

Ivory Tower . . .

Impressions Wrong On Letter's Policy

By John Whitmore

For quite a while those of us up in the upper rooms of Goodwin Hall had an erroneous opinion on what was this thing called freedom of the press and freedom of opinion. But like so many things, when a test case comes up the illusions come tumbling down. This was the situation in our letter's column. We have been telling the public the letter's column is an open forum. We have also gone under the assumption that each and every man has the right to his opinion and we felt he could not be punished or touched for expressing his opinions. In a recent case, a man wrote his opinion in the letter's column about some of the military officers. These officers brought out an item of military custom and an item in the student handbook which says—in essence—a man does not have the right to publicly criticize his superior officers. The reason they gave for this ruling, or custom, is that it would not be well for a man on the front line to be able to write back to a newspaper telling about how he was ordered to do something. This, they, said might undermine the discipline of the unit. To a certain degree this is right. However they did concede the point that if a case supported by evidence came to light they would not take any action against the author of the criticism. At the same time let it be understood, we are not backing up or trying to defend the letter written recently. We feel the man was not clear in most of his thinking. So as a result of this case we, the editors, have gotten together and come up with a revision of the policy in handling letters to the editor. If we feel the letter might do the man writing the letter harm, we are reserving the right to notify the writer he is "sticking his neck out" and we will not be responsible for any action which might be taken. A continuation of the present policy, is we will not print letters which contain libelous, scandalous, or obscene items. Letters which are not signed will not be published. Request for having a name withheld will not be honored unless the author of the letter gets special permission from the editor. Boiled down and put in common sense words—"Don't write a letter unless you have your guns cocked, loaded, and can back up all facts listed in the letter." This does not include letters condemning the action of policy of The Battalion.

On the other hand and on another line of thought, Washington State College got themselves a mighty fine president. They have hired one of the most outstanding men in the American educational system. A&M was indeed fortunate to have had the services of this man for the year and a half he was here. We don't know if it is imagination or fact, but during the time Dr. French was connected with the college, the standards seemed to be raised. If this is fact, he is to be commended even higher. Along the more aesthetic lines, we have lost one of the finest gentlemen ever to walk the campus grounds. Adding our name to the long list of well wishers, The Battalion staff extends its congratulations to Dr. French. At the same time, we hate to see him go.

Lutheran Brotherhood Holds Meeting Here

The Fourteenth Annual Brotherhood of the Texas District of the American Lutheran Church will hold a meeting in the MSC Friday. The Texas District of 200 congregations in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Approximately 500 men from the ALC congregations are expected to attend the convention, the Rev. T. H. Swygert, H. W. Havermann, president of the Texas District Brotherhood, will preside over the meeting. Havermann is from Orange Grove. Hosts for the convention will be Fred Sommers of Brenham, president of the Brenham Area Brotherhood; Theo. Hohlt, vice president of the Area and G. E. Jaehne, secretary. Hohlt and Jaehne are both from Bryan, and are members of the Brotherhood of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Registration will be from 8-9 the convention will open. A banquet at 6 p. m. in the MSC will conclude the session. Toastmaster for the banquet will be Dr. William Kraushaar, president of Texas Lutheran College, Seguin, and the speaker for the banquet will be John Bachman, head of Radio Division of Baylor University, Waco. Bachman's subject for the evening will be "What's The Use." Speakers for the convention will include Carl Schock, executive director of the International Brotherhood of the American Lutheran Church, Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. H. H. Weinert, chairman, Board of Regents, Texas Lutheran College, and the Rev. Henry Hoesman, director of Evangelism for the American Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio. Eric Carlson, Cadet Colonel of the Corps, will welcome the convention to A&M.

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 Mondays 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 \$8.00 per year or \$2.50 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.

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Students Comment On French Leaving

The announcement yesterday that Dr. C. Clement French, dean of the college, had accepted the presidency of Washington State College seemed to leave most A&M students a bit amazed, and in many cases disappointed. Dr. French accepted the new office yesterday and is expected to submit his resignation at the Feb. 29 meeting of the A&M System Board of Directors. Dr. French came to A&M in September of 1950 as Dean of the College. He had held the same office prior to coming to A&M at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.

Difficult to Fill Position

Bob Allen, senior geology major from Corpus Christi said, "Finding a man to fill his position will be difficult, and Washington State should feel fortunate to have him." George Dishman, a senior business major from Beaumont commented, "Dean French has always given a helping hand to students in time of need, we hate to see men of his caliber go." Bill Vehon, senior business major from Dallas, said, "The news that Dean French had resigned comes as very much of a shock to me. I know that we're losing a good man, and he will be hard to replace." Jim Cogburn, junior architect major from Ft. Worth said, "He has come to be a part of A&M while he has been here, and it will be no easy task to find a man to fill his shoes." Said Craig Johnson, a senior geology major from Dallas, "Dean French has always been known as one to deal fairly with the problems of students, and it is with most sincere regret and cordial good wishes that we bid him farewell." Corps commander Eric Carlson, senior economics major from Elgin, said "We are extremely unfortunate to lose a man that appreciates all the student problems as Dean French does." Jim Thomas, junior

Kruger

(Continued from Page 1) He is a member of Tau Beta Pi, Phi Eta Sigma, Town Hall Staff, Ross Volunteers, and the PetE Club. He is secretary to the Engineer's Council and was named only this week as one of four juniors to receive Who's Who honors. Other honors Kruger has received at A&M are outstanding sophomore of H Squadron, outstanding freshman of the third squadron, and company commander of freshman flight 12. Kruger, who has served earlier this year as acting sergeant-major, is son of Mrs. W. A. Kruger, 4404 Avenue C, Austin. He was graduated from high school at Brenham where in his senior year he was valedictorian, football captain, and president of the senior class.

RE Week

(Continued from Page 1) "West Point is primarily a military school and its purpose is to turn out officers, while A&M is primarily a technical college with officer training secondary," he pointed out. "Things are more relaxed here and there are more privileges than at West Point," the colonel used as an example. On the standing which A&M has gained in the eyes of officers and cadets at the military academy, Colonel Kregel said, "A&M is recognized both for the number of officers it produces and for the quality that they have shown in the services."

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Dr. Denham Speaks Davids Talks At Rotary Meeting To Study Club

Dr. Wm. E. Denham, principal speaker for Religious Emphasis Week, was the featured speaker for the Bryan-College Station Rotary Club Wednesday. Dr. Denham spoke on the "Christian Answer to Communism." He pointed out that we could not solve the great problem of communism today simply by saying that we are better than they are or simply by guns, although the matter of guns may be a temporary necessary expedient. "Prices in Your Pocketbook" was the topic discussed by Dr. L. E. Davids, business administration department, when he spoke to the Campus Study Club on Tuesday afternoon at the YMCA. Dr. Davids, who has served with the OPS in Iowa, pointed out some of the problems and difficulties of price controls for the retailer and for the consumer. He also noted some of the advantages especially to the consumer.

MEE GUEST SPEAKER Mr. Allen B. Johnson, Class of '28, sales manager of the Otis Elevator company, will speak to the AIEE Feb. 28. DR. M. W. DEASON Optometrist 313 College Main (Formerly Corky's) 8:00 to 5:00 Ph. 4-1106

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