

Battalion Editorials

Cast Your Ballot Tonight

THE STUDENT SENATE election committee conducts a campus-wide vote tonight.

Purpose: to let students voice their approval or disapproval of a proposed student government change which would make the Student Senate President one elected by the student body and which would change the name to President of the Student Body.

In its meeting last week, the Senate favored the change, 20-10, in an unofficial show of hands requested by its president.

The Battalion has long supported the idea and considers it a definite step in advancement of A&M's student government, provided proper qualifications are established for candidates for the office.

A question-and-answer series on the election might help explain the referendum vote to any student still in the dark, so here it is:

Q.—Why do you think we need a President of the Student Body elected by the students?

A.—The President of the Student Senate has actually been serving in this position. His actions and duties call for him to be the topmost representative of the student body. Therefore we believe the students should elect him.

Q.—Then, why the name change?

A.—Senate President Bill Parse has been at a disadvantage during his term when dealing with representatives from other Texas colleges. He can only lay claim to the indirect support of the student body, while most officers from other schools can attribute their selections to a vote of the students.

Teague Flails Draft's 'Suspense, Indecision'

Olin E. Teague is the member of the House of Representatives in Washington from Texas' Sixth District (which includes Brazos County).

I agree with the extension of service, but cannot endorse the draft of 18-year olds when, under the present draft of 19-to-26-year olds, only 12 million are considered as inductible out of a total of eight million in that age group.

Such a program should interfere as little as possible with the youngster's normal pattern of life.

As a result of the foregoing, I have introduced a bill which would leave the present draft age at 19 years, although extend the length of service to 26 months.

Incorporated in the bill also is a complete UMT program which has been developed largely by the American Legion as a result of years of work with this matter and which was the first UMT bill introduced in the Senate in 1951 by Senator Russell of Georgia.

Under this UMT program, the average youngster would be liable for four months basic military training in a special training corps in his eighteenth year. Immediately upon completion of basic training, he would fulfill the balance of his UMT requirements.

Among these alternates are additional active duty; entry into one of the reserve programs; entry into an officer training program (including college ROTC), or entry into a university for military, technical, or specialist training.

The program would be directed by a civilian commission to be appointed by the President. The main advantages of this program would be that it is definite and would allow the youngsters and their families to make definite plans.

It would not be necessary to interrupt a youngster's education or career since four months basic training could be taken during a summer and an alternate program selected which would fit in with whatever plans he had.

The program would be controlled and directed by civilians; and the program would build a large, trained reservoir of manpower on a permanent, democratic basis.

I do not know what will come out of the present Congressional debate on this matter; but, whatever does, I feel, will be a decisive factor in determining our future security.

—Olin E. Teague

The Battalion

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

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Phi Eta Sigma Data Due Saturday

The cumulative historian's record of Phi Eta Sigma is due on or before April 14 in the office of the Faculty Adviser, Room 107 Academic Building, Dr. J. P. Abbott, Dean of Arts and Sciences announced today. All charter members should attach a recent picture, he added.

Places have been reserved for all charter members at the Spring Initiation Banquet on May 7. Tickets should be secured when the historian's record is turned in, he said. Any charter member who did not receive a written invitation should see the Faculty Adviser as soon as possible, he advised.

From the City Desk

Batt Re-Named Official Paper

...By Joel Austin

YOU MAY HAVE noticed the absence of the "ear" at the top of our front page designating The Battalion as the official publication of College Station during the past few months.

This matter came about last summer when the local city council found, that through a ruling from the attorney general of Texas, this newspaper would not qualify as an "official" city newspaper.

The technicality in the law stated that any such paper designated as the official paper must be published without fail at least once each week for a period of one year.

During examination period of the Fall semester last year (February 1950) publication was suspended for one week in order that staff members might have an opportunity to prepare for examinations. From that time until last summer when the action was taken, not a single week had been missed by The Battalion in printing at least one paper per week.

The paper had not been printed one year with continuous publication each week when the question arose as to the validity of official notices posted in The Battalion by the College Station City Council. After due consideration, the council voted to name a Bryan paper as the "official" paper until such time as The Battalion would qualify.

Printing four full-size papers each week all summer and then continuing with a Tuesday-Thursday schedule between semesters, this paper went into the Fall semester with a clear record of not missing a single week of publication.

February 1 it was capable of meeting all the requirements of the "official" paper and at Monday night's meeting of the new council, The Battalion was again designated as the paper to receive all official publications of the city, which would be valid under the state ruling.

Smith Was Not a Candidate

In our story on the results of the College Station municipal election April 4, there was a sentence that read as follows: "Lloyd D. Smith received five write-in votes to make a weak bid for the position now held by winner W. D. Fitch in Ward III."

Our apologies to Mr. Smith for implying that he might have been a candidate. He asked that we inform our readers that he was not a candidate, but deeply appreciated the vote of confidence given him by a few voters of Ward III.

Mr. Smith said, "I was not a candidate. Friends had suggested that I enter the race but I declined, feeling that I could not devote the time that should be given to the position."

Appreciation Shown for Power Line Purchase

The people of College Hills expressed their appreciation in many ways for the city council's final move in closing a deal with the City of Bryan and REA to buy power lines in that section of town. The city takes official possession April 15 and the lower domestic rates for College Station will be enforced at that time.

City officials asked people of College Hills not to be alarmed if their first bill is a little larger than what they may have expected. Dates for reading meters in this city come at a later time than in Bryan and as a result the bill will be for more than a month's use of electricity.

The slightly higher commercial rates in College Station will, of course, go into effect in College Hills. Merchants and commercial consumers of electricity have been promised an adjustment in the charges, however, and council action on the matter should be here by the next meeting.

House-to-House Mail Delivery Possible

For those of you who are wondering about the possibilities of house-to-house mail delivery in College Station, there is still a very good chance this service may be established soon.

Chamber of Commerce President Joe Sorrels has again asked that all residents of the city return the cards sent them by the chamber asking if they would prefer to have this new mail delivery.

Sorrels asked us to urge everyone to get those question cards back to him immediately so a representative figure could be used in determining how the local people feel about home mail delivery.

'Nancy O.' Contest

Li'l Abner's Readers Will Grab Prizes

Have you entered your favorite girl's picture in the "Nancy O." contest?

You didn't know anything about it?

To you ardent readers of Li'l Abner goes the honor of deciding how the "face on the girl" will finally look after the eminent Dr. Errorsmith performs his face-lifting operation.

You not only will receive the honor of seeing your girl friend's picture, but you will also win for her a complete Conover Career-Girl course given under the personal supervision of Candy Jones Conover.

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The winner will also receive a dozen hats in various colors, which will be flattering to your young lady—whether she be blonde, brunette or redhead.

The contest closes on April 21 so you'd better get those entries in promptly. Just mail them to The Battalion, College Station, Texas. They will be forwarded to the New York offices of United Feature Syndicate, sponsors of the "Nancy O." contest.

Bible Verse

LET your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.—Mat 5:16.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, The Battalion:

Down through the years A&M has always had a few distinct characteristics which have distinguished it from the general run of colleges throughout the United States.

In the opinion of the student body here at A&M these differences have made the school just a little bit better than the rest of the colleges around these parts.

One of the most important differences of A&M has been the absence, in the most part, of politics in campus affairs. Was it Jefferson who said "Government of the best is government of the least?" Our federal, state, and municipal governments seem to have forgotten this theory. Why is it necessary for us here at A&M to follow the examples of these various forms of government?

At most schools the President of the Student Body is considered to be the most honored position on the campus. Here at A&M, however, the Colonel of the Cadet Corps and the President of the Senior Class have been considered co-holders of this honored position.

In the last few years the President of the Student Senate has also been elevated to this position, which in our opinion, is fine and proper. Why is it necessary to elevate one of these positions to a rank which may be considered above that of the others, especially since the most convincing argument the advocates of this proposed change can muster is such a weak one? They seem to feel that just because the other schools of this area have a President of the Student Body we must have one, too. Here at A&M we have always taken pride in being different. Why must we change our policies just to conform to the standard student governing bodies of other schools?

The President of the Student Senate, President of the Senior Class, and the Cadet Colonel of the Corps each have their own distinct functions, even though it appears that in recent years the duties and privileges of the Senior Class have been infringed upon and sometimes even blotted out by the activities of the Student Senate.

Whose fault this is we don't know, but it is obvious that this transition is taking place. We see no reason why, by elevating the leader of the Student Senate to the position of President of the Student Body, this group (the Student Senate) should become the dominant organization in campus affairs and take over duties formerly done by the Senior Class and the Cadet Corps.

The ideas expressed by the various campus publications seem to indicate that any additional power given to a student governing body is an improvement of campus affairs.

That idea, in our opinion, is entirely wrong, and we do not believe that we here at A&M should have a president of the student body. If we want to have an official elected at large, let's make him President of the Student Senate, as it is now, not President of the Student Body, which, from the title, seems to elevate him to a position above that held by the Cadet Colonel of the Corps and the President of the Senior Class.

Al Rollins '51
T. E. Flukinger '51
Reid H. Rogers '51

(The Battalion firmly believes that a Student Body President is necessary for student government advancement here. Read today's editorial.)

(We are not advocates of "government of the most," as you have implied. In fact, you seem to be advocating a contrast to Jefferson's theory by desiring three offices of equal importance.)

(We cannot agree that A&M must always be different from other schools. It is a poor state of

affairs when we cannot realize ourselves such as the title of its student benefits other schools have and dent leader, we would not be refused to follow simply to remain rolled in school here. The school has gained its reputation by many "different."

(If A&M's pride and recognition more outstanding accomplishments is based on such minor "differences" (See LETTER, Page 4)

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By Al Capp