

Battalion Editorials

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THE BATTALION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1953

Basic Division Shows It's Doing A Better Job

SINCE THE Basic Division was started in 1950, it has received more criticism than praise from the students, former students and a few of the instructors.

The students and former students regard it as a necessary evil and the only way that freshmen would be allowed to live on the campus. They feel it was established only as a means of keeping the neophyte collegians separated from the upperclassmen.

Some professors criticized the Basic Division because it keeps the freshmen separate from upperclassmen whose association might broaden their maturity and mental development more quickly. Yet even these professors realize the disadvantage an entering student encounters in trying to adjust himself to college life while under the strain of a policing upperclassman.

But the development of the Basic Division has proved it to be one of the most successful educational units on the campus. It is producing a better student and more profitable results may develop later.

Statistics released today by the school shows that its students are making better grades than ever before and resignation percentage is beginning to drop.

The significance of better grades will gain further stature if these same students outproduce previous graduates of the college. The results bear watching. We think they will prove the effectiveness of the Basic Division.

Air Accidents Are Unavoidable

AIR FORCE officials answered the House Armed Services Committee recently concerning the possible causes of the latest military plane disasters. Their answer: The 289 lives lost in military air crashes is the price the nation must pay in safety.

The Air Force believes that no faulty equipment, or sabotage, or accident pattern is responsible.

Pilot errors account for 51.3 percent of the accidents, equipment failures 27.4 and improper maintenance 6.5.

We hope no one asks the diplomats why accidents occur in foreign policy which makes these air accidents a possibility. Their answer could be embarrassing.

British Steal Airline Supremacy

THERE'S something new in the field of airline travel, but the US is far behind competitors of Great Britain.

This country's tight grip on the production of airliners of commercial firms all over the world has been challenged.

The jet air age has touched the commercial production line, and the British-made Comet II, only jet airliner being produced, is much in demand on the world market. One American airlines has placed an order for three to be delivered in 1956 with an option to buy seven more.

American manufacturers have yet to announce a commercial jet airliner to compete with the British plane. One firm has laid out \$15 million for development of a jet transport. Others say they are working on a jet plane but have nothing to say about it.

The Americans are confident. They claim greater manufacturing know-how plus the idea of competition demanding top development of their plane will help them regain their position in production of the giant airplanes.

Perhaps after a few foreign dollars which might have been spent in the US go to our European neighbor airplane manufacturers will get down to work and regain the prestige they have claimed so long.

Hand Signal Month Needs Support

GOV. SHIVERS has designated January as Hand Signal Month in Texas, urging all drivers to heed the theme: "Right turn—hand up. Left turn—hand out. Slow or stop—hand down."

Statistics show that over 50 per cent of intersection collisions are caused because of laxness in hand signals.

Here there is a car for every three persons. These motor vehicles are in operation throughout the day and use of hand signals would make for easier and safer driving.

Alertness while driving, following safety rules and especially use of hand signals in close traffic can prevent accidents and perhaps save a life. It's courteous to use hand signals, and respect those of others.

Army's New Song Could Be Better

THE ARMY has placed a new marching tune on the three-month trial period and thinks it may become its official song if favorable reports are received.

Picked from 700 entries submitted in a contest, the song is entitled "The Army's Always There." The composer: Sam H. Stept, of New York, who is better known for "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree," which was a hit during the last war.

Two other songs which he wrote and later became famous might be more suitable for the Army. They are: "That's My Weakness Now," and "Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone."

The Battalion

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

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 \$5.50 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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What's Cooking

Friday
7:30 p. m.—Aggie Talent Show-Tentative, Ballroom, MSC.
Czech Club, Room 2A, MSC.
Panhandle Club, Room 2B, MSC.
Mid-Winter Conference of Agricultural Teachers, Assembly Room, MSC.
BSU Vespers, Baptist Student

Center, Students from Prairie View A&M will present the program.

Monday
7:15 p. m.—Six County Club, 104 Academic Bldg., will make plans for between semester dance.
7:45 p. m.—Bryan-College Station Branch of AAUW, Bryan Women's Club, J. F. Moussalli; director of Near East Foundation in Syria, will be the guest speaker.

AH Class to Visit Hereford Ranch

The Animal Husbandry 315 class will make a one-day field trip to the Straus Medina Hereford Ranch near San Antonio Friday. The purpose of this trip is to give the class some practice in judging breeding stock.

The Junior Livestock Judging team to represent A&M at the Fort Worth Livestock Show and Exposition Jan. 31 will be chosen from this class.

CS City Council Postpones Meeting

College Station's monthly City Council meeting, scheduled for Monday, has been postponed until Monday, Jan. 9, according to Ran Boswell, city manager.

Expected items of business are voting on the Recreation Council's request for tax support and the school board's request for a tax assessment increase.

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Presidents Start Plans For High School Day
A meeting of all home town club presidents to discuss High School Day activities will be held in the Student Activities office, Goodwin Hall, Wednesday at 5 p. m. Pete Hardesty, club advisor, is calling the meeting to coordinate plans for the annual affair, which will be March 14.

"A powerful force in these difficult times"

says FRANKLIN D. MURPHY
Chancellor, University of Kansas

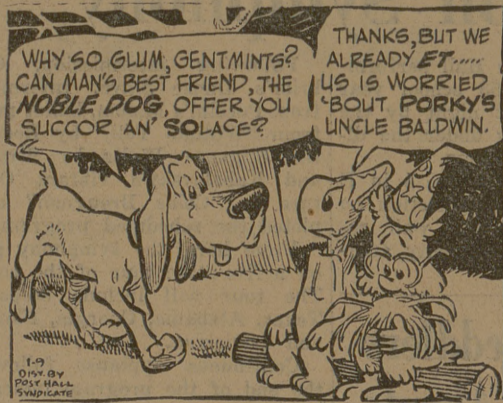
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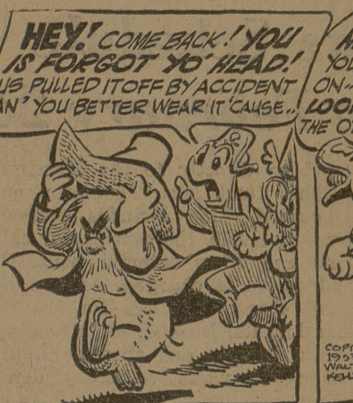
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