

Basic Division Freshmen and Officers Say

More Personal Counseling, Better Student Contact Needed

TODAY'S installment of The Battalion's three-part Basic Division series deals with recommendations and suggestions for improving personal and group freshman counseling.

The information presented here was gathered through questionnaires and personal interviews and represents the opinion of freshmen and upperclassmen students assigned to the Basic Division.

Published here Monday, the first of this series was written at the request of The Battalion by John R. Bertrand, dean of the Basic Division. Bertrand presented his views of the accomplishments, needed changes, and purpose of his department.

Tomorrow's installment will deal with dormitory and military cadet life in the Basic Division.—The Editor.

By THOMAS M. FONTAINE Battalion Staff Writer

WHEN the editors of The Battalion first gave me the go-ahead on a Basic Division story, I asked them to let me do some easier assignment such as "How To Make An Atom Bomb In Your Home Workshop." Talking to enough Freshmen and cadet officers to gain an idea of the general opinion concerning the many new plans incorporated in the Basic Division seemed too much even for a guy who likes to talk as much as I do.

Dean John R. Bertrand came to my rescue with the offer to let me examine the results of questionnaires given just

recently to both the freshmen and the upperclassmen assigned to the Basic Division.

Although this article does not attempt to give the full story of the Basic Division, it should give a fair sample of what those most directly concerned—freshmen, cadet officers and noncoms, and the Basic Division staff—think about the experiment after the first year.

Methods of Questioning

First let's consider how the questionnaires were given. For such a survey to be useful, it must be taken from a representative cross section of the people from which we want an opinion.

The work evaluation questionnaire was given to all the upperclassmen of the Basic Division at a meeting called by Dean Bertrand. The reason for the meeting was not revealed until the men were already assembled. This was done to prevent premature talking which might have destroyed the value of the individual responses — by talking about the questionnaire beforehand a man might adopt majority opinion and forget any of his own suggestions.

On May 3, all Basic Division students who had Basic classes that day were asked to give their reactions to various aspects of the Basic Division program, to the cadet officers assigned to the Eighth Regiment, to the military counselors, and to the general overall worth of the Basic Division.

Besides these two sources of information, this writer talked to many freshmen and upperclassmen to gather first hand ideas and comments.

Freshmen and Officers Agree

One of the most surprising things learned from this study of the Basic Division was the close agreement between the freshmen and the upperclassmen on needed improvements and recognized failures of the Basic Division. Both groups exhibited a strong interest in bettering the Basic Division, and each group gave surprisingly well thought out answers to questions and suggestions.

Both groups agree that two aspects of the Basic Division have been most valuable to the individual student. The two are tied very closely together—counseling and the ease of changing courses without too early dropping from school. Nearly all freshmen seemed agreed that the least valuable part of the Basic Division had been the first semester Basic, or Freshman Orientation, course. Dean Bertrand and his staff have already planned a revised first semester Basic course for next year.

More Personal Counseling

Besides suggestions for improving specific Basic courses, the most often mentioned need for improvement is for more personal counseling. There has long been a need for more personal advice and closer contact between the student and the college staff and it seems that most of the students think the Basic Division is where such help can most successfully be given.

One point that was brought out about the counseling was that for the most part it has been confined to those freshmen

having trouble with their studies. Most students feel that Basic Division counseling should be more than that.

One prevalent suggestion in the questionnaires was making more personal conferences compulsory for all freshmen. These talks should be on a less formal plane than the "get on the ball" counseling now given.

One C. O. pointed out that the present method of summoning cadets for counseling—notes to report to the advisor's office with the connotation of a reprimand—failed to accomplish the desired purpose. The freshman cared little for the counseling; he just wanted to get away as soon as possible from what he felt was a "chewing out" for bad grades. This could be remedied by counseling for all freshmen and an active effort toward building the reputation of Basic counseling as being something more than just a reminder to study more.

Increase Basic Staff

Those who have had counseling almost unanimously agree that the advisors of the Basic Division staff are doing a commendable, though limited, job. Suggestions from this group, and from many of the upperclassmen, most often stressed increasing the size of the Basic Division staff. Many of the freshmen complained that members of the staff were so busy that students couldn't get in to see them when they needed to.

One of the most serious and most often repeated complaints was about lack of guidance in selecting their course of study. The Basic courses which explain various occupations aren't enough, they say. Many freshmen who are passing their courses with good grades are dissatisfied with their present courses of study. When asked why they hadn't gone to see their advisors, most of them revealed that they did not know such help was available. Those that know of the work of the Basic Division staff explained that the advisors expected the freshman to have a specific problem before they came for advice—but many of the freshmen needed a good general talk on courses of study and requirements for them from a qualified person.

Many of the freshmen were disappointed by lack of personal information gained from the freshmen week tests. These freshmen said that they expected to use the results of the tests to help them determine a suitable vocation, but that they never received any mention of the results of their individual testing.

Officers Want More Information

The upperclassmen felt that they could do a more intelligent job of advising the freshmen if they had the chance to work closer with the Dean and the Basic Division staff. Since the upperclassmen assigned to the Basic Division feel that they have a greater responsibility than just as cadet military officers, they feel they should be intimately acquainted with the policies governing scholastic probation, changing courses, and the like.

Sounds like a lot of gripes, doesn't it? But the complaints, gripes, and suggestions for changes help point the way to wards achieving the goal of the Basic Division—better prepared and better satisfied college students.

From the City Desk . . .

College Station in Retrospect During a Busy Twelve Months

FOR THIS final edition of our column while City Editor, we would like to point out the many activities that took place in the City of College Station since last June.

The past twelve months have probably been an ordinary year to many of the old residents hereabout, but we believe it was a busy year and a period which will affect the future actions and activities of this city for years to come.

As an observer, we have seen the City Council in action, the Chamber of Commerce and its many committees striving to accomplish many good deeds which their limited facilities and finances provide.

The local civic clubs have contributed greatly to the advancement of civic activities and the addition of the Lion's Club here has brought added interest in the local work already being done by the Kiwanis Club and the Bryan-College Station Rotary Club.

To a newcomer such as we are, the College Station Summer Recreation Committee has operated one of the most commendable programs we have ever seen in a town of this size.

Young people and adults alike have shown a growing interest in these many activities which are conducted for their pleasure by trained personnel.

Social activities came into the limelight through the pages of The Battalion during the past year after a short absence. Vivian Castleberry's weekly Women's Page and daily stories concerning social events in the city point to the many events which keep the ladies of the city busy.

A Retrospective Glance

We would like to take a retrospective glance over the events of the past year and give a brief picture of what happened in College Station.

July 5 found the cities of College Station and Bryan with new telephone rates after months of negotiations with representatives of the Southwestern States Telephone Company.

The company was allowed a rate increase of \$36,000 annually, \$20,000 less than they had requested.

The July 10 session of the City Council brought about annexation of territory on the South Side. A proposal for reducing water rates during the Summer and Fall months when consumption is high was also presented for discussion.

Our first attempt to columnize news of College Station found us commenting on City Council discussions on these proposed reduced water rates. Nothing ever came of the matter, to the best of our knowledge, and the rates are still unadjusted.

Next came the question of parking meters in College Station and we heard the members of the City Council go round and round about the matter. Nothing was ever done and people still seem to get their cars parked with little or no trouble—minus the expense of purchasing the meters and minus the added revenue the meters would have brought in.

Fire Stirs College Hills

A mid-night fire on July 27 stirred local residents from their sleep as the College Hills residence of John Bogard suffered an estimated \$17,000 loss.

An acute water shortage in early August produced requests from the city and college for local residents to limit grass and garden watering. The supposedly "ample" supply of water from the Bryan reservoirs fell dangerously low until the shortage was staved off several days later.

Mid-August brought about a request from over 100 citizens who petitioned the City Council for "Better methods of fire protection."

The Battalion

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

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Today's Issue

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A committee was appointed by the mayor, although no official report was made to the council, nor any action taken as a result of committee findings.

The late Summer months also brought countless grass fires which kept the local firemen on call several times daily. The hot dry days conditioned the grass for burning and various reasons—most of which could be traced to trash burning—were given for the fires being set off.

September 22 was a big day for several students at A&M Consolidated High School as they moved into the numerous offices of the City Hall to run the city for a day. An annual Kiwanis Club sponsored event, Royce Rodgers was mayor for the one day vigil.

Anniversary Day Publicity

The Chamber of Commerce directors got their heads together and came up with a plan to sponsor publicity of the October 4 Seventy-fifth anniversary day celebration at A&M. They sent representatives to civic club meetings in surrounding towns and helped the 75th anniversary committee greatly with their work.

Then came the question of reducing the electric rates in the city. For a long time the City Council had resolved that electricity in College Station was too high. Several councilmen also thought that a reduction might be an incentive to local residents to consume more power.

The Board of Directors of the A&M System ruled that the college, suppliers of much College Station power, would charge a new rate of 1.1 cent per kilowatt hour.

The rates were finally set at the October 16 meeting of the Council and they gave residential consumers much lower prices than had been charged here previously. According to statistics we compiled, the new rates offered a 17% reduction.

College Hills Power Higher

Immediately after the reduction of rates for most of College Station, city leaders discovered that residents of College Hills, who purchased their power from the REA in Bryan, were paying far more than other local electricity consumers.

The long, tedious actions of justifying this situation were begun in mid-October and completed only last month.

Maybe we were echoing against brick walls in our numerous requests for a clean-up campaign. The second of four such requests came late in October when several local people were stricken with polio. It's still a good idea. No city ever gets so clean that a good clean-up drive would not help a great deal.

The city had its yearly money raising campaigns which proved to be a little less fruitful than in past years. Response to the Community Chest, March of Dimes, and other drives fell consistently below the goals.

In the local civic club organizations, A. C. Magee was named president of the Kiwanis Club. R. B. "Bob" Halpin got the nod for the presidency of the newly organized Lion's while G. W. Schlesselman is Rotary proxy.

A&M Campus Security officers were sworn in as special policemen for the city. With the new authority vested in them, they are to aid local policemen while patrolling the campus.

Nestor McGinnis, amiable city secretary and professor in the Floriculture and Landscape Architecture Departments, was named College Station "Man of the Year" by the Chamber of Commerce on January 9.

Utility Bond Issue Passed

College Station passed a \$200,000 utility bond issue in early January to pave the way for the purchase of power lines in College Hills from the REA and make available thousands of other dollars for added utility expenditure.

February found the City Council granting salary hikes to city employees. Plans were laid at the February 13 meeting for the annual city elections, and L. E. Boze was named election judge.

Old man weather found his way down to this East-Central Texas community to deal quite a blow as chilling snow and sleet covered the ground for several days in mid-February. Damage to trees and shrubbery was high, although no other serious damages were reported.

Then came the big realization by many local residents that it was about time for College Station to become a Home Rule City if local city leaders were to compete with other municipalities when nearby land was being annexed.

Charter Committee Named

The city council appointed a charter committee to meet and discuss the operations necessary for College Station to become a Home Rule City for which it will qualify as soon as the official 1950 census figures are released.

Voting time came for the annual city election and seven men found themselves squared away in the races for the three positions on the city council. Howard Badgett, newcomer Harry Boyer, and Bill Fitch emerged winners in Wards I, II, III respectively.

April 1 was the big day for College Hills electricity consumers. The City Council signed a contract with the REA to purchase all power facilities owned by them in that section of the city for a price of \$38,109.37.

Annexation of new property became the keyword of both (See CITY DESK, Page 4)



By Joel Austin

Advertisement for ARROW shirts and ties. Features a cartoon illustration of a man in a suit and a bear. Text: 'Portrait of how a man feels in An ARROW lightweight shirt! Mesh weave fabrics let the cool breezes in! ARROW SHIRTS & TIES UNDERWEAR • HANDKERCHIEFS • SPORTS SHIRTS'.

Advertisement for W.S.D. Arrows shirts. Features an illustration of a woman holding a shirt. Text: 'COOL OFF, BROTHER in breezy "air-conditioned" ARROWS So light you hardly know you're wearing a shirt! Porous mesh weave captures even the faintest breeze. Fine, Sanforized fabrics (shrinkage less than 1%). Get set for the hot weather ahead... Pick up your lightweight Arrows today. LIGHTWEIGHT SHIRTS \$3.95 LIGHTWEIGHT SPORTS SHIRTS \$3.95 W.S.D. CLOTHIERS College & Bryan FOR ARROW UNIVERSITY STYLES'.

Comic strip by Al Capp. Panel 1: 'DON'T TRY TO CRAWL OUTTA THIS DEAL, YO' LIL BOSTON RAT! WE UNCOUPLED THIS CAR, JEST T'RAD YO'RE BRIDE!!' Panel 2: 'AH BETTER SHOOT MOONBEAM, IT'LL HELP QUIET HER DOWN!!' Panel 3: 'KEERFUL, YO' DON'T BOUNCE ONE OFFN DAISY MAE, BY MISTAKE, WE PROMISED T' DEE-LIVER A LIVE, BRIDE. THEY IS MORE POPULAR THET WAY--' Panel 4: 'AT THAT INSTANT--THE HURTLING CAR JUMPS THE RAILS!!' Panel 5: A man carrying a large object on his back.