

Letters to The Editor

Legislated Security Pointed Out to Batt Columnist

Help Santa To Win This Tick-Tack-Toe

Thoughts and Well-wishes...

WITH THIS, the last student edition of The Battalion before we leave for the holidays, we lead off this column once more with the annual well-wishes from the members of our staff.

There's not a very original way to extend those wishes—they've been extended by much wiser folks than us in too many ways for too many years. We're not going to try to become elaborate, therefore, in this editorial.

But we do want to mention a few peculiarities of this particular Christmas. The season has a very special import to us this year.

Consider, for instance, the fact that the man who last year wrote the words "Peace on earth, good will toward men" in an editorial very similar to this one, is right now in Korea leading a detachment of American tanks. Several of the students who, like him, headed home for the holidays last year, won't make it this year—they'd have a little too far to travel.

We can't use the terminology, "a Christmas that finds us once more at war." There's been no formal declaration of that condition.

It is a Christmas, though, that finds our men fighting and dying on foreign soil.

It might be ironic for us to wish them a Merry Christmas. It would certainly be appropriate that we wish them a Happy New Year.

The thoughts symbolized by Christmas should mean a lot to them this year. Those thoughts should mean a lot to us.

"Peace on earth, good will toward men." Are we to lose faith in these thoughts? Our experiences of the last ten years or so could well lead us to do so.

But we would rather take these thoughts of Christmas time as the only solution to world strife. At no time has faith in these thoughts been so necessary—faith in these and all the other concepts of a world built on love and understanding.

It is with this in mind, therefore, that we extend our wishes. We said they would not be original. We think, though, that we offset the lack of originality with another quality—sincerity.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

The Battalion Staff

Why Do We Express Opinion?

Mr. Marvin Twenhafel Texas A&M College

Dear Mr. Twenhafel,

We want to start this letter with sincere thanks for the letter we received from you and printed in our Letters to The Editor column last Thursday. There are two main reasons why we thank you for the letter:

By writing the letter, you proved that you read our editorials and are sincerely interested in what we have to say—even if you disagree with us.

Many of the ideas you advanced are doubtless shared by many other students and this gives us a chance to explain our side of the question. (We hope the invitation to write for Pravda or Red Star was not meant too seriously.)

In your letter you said, "I do believe that our present administration knows just a little more about foreign and domestic issues than you do." So do we! After all, that's their job and they were elected from the entire United States. If they don't know more about these issues than anyone else in this country, we are in pretty bad shape. But think about the contrast in meaning between these two words: knowledge and wisdom. Our criticism is directed toward the wisdom of their actions, not toward their knowledge of affairs of state.

Again you said, "In my opinion, this is not the time for you to criticize every action of our elected president." Dear to the heart of most Americans are the rights of free speech and freedom of the press. Right now we are engaged in a war with an ideology which prohibits the exercise of these freedoms. It would be ironic and sad indeed if to defeat Communism we had to adopt the maxims of that belief.

Blind following of leaders in Germany and Italy made it possible for Hitler and Mussolini to become dictators. Read what the people of those countries were saying in 1930-35. They knew then that they were giving up many of their personal freedoms but this was not the time to criticize; Hitler and Mussolini were leading their countries out of the worst economic depression in history. Even American history books published at that time praised the dictators. Conditions "excused" the undemocratic pol-

icies of Fascism and Nazism. Now let us explain what to us is the most important reason for writing editorials.

If we can arouse our readers' interest in the reasons behind the news, if we can get them into the habit of examining with a critical mind the news of current affairs, then we feel that we are accomplishing our purpose.

College students of today will be the community leaders of tomorrow. If these students develop the habit of thinking about political ideas, instead of being ruled by outworn prejudices, then the American of the future will more successfully fulfill his obligations as a citizen in a democracy.

Facts are very often stubborn things and well concealed.

New Strategy

REPRESENTATIVE Poage (D-Tex) advocated two major changes in our national strategy in his recent speech to a convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Manpower and unity, according to Poage, should be supplemented for the impending showdown with Russia.

The first step in such a program would be the acceptance of Germans and Japanese in our armed forces. We would in effect help them to help themselves by adding to the collective security of free nations.

The second step, Poage continued, would be the modification of the "hand out" aid program. Collective security will have value to each nation in proportion to its individual contribution. In other words, we should ask for and get something in return for our monetary aid. He cited mercury from Spain, and bamboo from India as examples of this reciprocity.

The Chinese Reds have given us an example of the vast manpower potential of the Communists, and the military effect of pure numerical superiority.

We are glad to see this plan voiced before the independent thinkers of this country. Full mobilization of every resource will largely depend on full political support from an informed and alert public.

The Battalion

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Editor, The Battalion:

May I take exception to the editorial that appeared in the December 13 issue of the Battalion? The article is too illogical to criticize in a logical manner. It was such a confused hodge-podge scatter shot at rotten potatoes, compulsory health insurance and legislated security that it failed to hit any of the three widely separated targets.

Over specialization in education often leads to over simplification. I'm afraid that my fellow student is a victim of both.

May I touch briefly upon only one statement—"You can't legislate security." Perhaps you can't legislate absolute security but the writer was distorted in not being able to recognize that legislation can help to bring about more security.

The following list is intended for the writer of the editorial. It is by no means an exhaustive list.

Compulsory education laws give more security in employment and bargaining power on the labor market.

Legislative acts created our

All letters to the editor must be signed by the writer and free from obscene and libelous references. Letter writers wanting their name withheld must make a personal request to the co-editors. No unsigned letters will be published.

armed forces for purposes of security.

Legislation in cities create fire and police departments for security of property and the family.

Legislation provides traffic rules, traffic lights, and drivers licenses for greater security of the pedestrian and the automobile driver.

The pure food and drug act gives security to the customer. The elimination of embalming fluid and oatmeal from a sack of pork sausage gives security of value on your purchase.

Legislation guarantees the depositor on possible losses up to \$10,000 on a deposit in a bank should that bank fail.

Legislation gives security to the inventor by granting patent rights.

Legislation gives security to ownership of a home and property when one holds proper title.

Legislation gives security in that your medical doctor must meet specific standards before he can practice his profession.

City health legislation gives added security from disease by requiring connections to adequate sewer lines, inspection of food handling establishments and by guarantee in such instances as typhoid fever.

Legislation requires school children to be vaccinated for certain of all children and the public diseases as a consequence the health of all children and the public is more secure.

The above short list is enough—the object is too apparent. I do hope that this editorial writer will read the above list twice—and "Let's think together."

Seriously, my neighbors and I feel more secure because of the above legislation.

John Wynot

with the Batt's policy of consistently opposing any governmental program which would be beneficial to most of the people in this nation.

You oppose government health insurance, while doctors charge outrageous fees and many people are forced to do without the medical attention they need. You create the impression that you oppose government price support, and yet if it were not for government price support this nation would still be in the shape it was in 20 years ago.

A&M is built on a government land grant. Do you oppose that too?

It is indeed unfortunate that in troubled times like these there is so much opposition to progress.

But keep up the good work; Westbrook Pegler will be proud of you.

Joe A. Riddle, '53

Error Found; Three Offered Batt Jobs

Editor, The Battalion:

In your article concerning Max Reiter's death, there seems to be an error. A sentence in the article read, "He started for the Lone Star state with a list of 18 towns and \$217 he had saved while working in New York in his pocket."

However, assuming the Battalion to be correct, and not meaning to be disrespectful, we have one question to ask: Just exactly what type work did Mr. Reiter do in his pockets?

W. R. Garrett
W. R. Graham
J. W. Ward

(Editor's Note: The error pointed out by readers Garrett, Graham, and Ward is a very misleading, dangling prepositional phrase. One of our editors should have corrected it to read: "When he started for the Lone Star state he had in his pocket a list of 18 towns and \$217 he had saved while working in New York."

(Sirs, you are hereby offered jobs as Battalion copy readers. Stop by for an interview at your convenience.)

'Keep It Up, Pegler Will Be Proud'

Editor, The Battalion:

This is in reference to an editorial which appeared in the Battalion on December 13.

This editorial was in keeping

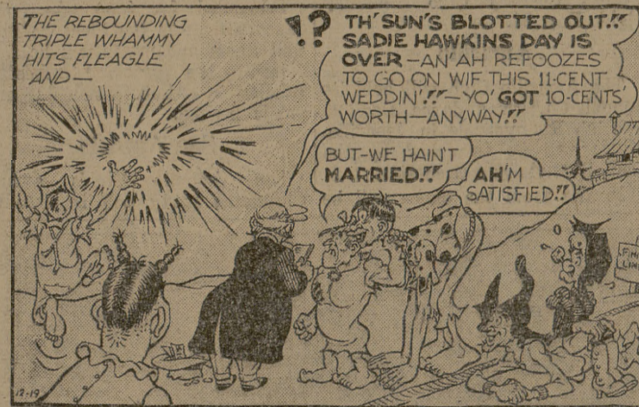
L'L ABNER Going --- Going --- ? - ? - ?



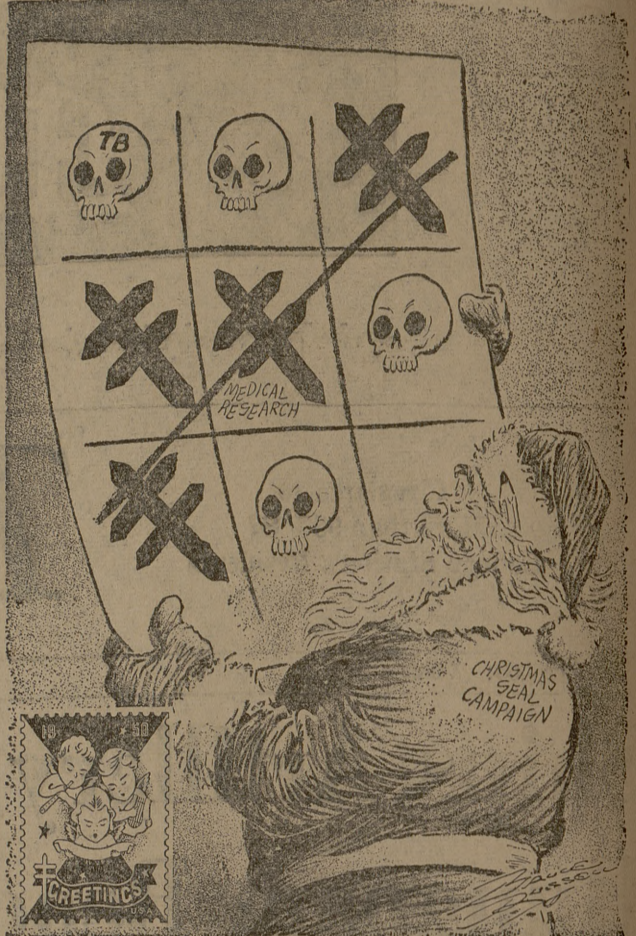
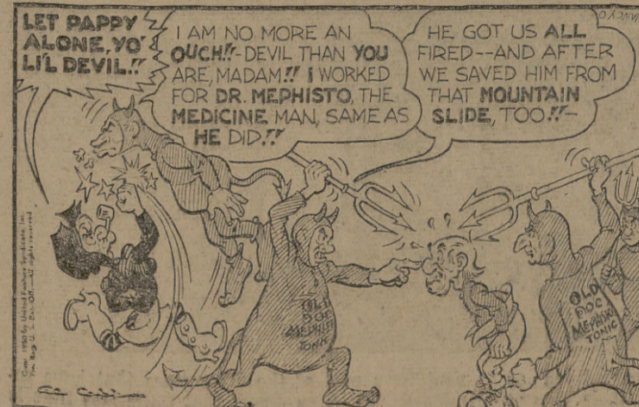
L'L ABNER Boomerang!!



L'L ABNER Birds of a Feather



L'L ABNER Moonbeam Writes Again!!



A&M System Christmas Party Honors 29 College Employees

The annual Christmas Dinner sponsored by the A&M System and the College Employees Dinner Club Saturday evening honored 29 veteran employees of A&M.

Honored guests were employees of the college for 25 years. To these, Gibb Gilchrist, chancellor of the A&M System, presented gold pins and citations. President M. T. Harrington signed the citations. The Singing Cadets, under the direction of Bill Turner, presented a musical program.

After the dinner, the group attended a dance in Sbisla Hall. The following were honored at the dinner: Edward H. Gibbons, Arthur L. Williams, Nestor M. McGinnis,

Robert P. Ward, Carl Birdwell, Dr. Fred W. Jensen, Dr. Marion T. Harrington, and Dr. Samuel R. Gammon.

Other honorees are Joseph J. Woolket, Thomas R. Nelson, Fred Hale, Kenneth L. Kirkland, Henry G. Wickes, Harry P. Morris, Daniel Russell, Thomas L. Berdine, Edward H. Tomplin, Miss Viola McKenzie, Miss Kate Adele Hill, Miss Nettie Smith, Mrs. Clara S. Hall.

Edward L. Williams, Henry L. Aismeyer, Dan D. Clinton, Parker D. Hama, Charles M. Heald, James F. Rosenborough, Vernon E. Hafner and Preston S. Goen will also be presented awards.

By Al Capp

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