

Senior Class Endorses Change In Silver Taps Ceremonies

Four recommendations, concerning the handling of future Silver Taps ceremonies were unanimously adopted last night by the Senior Class. The motion, presented by Bob Langford of the Traditions Committee, is designed to have a more appropriate ceremony in the future. Prior to Silver Taps, members of the committee will go to all buildings in the vicinity of the Academic Building and make certain lights will be turned off during the ceremony. "The man responsible for a particular building will go to that building in the afternoon and make the necessary arrangements for turning the lights off," Langford said.

Turn Street Lights Off
Frank Brown, college electrician will be contacted in advance of future Silver Taps services, and arrangements will be made with him to turn off all street lights in the vicinity of the ceremony. The Corps Adjutant will be re-

quested to post guards at the various entrance to the campus during the ceremony and drivers of all cars will be requested by these guards to stop and turn off lights during the service. In addition, the Senior class agreed that arrangements should be worked out with The Battalion concerning the publishing of a picture of the deceased.

Langford also said arrangements were being made concerning the possibility of publishing a new Cadence.

Boot Question Postponed
The question of limiting the wearing of senior boots to two semesters, was postponed until later because of the small turnout at the meeting. A preliminary vote was taken on the matter and the tabulation was 23 for the proposal and 23 against. The meeting was called to order by J. W. Dalston, class president. Minutes of the last meeting were read by Bob Robbins, secretary. Following the reading of the minutes, Ted Stephens, chairman of

the Class Gift Committee presented his report. Five ideas were submitted for a class gift, but this number was cut to two, he said. The proposals under consideration concern the erection of a permanent reviewing stand on the main drill field and the building of a marker at the East Gate.

In Shape of Texas
This marker would be in the shape of the map of Texas and would contain appropriate wording informing drivers they were passing A&M. Lighting facilities would be provided at night, if the marker was adopted as a class gift, Stephens said.

Van Vandenberg, chairman of the Calendar Sales committee, reported that \$1,573 had been collected from sale of calendars. This money, one third of which belongs to the class, is deposited in the Student Activities office, he said. Bobby Dunn, class representative to the student Senate, informed the members what matters had

been considered recently by that group.

These matters included details on the Campus Chest drive, a showing of the film, "We've Never Been Licked," installing each dormitory shower with rubber mats, acceptance of the new mascot, and the opening of the Freshman area to upperclassmen.

Change Mascot's Name
Lew Jobe recommended that the Senior Class request the Senate to investigate the possibility of changing the mascot's name, Revella II, to another name. Jobe's motion was passed.

Also, Jobe motioned that the class request that Senior Corps students be allowed to go non-reg after 5 p. m. This motion was unanimously passed.

Dalston, class representative to the Student Life Committee discussed work being done by that group and a discussion was held on the possibility of changing the city's name to Aggeland. The class approved the motion.

U.S. Sabre Jets Damage 2 MIGs In Air Battle

Seoul, Korea, Jan. 16—(AP) Out-numbered U.S. F-86 Sabre Jets damaged two Communist MIG-15s today in two flashing air battles high over northwest Korea.

The U. S. Fifth Air Force said the first fight involved 36 Sabres and 80 MIGs. Later, 22 F-86s battled the same flight of Communist planes. One MIG was damaged in each battle.

Sub Freezing
Infantrymen huddled in their foxholes as subfreezing weather covered the 145-mile battlefield. Action was confined to a few small raiding operations by the Allies and probes by the Reds.

The two air battles over Sinanju marked the second day of jet combat after a three-day lapse because of bad weather. The Sabres also damaged two MIGs Tuesday.

Any Allied losses or damage will be reported only in a weekend summary. Capt. William A. Todd, 435 Gerons Ave., San Gabriel, Calif., damaged one MIG in Wednesday's first battle. The Red plane pulled away before he could fire a second burst.

In the second battle, the damaged MIG was credited to Maj. William T. Whisner, Shreveport, La. Whisner, who has destroyed four Communist jets, was driven off by other Red fighters while the damaged MIG dove for sanctuary in Manchuria.

California Lashed by Worst Pacific Storm in 50 Years

San Francisco, Jan. 16—(AP)—A stubborn, slow-moving storm lashed the Pacific coast with moderating snow and rain today, but a new Alaskan-born blow was brewing. It posed a new threat to the already extensively damaged region.

Thousands, most of them residents of mountain and lowland areas, remained marooned by either huge snow drifts or floods.

Heavy rescue parties worked in to the night to reach snowbound travelers in the blizzard-swept high Sierra northeast of San Francisco—including 226 passengers and crew members of the swank streamliner, City of San Francisco, snow-bound at Donner Pass.

The three-day storm, howling in Sunday on the heels of prolonged rains, caused at least seven deaths. How many others were killed injured or missing in avalanches and on deep-drifted mountain roads could not be determined.

In the tossing waves of the North Pacific two overturned lifeboats were spotted 16 miles apart by Coast Guard planes. The boats were believed from the lost Japanese freighter Pennsylvania, abandoned by its crew of 45 last Wednesday some 500 to 600 miles off the Washington coast.

Worst In 50 Years
The storm that cracked the freighter's hull last Wednesday apparently was the forerunner of the current one which made this the worst California winter in more than 50 years. The weather bureau said the storm ultimately refused to move eastward and added: More rain in the valleys and snow flurries in the mountains tomorrow.

Rain-swollen creeks spilled over their banks today and forced evacuation of families in these widely separated California lowland communities—East Santa Barbara and nearby Goleta, the West Del Paso

suburb of Sacramento, Alviso and San Tomas in Santa Clara County; South San Francisco's Sterling Terrace section in the bay area; and the northern section of Merced in central California.

At Fresno, the weather bureau issued a flood warning for all streams in the San Joaquin Valley north of the San Joaquin River and south of the Merced River.

The sodden earth gave way under many homes in several cities. Some homes crashed downhill, others slid precariously.

Cut Off From Food
Among the mountain communities completely snowbound was Alturas on the slopes of the Sierra. Its population of 2,290 was cut off from the usual dairy food deliveries, but enough stocks were on hand—except bread—to prevent immediate hardships.

Most of them were San Francisco-bound, by way of Bakersfield, Calif. All other roads from Reno were still blocked, except U. S. 40 to the east.

Isolated by rain-caused slides was Panoche Valley, some 45 miles south of Hollister in South Central California. The town consists of some 100 families.

Also shut down were major industrial plants in Berkeley and other far northern communities. Heavy snows in the Trinity Mountains knocked down power lines from Shasta Dam.

Reno, Nevada's divorce and gambling center, was digging out from under heavy snows which isolated the city today for the second time. By late afternoon, buses began moving out of Reno by a southern route with some 200 passengers stranded there since Sunday.

Some of them were San Francisco-bound, by way of Bakersfield, Calif. All other roads from Reno were still blocked, except U. S. 40 to the east.

Letter to The Editor

Reader Criticizes Battalion Editorial

Editor, The Battalion:
A psychiatrist once wrote to James Thurber offering to cure the well known humorist of drawing. Surely greater benefits might be achieved if some public minded psychiatrist could manage to cure the Editor of The Battalion of editorial writing. Success in this endeavor might be vitiated only by the fact that the Editor seems to display even poorer judgment in his selection of editorials from other newspapers. I have reference here to your columns of the past two days entitled "Shivers Speaks" and "Truman ... A Character Study."

In view of the general tenor of Texas politics, Governor Allan—or Allen, the Battalion staff apparently couldn't make up their collective minds and used both spellings in their reprint notice of Shivers' recent appearance in the role of a reformer and a Jeffersonian Democrat could more appropriately have been included in your column "We Laugh." If Thomas Jefferson turned over in his grave the past weekend, I am sure it was not to make room for more adherents to the principles which he hoped would promote an Empire of Liberty but to get away from the men who would exploit these same principles in order to establish another Republic of Pals. Granted the Truman Administration has not always done much to render its position more readily defensible, nevertheless many of the attacks upon it have been unfair and unfounded. They have, in fact, manifested a cynical disregard for intellectual honesty which is all too prevalent in all areas of the nation today.

The Texas States Righters offer three lines of criticism of the present Administration: socialism, corruption, and that great shibboleth of local politics—the Tidelands decision of the Supreme Court. Perhaps the order should be reversed. Concerning the indignation at the Supreme Court's decision in the Tidelands case, I find it hilarious that Texas politicians should sud-

denly be filled with solicitude for a Constitution which they have so successfully evaded these many years. As for corruption, well, only the blind would deny its existence. However, I rather suspect that the attitude of Truman's critics is that if it did not exist they should have to invent it. Further, the problem of corruption is peculiar neither to the Federal Government nor to either political party. Our underpaid public servants in Washington are no more to blame for corruption in the body politic than are underpaid football players responsible for commercialism and bribery in collegiate athletics. Finally, the attempt to identify the Fair Deal with socialism represents a serious misinterpretation of recent American history. And the argument can be proved only by restoring to the sort of fallacious logic that Stuart Chase pointed out in a letter to the New York Times last fall. One of his examples went something like this: Senator Taft has sponsored a public housing bill. The Communists are known to favor public housing. Therefore, Senator Taft is a Communist. This is patently absurd. Happily, the English Department offers a course—210—designed to correct such faulty reasoning. The supporters of the Governor's manifesto could profit by such training in logic. Perhaps the Governor is not entirely to blame. The voice was the voice of Allan Shivers, all right, but in his "uninhibited discussion" one might detect the work of the deft hands of the Dallas News and the Texas Manufacturers Association.

Your commentary on the "beautiful column" by Louis Bromfield indicated a propensity to follow another logical fallacy known as the argument ad hominem—in this case, an attempt to denounce a whole party along with its personnel and program by appealing to passions and prejudices against the party's leader. Certainly Harry Truman has not been a national leader of great stature, and at times his weaknesses have seriously

reflected upon the organization which put him in office. But the American people are not in the habit of electing men of great stature, and Harry Truman is no exception to this general rule. Bromfield claims that Truman is not a tragic figure because he lacks depth of character. This claim is true only if one employs a classical literary definition of tragedy which is not applicable here. The real tragedy of Harry Truman is that he was nominated and elected to office because of his very lack of character. Bromfield compares Truman with the more genuinely tragic, according to his definition, characters of Woodrow Wilson and James Forrestal. Yet wasn't the tragedy of Wilson the result of his own defects of character and personality? After all, he was just as responsible for his failures as he was for his successes. Wilson suffered, as William Allen White has pointed out, from one great illusion: he thought he had a first rate mind whereas actually he possessed a third rate mind that insisted upon surrounding itself with fourth rate mentalities. Any investigation of the Administration leaders under Wilson will confirm this point. Or take the case of Forrestal, a highly competent administrator, who like Robert Lovett and W. Averell Harriman gave up a lucrative position with an investment banking firm to accept a post of high responsibility under the government. Does the tragedy of these men of character stem from the fact that they are criticized and harassed by lesser creatures or from the fact they have devoted their abilities and energies to the formulation and implementation of military and foreign policies—the latter too often dictated by the former—which have had a detrimental effect both at home and abroad. The problem goes back, as William O. Douglas has just pointed out, "to the fact that we carried over to days of peace the military approach to world affairs. Diplomacy, certainly in Asia, took a back seat. The military approach to the Asians and their problems. That has been the great tragedy in Asia. And the tragedy to us at home has been about as great." Louis Bromfield, by the way, seems to feel that Douglas would make a better president than Harry Truman. To this I give my enthusiastic support. But was the Editor actually in agreement with Bromfield here? I wonder. Mr. Justice Douglas, after all, wrote one of the early Tidelands decisions.

But back to Harry Truman. If you must run him into the ground, why not do so with relevant arguments. I don't see why a man, even if President, should be condemned because he wears glasses, plays the piano, used a political machine to reach office, or because his taste in clothes offends others' sartorial sensitivities. Teddy Roosevelt wore glasses because he was so near-sighted that the only man he could recognize while presiding over the Senate was a three hundred pound Senator from Massachusetts. Yet T. R. was far from timid. Jefferson's violin playing did not create a gulf between him and his friends, and he helped to found one of our first political machines. And Lincoln, most often acclaimed as the greatest of our presidents, was so undignified in appearance that on his arrival in Washington in 1861 he was referred to as the "original gorilla." One observer remarked

that it was such a shame that a certain French explorer went into the heart of darkest Africa to find what he might more easily have located in Springfield, Illinois. Later Lincoln grew a beard to add to his dignity. Does a hairy jaw really make such a difference? I'll call a halt with one further observation of my own. Some months ago the Editor of the Battalion told me that if a dog catcher ran against Truman, the Editor would vote for the dog catcher. This attitude is contemptible and if widely adopted, a dog catcher is exactly what we will get—perhaps in the form of another General Grant, or has the Editor some village Harding whom he would put at the head of the Republic? George Rudisill, Jr.

(Editor's Note—Earlier in the year, we decided we would not make comments on a letter—but sir: Being the one condemned and berated by some 1,000 words we feel chastised. The one bright spot in the letter is, that if a person would read it over and look up every word he did not know—the literacy on the campus would take a tremendous jump. (During the first few hundred words, we were prompted to think of a speech Hamlet made to Polonius. It went something like this: "... words, words, words." (However, when we read a little further we thought you might have been an upset young Democrat who had his hero's honor besmirched. But, reading a little further, we came to the conclusion, it was a frustrated lexicographic writer trying to get something published. (After it was all over, 1,000 words later, we came to the conclusion you might have had something to say. If you ever run out of something to do ... come over and see us about a job.)

Influenza Leads Morbidity Report

Influenza was the leading disease in Brazos County for the week ending Jan. 12, according to the morbidity report issued by the Bryan-Brazos County Health Unit. There were 94 cases of influenza reported in Bryan and 65 cases in College Station. Ten cases of diarrhea were reported in College Station. Bryan had three cases of septic sore throat and College Station four cases. Other diseases reported by the health unit were pneumonia six cases, gonorrhoea five cases, mumps two cases, chickenpox one case, measles one case, and syphilis one case.

Accounting Society Chooses Officers

Bobby Dunn was elected president of the Accounting Society at a meeting recently in the MSC. He is a senior accounting major from Chillicothe. Other officers elected were Ralph Wallingford, vice president; John Wagenfehr, secretary-treasurer; John Schaefer, parliamentarian; and Don Owens, program chairman.

Abilene May Be Site for AF Base

Washington, Jan. 16—(AP)—Air Force representatives tomorrow will begin visits to areas in which ten air bases may be set up as part of the air expansion program.

The Air Force said its representatives will seek information on both possible opposition and cooperation from the municipalities affected. It emphasized that the visits will carry no commitments to establish air bases. First studies will be made tomorrow at Abilene, Tex., and Philadelphia, the Air Force said.

Aggie Cleaners

ALL "A's" FOR JUNIOR and ALL "A's" in Satisfaction WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR CLOTHES CLEANED AT AGGIE CLEANERS North Gate

Barnes President Of Ft. Benning Ags

Second Lt. W. D. "Pusher" Barnes was elected president of the Texas A&M Club at Fort Benning, Ga., recently. Barnes, a member of the Class of '51, was outstanding in extra curricular activities while at A&M. He is the Class of '51's life time representative to the college.

Davidson Sepraxox

DAVIDSON Sepraxox A WONDERFUL NEW IDEA Socks Zip Out for Easy Home Washing You just zip off the soft glove leather sole and felt inner sole and the socks can be washed. Then zip on again. Made in sizes for men, women, and children, assorted colors. Each pair individually gift boxed. 100% wool socks. THE EXCHANGE STORE "Serving Texas Aggies"

Pogo

L'L ABNER Wake Up and Dream

POGO By Walt Kelly

L'L ABNER Wake Up and Dream By Al Capp

Player, pos. Davis, c McDowell, g Miksch, f Walker, g Binford, f Farmer, f-g Houser, f Heft, g Carpenter, g Addison, c Williams, g A&M Totals Opp. Totals Non-Conf A&M 43 North Tex 29 Univ. of 40 Marshall 42 Manhattan 52 Univ. of 68 Trinity 49 Univ. of 52 Univ. of

THE ALL-AROUND STORY ALL IS RUSHING

WARNER BROS. THE ALL-AROUND STORY ALL IS RUSHING STEVE C. PHYLIS

The Battalion
Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions
"Soldier, Statesman, Knighly Gentleman"
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