

Battalion Editorials

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Open Forum

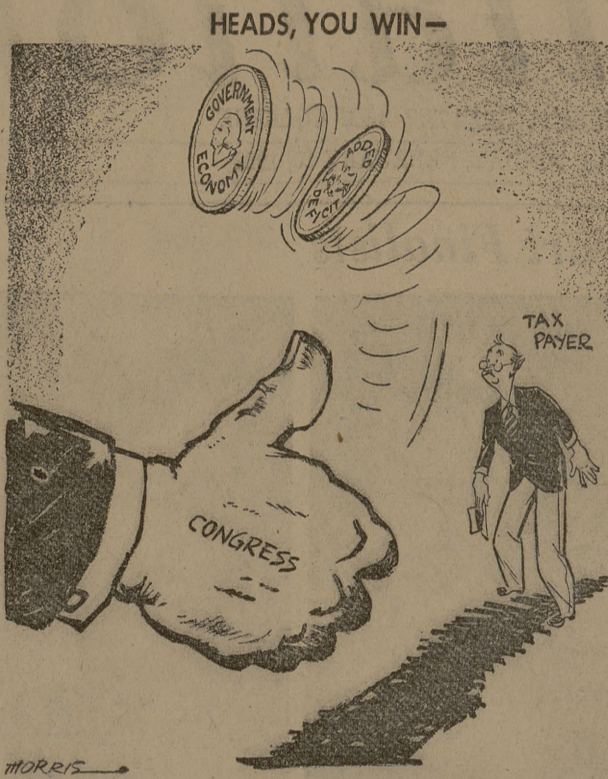
TODAY'S LETTERS columns indicate something that is a healthy situation. We have men here at A&M who are gifted with enough intestinal fortitude to stand before an audience and express their views.

It is very flattering to an editorial writer to be able to write an editorial which will cause people to think. It also indicates one of the strongest of the Aggie characteristics. We have men with guts here. Men who are not afraid to have their thoughts stand the test of being put into type.

It takes a great deal of "guts" to stand up and say what you believe and run the risk of standing the gaff of criticism.

This is also something that is the exception rather than the rule. When editors of The Battalion meet with some of the editors of other schools, the latter ask—"how do you cause so much student interest in your editorials?"

The answer is simple—We have Aggies here.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers Grumble about Batt

Against Tradition

Editor, The Battalion:

There comes a time in every Aggie's life when the steam valve must pop. I have smelled enough of campus politics peculiarities of The Battalion, and of the snow balling that is presently going on to suck sophomores and juniors over into the fish area. My steam valve has gone "ka-foof."

First The Batt. Being an editor of a newspaper, any newspaper, is a big job. But even though it is a big job, you chose to run for co-editor and now you have it. What have you accomplished? In my mind very little if anything at all. Second let's just say you are prejudiced or pro-administration. It seems that every time some propaganda is dished out, the Batt reaches out like a hungry perch and gobbles hook, line, and sinker. I thought the Batt was for the students, but every thing you print, including your editorials, seem like the writings of a miscegenated Lochinvar.

But let's forget you for the moment and travel on to the present snowballing that is being directed towards the sophs. According to Grady Smallwood the benefits in moving to the fish area would be responsibility and experience in leadership.

Ha!! That's a laugh. Responsibility and leadership in leading them on a parade ground and into the mess hall. Grady Smallwood also says that the position of the basic division officer and non-commissioned officer has risen. Bah!!

In what direction? Surely not upward. Colonel Davis has even climbed on the "snowboat" and dangled rank in front of the prospective juniors. Boy things sure must be getting tough when you promise rank for any and all just to cut their own throat.

To Col. E. W. Napier, PAS&T, I offer my condolences toward his statement "That the sophs were not taking the problems of the corps to heart." Surely Colonel Napier, you can do better than that. I haven't exactly noticed you tearing your heart out over the corps. Too many of the boys you were directing your remarks to have seen their own upperclassmen crucified while they were fish.

It's a known fact that many outfits have been begging juniors and

seniors to take rank in the Basic Division. Both last semester and this semester.

They are receiving an emphatic "no thanks".

Reason: No one enjoys being a stooge or tool for a one track administration. Nuff said about basic division and the personnel who run it.

About the uniform furor. As to the inspector that said "I haven't seen two cadets dressed alike yet," I offer him . . . If our uniforms here at A&M can lower our military standards then maybe the Army had better go to the U of H, Baylor, TCU or Rice and see if they can get any better men, just because they dress like the army.

This uniform deal sounds like some shady back room politics that has smelled up the national government.

It's about time that we found out where we stand on this question. If VMI and West Point can have their own distinctive uniforms, then ours should be distinctive too.

Just because the force goes into blue is no sign that the ground force has to flush boots. If the high moguls here wanted to prevent the junking of boots and the airforce from going into blue, ways and means could be found very easy.

Just a few lines to a few congressmen could work miracles. It is a known fact that the meanest military men in the U. S. Army get meek as kittens when a few congressmen start inquiring about certain facts. If that is the only way we can get results on this uniform question, then lets get with it.

Yours for a greater A&M (whether the enrollment be large or small).

A. B. Crownover Jr., '52

Against Students

Editor, The Battalion:

Since the beginning of this school year, The Battalion has launched its battleships steadily and unrelentingly upon the term "tradition." Any privilege of long standing has become a tradition, and thus open to attack by The Battalion editors. I have become so tired of reading the expression "tradition impedes the progress

of our great institution" that I now pick up a Batt expecting to be furious when I put it down.

Anything we do at A&M can be termed tradition, for A&M is a school of traditions. Is it to be entirely revised in one school year? I had never realized A&M was such a terribly backwards place until I took note of your editorials.

I came to A&M almost entirely because of the traditions which are now passing away with amazing rapidity. An education can be achieved at many schools, but A&M is . . . or was . . . A&M. That used to be "nuf sed" but now I wonder.

I wonder how many students now come to A&M because they've seen, and have come to love that great, boundless, fighting spirit.

Is The Battalion the mouthpiece of the students, or is it the instrument of any who wish to change one of A&M's "ole traditions"? We ask The Batt to present the request and desires of the students to the faculty and military for a pleasant change instead of the never-ending explanation to the student body why we should change A&M to its very core.

I sincerely hope that at some future date I can pick up a Battalion to see our paper at least attempting to help us hold on to the A&M we hold so dear. After all, it is our school.

- C. E. Beavers '53
- Bob Dawson '53
- Wallace Schlather '53
- Dean C. Blackwell '53
- C. R. Morrison '52
- D. R. Roberts '53
- E. L. Walker '53
- Bryan Grosjean '53

On 'Tomfoolery'

Norwin E. Linnartz, '53

Editor: The Battalion:

" . . . a professor is appointed to know and not to teach . . ." The foregoing is a direct quotation from a letter to the editor as written by a Mr. Marvin C. Atkins, '52 and published under the February 11 date line.

It is quite apparent that Mr. Atkins is belabored by serious misconceptions regarding the definitions and ideals involved in modern institutions of higher learning. If, as Mr. Atkins states, a "pro-

fessor" is appointed "to know and not to teach"—which, I fear, is true of too many professors at A&M—then the title of "professor" is being applied much too loosely.

If Mr. Atkins will consult the Fifth Edition of Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, he will find a professor defined as being "one who teaches, in the higher education or in the secondary school grades, any branch of learning."

Are then "professors" appointed merely "to know and not to teach"? Sure the majority of the A&M student body desires to learn. And does not the ideal method of learning involve teaching?

I, for one, greatly admire and respect the relatively small number of professors who not only "know" but "teach" as well what they know in order that their students may learn.

As for "academic pomposity" and "tomfoolery"—both terms are ridiculous and infantile when used by a senior to argue the lack of proper academic relationship between the student body and faculty members. What is required is not more "academic pomposity" or "tomfoolery," but rather a greater determination by faculty members to "teach" properly the knowledge they possess and the development by students of admiration and respect for those faculty members who truly teach what they know. It seems quite logical that, allowing for a reverse minority, the admiration and respect of students will be accorded naturally those faculty members who are good teachers.

What we need is definitely not more "tomfoolery" or "academic pomposity." We need more serious cooperation between the students and the faculty.

Local Ex-Tessies To Meet Saturday

The Brazos County Chapter of the TSCW Ex-Students Association will meet with Mrs. John R. Bertrand, 107 Lee Street, Saturday afternoon.

From 4 to 4:30 the club will listen to the Founder's Day program which will originate on the TSCW campus.

Movietime

Fixed Bayonets Good Addition To Melodrama

By JERRY BENNETT
Battalion Staff Writer

"Fixed Bayonets" starring Richard Basehart, Gene Evans and Michael O'Shea—20th Century Fox—Campus Theatre.

"Fixed Bayonets" is 20th Century Fox's arty contribution to motion pictures dealing with the Korean War ("The Steel Helmet", "A Yank in Korea", "Retreat Hell!")

Making use of countless boxes of soap flakes backed by a plentiful supply of painted scenery this movie tells the familiar story of a valiant group of Hollywood stars who are left behind to hold off a ruthless enemy while the American army makes a successful retreat.

ALTHOUGH THE films' realism is impeded by the obvious, movie-let scenery, "Fixed Bayonets" is packed with some top-notch suspense seldom seen in a war movie where the accent is usually on action and one-sided victories.

A vivid picture is painted of men stranded in a frozen wilderness, surrounded by an invisible enemy who is slowly diminishing their small force one by one. A scene not soon forgotten is a medic trying to walk through an uncharted mine field to rescue a wounded soldier. By cutting background music and dialogue to use only the

'Full Dress' Peace Session Tomorrow; Reds Stalling

Munsan, Korea, Feb. 15—(AP)—Truce negotiators will hold an important full dress session tomorrow to hear a new communist proposal for a Korean peace conference.

Vice Adm. C. Turner Joy, chief U.N. negotiator, returned today from Tokyo where he has conferred for two days with Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway and two high ranking officials from Washington.

Staff officers working on prisoner exchange plans reported some slight progress Friday. The session on truce supervision marked time. Col. Don O. Darrow said it

looked as though the Reds were stalling until after Saturday's plenary session.

There has been no hint as to what the communists will suggest in their new plan for a post-armistice peace conference.

Reject Proposal

Previously the U.N. agreed to talk about the withdrawal of foreign troops from Korea and a final peace settlement, but rejected a Red proposal to discuss other Asiatic problems related to Korea.

Joy conferred in Tokyo with Gen. John E. Hull, army vice chief of staff, and U. Alexis Johnson, deputy assistant secretary of state for the Far East, as well as with General Ridgway. Hull denied bringing instructions from Washington, but there was speculation that the two officials might be taking a hand in the stalled truce talks.

Col. George W. Hickman said staff officers discussed the new nine-point communist plan for exchanging prisoners. He said that except for the basic disagreement over voluntary repatriation only disputes over wording separate the two sides now.

The Reds are holding out for the forced repatriation of all prisoners while the U.N. insists of giving each man a choice.

Hickman said U.N. and Red staff officers agreed to study remaining differences overnight and "see if we can't come closer."

Darrow said both sides at the truce supervision session rehearsing arguments over troop rotation and the number of ports of entry to be inspected by neutral teams.

He said there also was some discussion of a new Red demand that inspection teams check on specific design as well as the overall type of supplies and equipment moving into Korea during an armistice.

"We are not far apart on a lot of these issues. We could settle them early, if they wanted it," Darrow said. "I think they realize that what we have left to do won't take long."

Key Issue

The staff officers aren't even discussing the key issue in the truce supervision deadlock—whether the communists have the right to build and repair military airfields in North Korea during an armistice.

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The Battalion

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

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 \$5.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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