

An Open Invitation . . .

AN opinion poll to determine whether A&M wants a Student Body President was called off last night at the request of a large group of students.

The group asserted that they had not had time to think about the issue and that The Battalion had not publicized it fully enough.

Out of the argument came a meeting of the Student Senate election committee today at noon. Senate President Bill Parse said last night that the election probably would be postponed until after a meeting of the Senate was held.

The Battalion welcomes this postponement and herewith invites any and all students who wish to express themselves on the Student Body President question to put their opinions into a "letter to the editor."

Sufficient space will be reserved to publish all arguments presented.

This is a student body issue. We encourage ALL interested students to express themselves.

The Battalion has, contrary to an accusation by a student senator voiced at a meeting of cadet officers in the Basic Division, last night, published a large front page news story, two page one "boxes" and three edi-

torials concerning the opinion poll that was called off.

Take careful note of the terminology used here. A "poll" of student opinion was scheduled to be taken last night, not an "election." Delivered to you last night was a "questionnaire," not a "ballot."

A majority vote of "yes" by the student body will indicate that they favor electing a Student Body President. But such a vote will not decide that they will have one. However, it is likely that the Senate will act to carry out the will of a majority of the student body.

It was suggested last night that the qualifications for this office be decided before the opinion poll is taken. These qualifications may be established if the matter is introduced in Student Senate or Student Life Committee sessions before the poll is taken.

Qualifications for all student body posts are approved by the Student Life Committee before they are official or legal. However, the Senate will probably draft the qualifications they favor and present them to the Student Life group for approval.

The Battalion will, before the opinion poll is taken, discuss in detail the need for a Student Body President. And again, we emphasize, it is the responsibility of the student body to present their views.

Bull Session

Mean and Weary, That's How Shaw, Mailer See War

By THOMAS M. FONTAINE Battalion Staff Writer

THIS is about two books. If, unfortunately, you are one of those not uncommon college educated illiterates—go on to Lil' Abner.

Signet Books, a series of two-bit paper-backed reprint editions, have again come to the aid of the person who wants to read the better books but hasn't the cash to pay for the higher priced editions. One dollar will buy you 1226 pages of some of the best writing to come from World War II.

The Young Lions by Irwin Shaw and The Naked And The Dead by Norman Mailer, (Fifty cents apiece at most local news stands), give a terrifyingly vivid picture of life in the Army during wartime. Let's understand this at first—these two books are definitely not recommended for the weak-stomached, the escapist, nor the prudish.

These two books should appeal to many different and varied types of readers. Like sex stories? Each novel has its full share. Enjoy reading sharp, realistic dialogue? Mailer's "Chorus" episodes rate with the best. Although each of the books is over 600 pages, the authors have woven such a skillful mixture of suspense, drama, humor, and tragedy that interest never lags.

If you have no deeper interest in reading than just the enjoyment of racy stories, war adventure, or suspenseful plots, the two novels are still recommended. You'll find those things, but unless you are abnormally thick-witted, you'll find much more besides.

The Naked and The Dead

Unless he is an exceptionally sophisticated reader, nearly anyone will be disconcerted at first by the brutal, vulgar dialogue in The Naked And The Dead. But as the story progresses it becomes evident that such language is necessary to give the naturalistic effect for which Mailer is striving. Before you condemn the author for his excessive use of cursing, carefully analyze the everyday language of A&M students or a group of workmen.

The Naked And The Dead covers a period of only a few short weeks in the lives of the men of a reconnaissance platoon in the South Pacific. But through the skillful use of "flashbacks" Mailer gives each of the men individuality and meaning.

Don't be surprised if you feel physically tired after reading some parts of Mailer's novel. One of the most memorable themes of the story is the impression of weariness and meanness of war. For example:

"Wyman was wondering why he did not collapse. His breath came in long parched shudders, his pack straps galled, his feet were ablaze, and he could not have spoken, for his throat and chest and mouth seemed covered with a woolly felt. He was no longer conscious of the powerful and fetid stench that rose from his clothes. Somewhere deep inside himself was a wonder at the exhaustion his body could endure."

The Young Lions

Irwin Shaw's The Young Lions is concerned with the lives of three men—Christian, a German sergeant; Michael, an American playwright who never becomes reconciled to life in the army; and Noah, an idealist American Jew.

The Young-Lions covers a much longer period than The Naked And The Dead. This allows the author to do a more thorough investigation of the growth of his characters but he loses some of the fine detail which Mailer used so successfully in describing the weariness of serving in the army.

But the most striking difference between the two writings becomes evident almost from the first. Mailer's novel does not possess even one really sympathetic character—the author seems to believe that the good man is merely an imaginary character. Shaw, on the other hand, while he does not white-wash his characters, obviously has a liking for Noah, Michael, and Christian.

The higher ranking officers of the Army probably dislike some of Shaw's opinions—they're too realistic. The following lines will never be found in a field manual but they seem to give a pretty clear idea of army justice—

"He would have to tell him what it was like to be under the command of a man who wanted to see you killed. Civilians couldn't really understand things like that. It was the big difference between civilian life and life in a military establishment. An American civilian always could feel that he could present his case to some authorities who were committed to the idea of justice. But a soldier . . . You lost any hope of appeal to anyone when you put on your first pair of army shoes. Tell it to the Chaplain, Bud, and get a TS slip."

(Bull Session is a regular Battalion column appearing on this page each Thursday. Students having ideas or opinions to express on books, politics, philosophy and "what have you" should address their correspondence to "Bull Session," The Battalion, Campus. Communications deposited in the Faculty Exchange in the Academic Building do not require postage.—The Editor.)

Levant Defies Jinx

(Continued from Page 1)

From an article in the Saturday Evening Post, it is revealed that Levant is "turned white with fear at the sound of the word 'death.' The number 13 makes him tremble but neurotic Levant makes pots of money out of behaving unpleasantly and playing a little piano on the side."

He seems to have broken from his shell as far as the "13 jinx" is concerned because he is scheduled for Friday, the 13th which makes it even worse as far as he is concerned.

"Student and non-student reserved and general admission tickets for the Town Hall program are still available." C. G. "Spike" White, assistant dean of men for activities said this morning.

Bible Verse

BEHOLD the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?—Matthew 6:26.

Some Things Considered

Little Man Fires Big Man: What Will the Result Be?

By CLAYTON SELPH Battalion Co-Editor

A GREAT and very successful military commander was "shown the gate" yesterday by a not so wise, not so great, not so successful president.

That he has a more brilliant record and is probably respected by more persons than the man who fired him is a tribute that both MacArthur and his admirers can boast.

The act of firing MacArthur was done in typical Truman style. His note to the General was blunt. It offered shallow praise to the General in one sentence and condemned him in the next. It was a surprise move and in conflict with previous statements from official sources that MacArthur would not be fired. And it was forwarded to the General through the joint chiefs of staff, an agency which this writer considers below MacArthur's rank of U. N. commander and Supreme Allied Commander.

MacArthur's job was bigger and completely different from any other American general's excepting Eisenhower's assignment in Europe. As such, it seems hardly fitting that he should have received reprimands through the joint chiefs of staff and that his "pink slip" should go through that group.

It was an insult to the five-star commander who was a General when some of the joint chiefs were company or field grade officers, who was himself once chief of staff, and was entrusted with the command of fighting men from many countries. General Marshall is his only military senior, since he is considered the "first" general of the Army.

MacArthur had snubbed the joint chiefs, from time to time. He probably felt, and rightly so, that his job as Supreme commander of UN forces in Korea and Supreme Allied Commander in Japan came more directly under the President.

Joint Chiefs' Opinion? His views on what should be done in Korea and Asia have differed greatly with those of the joint chiefs. It would be interesting to know what personal opinions Generals Marshall, Bradley, and Collins hold of MacArthur and how they influenced Truman's decision. They have been sniping at him for a long time. Truman was the gun that shot MacArthur, but who aimed it?

There is no argument, of course, but that MacArthur paved the way for his dismissal.

His opinions on the Korean situation were completely out of bounds of his authority. He contradicted the foreign policy of this country. He caused certain of our allies to quake in their boots and demand that he be stilled. He voiced his opinions without consulting the president.

Which Was Greatest? But was the damage done by the General's policy opinions as great as the loss suffered by this country in snuffing out MacArthur's prestige in Asia, his influence with

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'Who's Going to Laugh--Except Stalin'

Political Loyalty Overrules Reason in MacArthur Issue

By J. M. ROBERTS, JR. AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

HE IS a great man. Yet it had always seemed that one day his pride, his cocksureness, or whatever you want to call it, would get him into trouble. Whether it was willingness to sacrifice himself or whether it was stubbornness of concept, MacArthur violated his orders and has been ousted.

The method used by the President is open to very bitter debate. Since he had the odds of power on his side, the President might have done better to try for a resignation. Sympathy for the cut-down hero may put him in a better position than ever to carry on his fight.

The President is supposed to make foreign policy and the General is supposed to carry it out when war is involved. But if MacArthur thinks the President is imposing impossible conditions which cost American and allied lives, where is he supposed to stop in his protest? If he considers the issue so great, should he have to resign to get freedom to speak?

Who is best qualified to decide the value of a "second front" against China through use of Chiang Kai-Shek's Nationalists—MacArthur, or the politicians in Washington?

Does MacArthur really think this is World War III, and that it can be won in Asia without fighting in Europe? He didn't quite say that. And I can't quite see it.

If you capture Peiping, what have you? And even if the ultimate enemy, Russia, should be engaged in Asia eventually, how could you capture Moscow via Siberia? And it's Russia that's got to be licked to win World War III, if this is it.

Where is the Kernel to this nut we are trying to crack? If we knew, we might get somewhere. If we lose Asia, will the whole war be lost or will it be just a non-decisive multiplication of what already has happened in China? Will conquest of Asia permit Communism to mobilize for an attack on the United States? Not in any short time, at least. But what if we get up to our necks in the Asiatic morass and Russia then takes Europe? Europe's highly developed industry can be quickly mobilized. The U. S., without either real or capable friends in Asia, would lose the help of the only friends she has.

Aside from all that, what's going to happen to a country where governmental leaders split along party lines instead of the line of reason on such questions?

Who's going to laugh—except Stalin?

Unselfish service is about the best contribution that a man can make to his day and generation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations For Scholarship

With the Student Senate's Campus Chest drive beginning next Wednesday night, we believe it is appropriate that this letter be published. The major part of this year's Campus Chest collection will

be used for two scholarships—The Twelfth Man Scholarship and one for a Norwegian student. This letter was addressed to Student Senate President Bill Parse.—The Editor.

Dear Mr. Parse, Mr. R. Henderson Shuffler has written me in a letter of March 22nd that the A&M students have

provided a scholarship for a Norwegian student to attend A&M College this year.

Please accept my most hearty congratulations upon this splendid undertaking in international understanding. I am also very much pleased that the Student Senate has decided to channel the scholarship through The Nansen Fund.

We shall be very happy to cooperate with you in selecting a good student and I have proposed to Mr. Shuffler that we select from the completed applications already at hand at the Institute of International Education.

I have looked through these applications for other purposes of the Nansen Fund and I know that there are outstanding candidates among them. A further advantage is that all these applicants are also eligible for a Fulbright Travel Grant.

We would like to give some publicity to your efforts and I hope that we can use the information contained in Mr. Shuffler's letter to me.

Namely, that you expect to provide a \$600 scholarship to be channeled through The Nansen Fund for a Norwegian student to study at A&M during the next school year.

Erling Christophersen, Adviser to the Board, The Nansen Fund, Inc.

The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published by students 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 \$3.50 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Member of The Associated Press. Represented nationally by National Advertising Service Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

CLAYTON L. SELPH, DAVE COSLETT, Co-Editors. John Whitmore, Dean Reed, Managing Editors. Andy Anderson, Bob Hughson, Campus Editors. Fred Walker, Sports Editor.

Today's Issue

John Whitmore, Managing Editor. Andy Anderson, Campus News Editor. Fred Walker, Sports News Editor. Joel Austin, City News Editor.

BANG UP Bargains EVERY DAY. GROCERIES: Crisco 3 pounds 99c, New Potatoes 25c, Tender Peas 33c, Whole Beans 43c, Whole Kernel Corn 37c, Spinach 27c, Cream Peas 25c, Chocolate Syrup 33c, Apple Juice 31c, Apple Sauce 35c, Treet 53c, Duz or Drest 29c. MARKET: American Cheese 39c, Sliced Bacon 46c, Picnics 45c, Loin Steak 39c, Porter House Steak 69c. PRODUCE: Celery 2 stalks 25c, New Potatoes 5c, Cabbage 5c, Lemons doz. 19c, Apples doz. 59c.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT ALL SALES. Specials for Friday & Saturday - April 13th & 14th. Charlie's Food Market. North Gate - WE DELIVER - College Station.

LIL' ABNER. Wives' Paradise. SIGH!—THAR HAIN'T A GAL LEFT IN ALL THESE HILLS WHO'LL GIVE US A DATE!! WISH'T WE KNEW SOME OUTA TOWN GALS—WHO DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT US— ?!!—LOOKIT THEM ENVELOPES FALLIN' OUTA TRET TRUCK— !!—THEY IS PITCHERS O' GALS!! BEAUTIFUL GALS, FUM OUTA TOWN!! —AN' NONE O' 'EM HAS FRIGHTENED LOOKS—SO THEY COULDN'T OF HEERD O' US!! AH GOT NINE FUM ST. LOUIS—TWO FUM NEW HAVEN—AN ONE FUM BOSTON. BUT IT DON'T SAY WHUT COUNTRY THEM CITIES IS IN!! MOST O' 'EM IS IN AMERICA, YO' IGGORAMUS!! YO' AN' ME GOT LEADS ALL OVER TH' PLACE!! LE'S VISIT 'EM!!