

# Battalion Editorials

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THE BATTALION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1953

## Some Colleges Need Change To Produce Better Graduate

MANY TIMES, educational institutions will refuse to admit that some changes are needed to better themselves. Many times, educational institutions follow a course of regularity each year, seeking only to stay alive.

In Hollins, Va., there is a college similar to A&M—it teaches one sex. Yet this school, which has not grown in proportion to A&M's increase in enrollment, has installed a newly revised curriculum.

President of Hollins College, John R. Everett, has said the new program is designed to provide the Hollins graduate with the education which will be most helpful to her as she goes out into the world today.

He has said: "A good deal of the criticism which has been directed against American colleges is justified. Many colleges have rested on their academic robes and refused to recognize that the world has changed. Many professors have been content to teach the formulas learned in their graduate schools and many administrators have sought new money rather than new ideas. The results have not been happy.

"Much of the difficulty lies in the essential conservatism of the academic mind. Part of the job of an academic organization is the transmission of tradition. The past is looked upon as an object for an investigation and often it is thought to be the only sure guide for the future. Old truths and old experiences tend to become the norms for present judgment and future action. And, when this happens there is an almost unconscious retreat into the past and an escape from present responsibility.

"Some experimental institutions have been founded to protect this tendency. These colleges try to place the student in the whirlwind present and they claim that the past has very little to do with the here and now. The result is that the students emerge with no sense of continuity and very little respect or regard for the historical situation in which they live.

"Such students are prone to think of themselves as the advance guard of a brave new world which they can build with their own two hands and theoretical blueprint. It is hard to imagine any more perfect method for gaining personal frustration and social stupidity.

"Other students have tried to counter this obvious failure by developing a scholasticism of greatness, defined in terms of certain books. Such an approach arraigns the student in a court where big gods sit in judgment upon all change and all experimentation. And the student learns how to be preciously 'intellectual' and arrogantly contemptuous of all modern life.

"The truth of the matter is that higher education must fuse the memory of the past with the present and the anticipated future. Such a fusion overcomes the superficial and rootless concern for the present, yet it does not retreat into the past. By the same token it does not allow the arid intellectualism of the scholastic to cut the nerve of judgment and action in the present and future.

"It is just this fusion that our new curriculum tries to gain. We have rejected the idea that experimental educators have proved their points and we have also rejected the snobbish of the so-called 'great books' pro-

gram. Further, we have rejected the perverse reasoning which has caused some leaders to say that general education can be gained in two years of studying catch-phrase generalizations about nature, man, and God."

Hence, Hollins College has junked part of the old and part of the new. It has created a mixture, one which it believes will be the happy medium needed to produce a better and happier student.

A&M recently changed its curricula, but only for cutting the hour load. Other investigations should be made. Not with reference to the curricula, but more important, the student life. Providing a graduate with an education which will help him the most after he is graduated should be the aim, not only of Hollins, but A&M and all colleges.

## Anti-Jewish Purges Follow Similar Trail

JAN. 15 marks another important day in the world's history. As the earth revolves into its eighth year since the end of World War II, only one idea is eminent: peace is far away.

As the Korean War continues, with neither side seemingly gaining an objective, Europe again centers with activity of anti-Semitism, reminding the world of 1939—the year which saw action begin in the middle war.

Communist East Europe's new wave of anti-Jewish trials reminds the world of the Hitler-Stalin pact of 1939. It reminds the world of the Bolsheviks' elimination, the murder of Leon Trotsky in Mexico, the ousting of Maxim Litvinoff from the Foreign Ministry and the new replacement V. M. Molotov, the purging of the Polish Communist Party to remove opposition of a pact between the two dictators—Hitler and Stalin.

Today's story: "Same song, second verse—could be better but . . ." Jews are being removed from influential positions in East Germany. In Czechoslovakia, 11 top Communists, eight of them Jews, recently were hanged. In Poland former Communist boss Wladislaw Gomulka and others may face a mass trial. Roumania's drive on the Jews has caught former Foreign Minister Ana Pauker and others. The French Communist party is purging leaders of the World War II anti-German resistance.

And the world remembers when Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Vishinsky defended the 1939 Soviet-German pact in a speech before the United Nations this December. And the world wonders what he was thinking.

The diplomats fear Russia plans to neutralize West Germany until her industrial wealth of the Ruhr Valley can be brought into the Soviet sphere. Trickery and strategy seems to be Russia's weapons.

A block to Russia is apparent in the strength of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and his anti-Soviet government. But Russia will tender a tempting bait to the world which, if it bites, can produce a preamble to war.

The Republicans want to trim the budget of foreign aid. If the United States retreats again from helping other nations defend themselves, the world will have a difficult time trying to forecast the possibilities peace.



## In Present Tour

# Melchior Seeks New Crowd For Ailing Show Business

Stars of show business are always talking about how newcomers deserve a break. But few of the stars ever do anything about it.

Lauritz Melchior is the exception. The king-size tenor is embarking on a new and different kind of concert tour, designed both to do business and supply an audience for a half-dozen aspiring young singers.

Melchior and company will motor to 100 towns throughout the Eastern and Southern U. S. The troupe will present a varied musical menu—"from the smorgasbord to the sweets" with the design of pleasing all tastes.

The Melchior Show will be here in Guion Hall at 3 p. m. Sunday, Jan. 18. Tickets are on sale in the Student Activities Office, second floor of Goodwin Hall.

Over a stein of beer at his mountaintop home, Melchior explained the reasoning behind the tour:

"For one thing, I think television has brought a complete change in the concert field. I believe the time has passed when one artist accompanied by one piano can stand on a bare stage and entertain an audience for two hours. People expect more than that.

To Find Audience "But the bigger reason is that I feel it is time that someone did something to find an audience for the many fine young voices we have in this country. I think it is tragic that there is virtually no opportunity for a new artist to be heard.

"What opportunity is there? The Metropolitan has a season of 20 weeks. A young singer would make about \$125 a week there. And he never knows until a month before the season whether he will be engaged.

"There are a few other opera companies. Some of them charge

a young singer \$5,000 for the privilege of singing a leading role! A newcomer knows he stands no chance for success unless he becomes a crooner.

"It is the same with composers. They know they have no audience for serious works; so they write things like 'Open the Door, Richard.'"

The singer added that the Europeans make more provision for young talent.

"Take my native Denmark," he remarked. "It has just over four million people, but it has a Royal Opera House, plus ample time for serious music on the radio and TV. Each town has its own opera."

"Promising singers are rewarded by the state. I was paid a full opera salary for a year while I was studying and changing from baritone to tenor."

Melchior favors state assistance for young artists and culture in

general. The program could be paid for by tax stamps on all TV and radio sets, he suggested.

The Melchior company is starting its tour uniquely. The first date is in a night club—the Sahara in Las Vegas. But he hastened to add that he picked the spot because it has a theater stage, and no food or drink will be served during the hour's concert.

Here are the youngsters who will accompany him: Edward Williams, Dallas, Tex.; Michael Peters, New York City; Shirlee Emmons, Stevens Point, Wis.; Angeline Collins, Dallas; Val Valente, Charleston, W. Va.

"All of them have won prizes and scholarships," said Melchior, their biggest booster. "But they have had no opportunity to display their wonderful voices. If we could build up the audiences, America can produce voices as great or greater than Caruso's."



FEMINE TALENT—Lauritz Melchior poses with Shirlee Emmons and Angeline Collins who will add the feminine touch to the Lauritz Melchior Show. Six male vocalists and a duo-piano team will also be featured.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Students Needed To Fight Polio

Editors, The Battalion:

This is the month that the March of Dimes will attempt to raise enough money to carry on the fight against polio. As always, there will be those who will not take heed of the pleas for help nor of the words of warning. Far too many people are inclined to be indifferent to a menace or a tragedy as long as it doesn't directly affect them. I wish that every person who thinks lightly upon polio could have been on the scene last year when my wife and I were suddenly shocked out of our indifference. They too, would share the personal fear and hatred we hold in our hearts for polio.

It was last August that our oldest daughter, Jeanne, was sudden-

ly stricken by polio. Those of you who might think that I'm over-emphasizing the word "suddenly" and are skeptical about the ferocity of polio should read the following carefully: Wednesday—feeling fine; Thursday—headache; Friday—stiff neck; Saturday—couldn't touch her chin to her chest; Sunday—both arms in complete paralysis; Monday—both legs in complete paralysis; Tuesday—fought for her life. One hour my wife and I prayed she wouldn't be permanently crippled and the next hour we prayed for her life. Thanks to God and the March of Dimes she lived. Polio can hit fast and terribly hard—don't ever forget that.

At the present time, we have Jeanne in the Warm Springs Foundation at Gonzales. There they are doing everything to give her back the use of her arms and legs. But these marvelous facilities and special-trained personnel wouldn't be available to our daughter if it were not for the March of Dimes. Her fate would be a life spent as a helpless cripple. Instead, Jeanne already has her braces, and they are teaching her to walk again.

I have given you a brief insight as to what happens when polio strikes within a family. It's not a pretty picture but it is a real one for it happens to thousands of other families every year.

It's true that there are other things that take a greater toll upon human life. More people, for instance, are killed as a result of auto accidents than as a result of polio. But we all know why there are so many accidents and therefore they could be prevented.

With polio we are faced with a more deadly problem for we haven't as yet found a way to stop it. We haven't determined where it comes from nor why it will suddenly single out certain individuals. Also, once it begins its attack on the nerve centers there is nothing to stop it or even curb it until it has run its course throughout the body. Moreover, polio is picking up momentum and is spreading at an alarming rate each year. The March of Dimes is our first line of defense against this killer, for it has devoted itself to the two-fold task of saving and rehabilitating the stricken while carrying on constant research to stop polio. This is a tremendous service to the nation and it is of utmost importance that they have the necessary funds to carry on. It is disgraceful that they should have to plead for the money necessary to do each and every one of us so great a service.

It seems incredible to me that Congress, in the midst of its vast spending program, doesn't shell out a few million dollars to help conquer such diseases as polio. Certainly a killer and a cripple such as Polio constitutes a danger to the national welfare. It would be well for us to wake up and prod our sleeping congressmen into some sort of legislation in this respect. However, in the meantime we must carry on not only as individuals but also work together as a team to whip polio.

If each student and faculty member at A&M contributed one dollar, the March of Dimes chapter for Brazos County would be well on the way to its goal of twenty-five grand. I don't know how much a buck means to you. Maybe you're loaded with greenbacks—maybe you're not. In any event, just in case it hurts to separate yourself from a dollar, then remember—please remember—how terrible the kids are being

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# The Battalion

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

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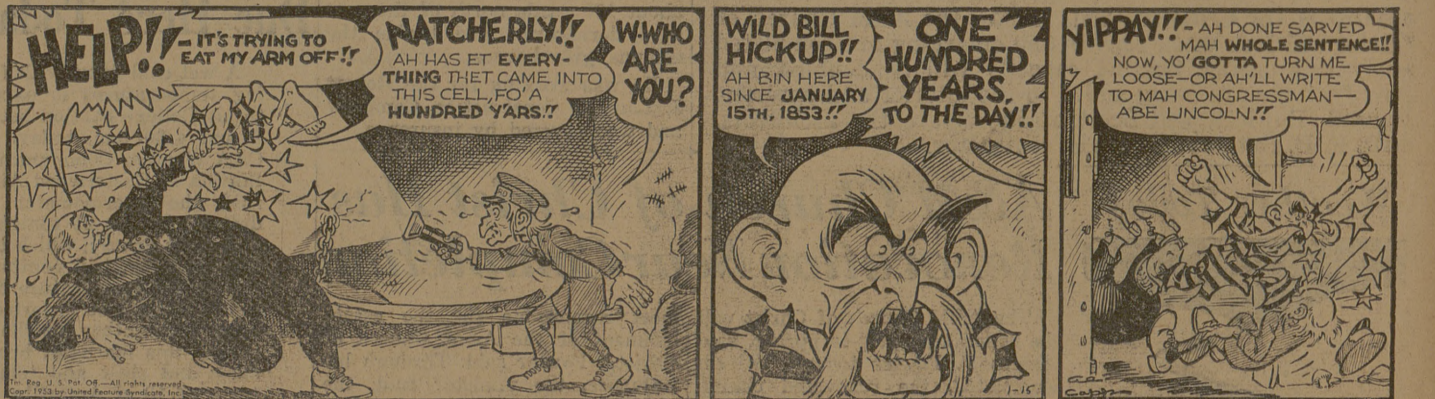
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