

Will Faculty Realize Value of Student Rating?

YESTERDAY A&M students were given a privilege not allowed at many other colleges and universities.

They had the opportunity to rate instructors and professors—the men who had put marks in grade books rating the students.

Rating was on such points as preparation for class meetings, ability to interest students, attitude toward students, and personal appearance.

Contrary to what many students may have believed, professors with a low rating in several categories will not be fired or overlooked at promotion time—as long as their work is satisfactory.

The rating sheets were designed to help instructors better methods of teaching and to find how students rated them to other members of the faculty.

We hope everyone realized the value of this privilege and did not abuse it by trying to "get even" with a prof who was more demanding of students than others. When results are released to the faculty after the beginning of next semester we also ask that faculty members will take the criticism seriously.

A low rating in one category does not mean a prof should become discouraged or revengeful any more than the student who

graded him. We urge all faculty members to watch for fields of improvement and work on weak points indicated in the rating.

After all, no one likes to be unpopular, especially with the people who provide his source of income. And it is an accepted fact that students who like and respect their teacher learn more. But besides being a swell guy, the teacher must interest and teach his students or the time of both has been wasted.

"No man was ever so much deceived by another, as by himself." —Greville.

Truman's Requests Prove Sound

PRESIDENT TRUMAN expressed the hopes of all Americans when he asked yesterday that the Soviet Union become "more realistic and less implacable and recede from the cold war they began."

He also presented President-elect Eisenhower a bouquet of praises which everyone hopes the incoming Texan will be able to keep.

Truman believes, and he should know, having authorized the use of the world's first atomic bomb, that another war would extinguish many millions of lives quickly, "demolish the great cities of the world, wipe out the cultural achievement of the past—and destroy the very structure of a civilization that has been slowly and painfully built up through hundreds of generations."

The President also presented advice to the Soviet's head, Premier Stalin. He said: "There is something I would say to Stalin: You claim belief in Lenin's prophecy that one stage in the development of Communist society would be war between your world and ours. But Lenin was a pre-atomic man, who viewed society and history with pre-atomic eyes. Something profound has happened since he wrote. War has changed its shape and its dimension. It cannot now be a stage in the development of anything save ruin for your regime and your homeland."

Truman charged that the United States should continue to keep its lead in armament, especially the atomic weapons, strengthen the armed forces, and enlarge capacity, for this, he says, is the only way we know now to avert war.

Presenting his views on the nation in his last speech as President, Truman has given good advice for all.

If the American people can remain firm in their belief that only through being strong themselves will they prevent war, and give the incoming President their full support, perhaps then Premier Stalin will acknowledge Truman's suggestion and quit producing for war. Only through this can peace return to earth.

"Be always displeased at what thou art, if thou desire to attain to what thou art not; for where thou hast pleased thyself there thou abidest."—Quarles.

More Car Space Shows Cooperation

FAVORABLE RESULTS through negotiation were shown yesterday between the Student Senate and the administration.

Once again the need of a powerful and awake student government made itself noticeable when the students on the committee were surprised that lack of money was not the key factor preventing the construction of parking lots. Once the need of the lots was explained to college authorities, the committee said they were surprised to see the quickness with which their requests were granted.

This fair decision and judgment by the administration in the early part of the year, and the intelligent requests made by the senate show that students and administration can cooperate for the betterment of the college.

The effectiveness of sound argument and comprehensive solutions will be defended through the centuries. It's good to see it here now at A&M.

"Duties in general give more trouble the longer they remain undischarged."—Theodore Parker.

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 four times a week, during the regular school year. During the summer terms, and examination and vacation periods, The Battalion is published twice a week. Days of publications are Tuesday through Friday for the regular school year, and Tuesday and Thursday during examination and vacation periods and the summer terms. Subscription rates \$6.00 per year or \$1.50 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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Faculty Responsible For Students Cheating

From The Educational Forum:

Scholastic cheating, in short, is a reflection of the notable emphasis put on one phase of education, the vigor of competition between teacher and student.

A principal reason for cheating becomes apparent. Many teachers pose as taskmasters, as policemen, as members of a gestapo. They assign certain tasks, like employers or foremen, on the basis of production rather than understanding. Students must carry out assignments in ways that satisfy, regardless of understanding, or suffer the consequences.

If they fail in this, they may have to go home, they may incur the wrath of parents, they may fail to meet an empirical standard which is set as a screen around their chosen careers, they may get put off the football team, they may miss an honor society, a medal, or a scholarship, or they may pull down their fraternity averages and have to clean out the basement.

Students Rated Wrong

The remarkable setup for cheating deserves a lot of advertising so that many people will see it. Teachers assign work and have unlimited authority in seeing that it is done to their personal satisfactions. The students are rated not on their understanding but on the completion of assigned work, else they suffer any of a long list of possible penalties, all on the basis of whether or not the teachers are pleased.

Turn back the pages momentarily to Charlie Dickens' brilliantly bitter reviews of exactly this method of education. Have we done anything but refine it? There will be a chorus of "ayes" to this, of course. Part of them will be justified, for all education is by no means as pictured above.

Yet the principle to which Dickens objected is still followed by many teachers and not a few parents and outsiders. The teachers, who should be aiding development instead acts only as a sort of foreman with one of the world's most unrestricted powers to demand that he be pleased.

More Blame With Officials

Students, instead of demanding of themselves and having demanded of them that their efforts be devoted to intellectual development and useful training, too often have the salesmen's task of pleasing a set of rather narrow and fairly easily interpreted, taskmasters. It is time that this, the principal background of cheating, was exposed. More blame lies with the teachers, principals, deans, and presidents, and less with the students, than is popularly supposed.

Dr. Hill Co-authors History Article

Dr. John Hugh Hill, of the history department, and his wife Dr. Laurita L. Hill are co-authors of an article recently published in the "American Historical Review."

Title of the article is "The Convention of Alexius Comnenus and Raymond of Saint Gilles." The magazine is published quarterly by the American Historical Association.

The article is a continuation of a previous study written by Dr. Hill in "Speculum," a journal published by the Mediaeval Academy of America. The earlier article, "Raymond of Saint Gilles in Urban's Plan of Greek and Latin Friendship," printed in April 1951.

Dr. Hill gathered information for these articles in Austin during the school year of 1951-52. At this time he was visiting associate professor of history at the University of Texas. This article is his first collaboration with his wife.

Burchard to Attend News Editors Meet

Donald D. Burchard, head of the journalism department, will attend the News Editors Seminar in Austin Jan. 12, 13, and 14 as guest observer from A&M.

The seminar, composed of 25 representatives from Texas newspapers, will meet for informal round table discussions on news writing. Leaders for the discussions will be chosen from those attending.

A get-acquainted dinner has been planned for Sunday night for those arriving before the opening session of the seminar Monday.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Profs' Ratings Differ Because Of Marital Status

By FRANK N. MANITZAS Battalion Co-Editor

THE ADMINISTRATION threw us a sneaky punch yesterday. For weeks we've dreamed and waited for the time when faculty ratings again would come around, and what happens? We had no class at 9 a. m. yesterday.

It was especially discouraging for there were a few things we wanted to say about certain instructors. Because we feel cheated, we think it's only fair we speak our peace here.

In rating a prof one should give consideration to the fact that he's probably married. Undoubtedly this hurt his dominant ego since after 5 p. m. he is again just a husband and no longer the peninsula of graduation for so many.

There are others, perhaps more fortunate. It is these—the bachelors—who we feel deserve the critical rating.

Many of them complain consistently because they have no faculty club here, no adequate faculty housing, no forceful faculty organization, no pay raise in sight. But only to themselves. They are not content like the married instructor. They still want to kick up their heels and see the school offer a consistently strong program in all subjects. But they only think this, and never speak.

Every now and then, many of the married professors crawl out of their humble abodes and sometimes climb the three flights of stairs in the YMCA to visit the bachelors and see the free life.

One found, to his regret, that the floors are not capable of holding more than the allotted number, for the floor broke through.

Although he saw that the main lounge and adjacent lounges of the 'Y' were in good condition, the professor could not help but notice on his way down, that adequate maintenance had been neglected in these housing quarters.

Needless to say, he returned quickly to his home, happy to be there once again. He told us: "I prefer my wife, to the 'Y' tower dungeon."

We rated him a plus, 100, and a diploma.

But the unfortunate bachelor. What should we rate him? Surely his intelligence is not above par. If it was, he would sue for better quarters. He must not have integrity, or he would not pay the price for living under such conditions. He must not be observant, for he

would have seen the whole in the floor where his professor friend fell through, and not taken the quick trip down himself.

For the bachelor prof—a double F plus and a minus zero.

Perhaps this rating will encourage him to join his Classroom Teachers Association, and dig his spurs into his officers' sides to set that better conditions can be established. Only through this will he be able to see new friends in his quarters again.

Maybe next year, we can rate this professor who lives in the 'Y' differently.

Video Grad Course Planned for 1954

A graduate course in television will probably be offered September, 1954, said Prof. M. C. Hughes, head of electrical engineering department.

Equipment to be used for this course was donated by Westinghouse Electric Corporation. This equipment was used for making Stratovision experiments. It was found one plane at 30,000 feet could serve an area that would usually require 11 video stations.

"A few more pieces of equipment and a lot of labor for setting up the equipment will be necessary before the graduate course can be organized," said Walter T. Matzen of the electrical engineering department.

Approximately 19 students have signed to take E. E. 446, the undergraduate television course, Hughes said.

Charles Todd Dies Jan. 4 in France

Charles Carroll Todd Jr. of College Station died of a heart attack in Paris, France, Jan. 4. He was graduated from A&M in 1920 with a BS degree in civil engineering.

He is survived by his wife, his mother, Mrs. C. C. Todd Sr., an aunt, Mrs. J. B. Bagley of College Station; and two uncles, Guy Bittle of Bryan and Tom Bittle of Dallas.

College to Build Two New Labs

Plans and specifications have been released for construction of two laboratories on the campus according to Arch C. Baker, A&M system architect.

One lab is to be shared by the plant physiology and the forest service departments. The other lab is to be shared by the floriculture and landscape architecture departments.

These buildings will be erected on each side of the present lab located across the street from the horse barn on Lamar St. In addition to the labs, the college will erect three greenhouses in connection with the floriculture and landscape architecture lab, and two greenhouses in connection with the plant physiology and Forest Service lab.

Merkle Will Conduct Plant Science Colloquium

Dr. John Merkle will conduct a meeting of the Plant Science Colloquium tomorrow night at 7:30 in Room 2-D of the MSC.

Historical considerations of plant distribution is the topic of discussion.

Comic strip section featuring POGO, L'L ABNER, and Facing Facts. POGO by Walt Kelly, L'L ABNER by Al Capp, and Facing Facts by Al Capp.