his prose: He will "rather give a little neatly done than a good deal slovenly."

"Strange Journal" indeed, as the irate father said. The least he could have added was, that it's a masterpiece. It has been compared to Pepys and Rousseau; it should be compared to Casanova, too. . . . Pepys was 17th Century but the other three were contemporaries.

Enter a third American, another military man, Lieut. Col. Ralph Heyward Isham. For 20 years he spent time and money assembling the papers. A second find, including the manuscript of this book, was made by chance at Fettercarin House, near Aberdeen. They are all now together at Yale.

The extraordinary fascinating story told in the London Journal covers a nine-month period during which the young man pulled all sorts of strings to get a commission in the guards; fought off his father's efforts to make him study law; and wrote this day-by-day account. . . . An account so excessively frank that scholars of earlier and more prudent generations might have burned rather than publish it.

Of Boswell himself, we learn more of what we knew before, and some fresh items, too: His silly fear of ghosts, his inability to keep his mouth shut, his fondness for a foot bath, his growing thirst, his insatiable appetite for women. . . . The story of Louisa is both shocking and delightful, and I dread to think how many historical novels will appear in how few years with her or one of her fellow creatures as heroine and Boswell as hero.

London, too, comes wonderfully alive: its "perfect and curious characters," the "immense crowd and hurry and bustle of business and diversion," its cock fighting, taverns, breakfasts, teas, theater, boat trips, and men such as Garrick, Goldsmith, and of course Samuel Johnson himself, the great dictionary-maker and author of "Rasselas" and "The Idler."

"The correspondence of distinguished men is very much to be valued," says Boswell, and writes brashly to everyone even up to the level of Lord Bute. He claims he is master of "a method of making people speak." Thus he got together his material. But he was no hack, and he takes pains with

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Rat to Rat



By Al Capp