

Battalion Editorials

Page 2 THE BATTALION THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1953

Religion's Place at A&M

THE PLACE of religion on a college campus—where does it start and stop? This is a question faced by many administrators from time to time, but we believe a good attempt at an answer has been found at this school.

With the fine organization of off-campus churches, the part a college should play in religion is adequately handled here. A&M offers many academic courses in religious education and yearly sponsors a week of religious emphasis.

This program for religious emphasis ended here Friday and we would like to tab it the most successful ever held at A&M. It was the most successful for many reasons, but mainly because of fine planning by members of the inter-faith council.

Inspiring this group which sponsored RE Week, was a little man who seems to stay in the background, getting little credit for his accomplishments, yet doing a bang-up job

—Gordon Gay, YMCA secretary. Through his guidance and experience a well organized program with excellent speakers and forum leaders was provided for the observance.

With humble hearts we say "Thanks" to Mr. Gay, the inter-faith council, especially its president Mason L. Cashion Jr., for making this week on our campus possible.

Guion Hall was packed practically every morning to hear the thought provoking sermons delivered by Dr. Robert E. Goodrich of Dallas, and students found interest and answers to many questions through informal meetings and forums held in dormitory lounges by the fourteen visiting ministers.

Hard work and conscious endeavor to succeed usually pay off. In that one week of religious emphasis on our campus most people here found what a great part religion plays in the day to day life of a student.

Frankly Speaking

Duplication Slows Incentive

By FRANK N. MANITZAS
Battalion Co-Editor

A TYPICAL college fallacy thrown to freshmen every year is: "Your first year is your hardest, and if you do okay then the rest of college is easy."



Manitzas

Needless to say, a good student from a good secondary school is in for a let down when he begins his initial year's work and finds he is repeating many courses.

This lessens the challenge expected from college and slackens his enthusiasm for more rapid advancement in learning.

Because A&M is a state supported school, it cannot acquire all the points of a liberal education, nor can it lead certain fields of study, although the capabilities are ever present here. The following tells a story which could be used here to increase the educational qualities of the school.

Two years ago a group of outstanding teachers representing Andover, Exeter, Lawrenceville, Harvard, Yale and Princeton decided to do something about it. With support from the Ford Foundation, the six institutions began a study whose purpose was "to plan the last two years of secondary school and the first two years of college as a continuous process, conceived as a whole."

Real Need Seen

Recently, the report was completed. "The real need," the report said, "is a concerted attempt on the part of both schools and colleges to enable students to move steadily forward through a coherent and unified program of study, with a continuous desire to learn and at a rate commensurate with their ability."

To accomplish this, the report ("General Education in School and College," Harvard University

Press, \$2.) presents four conditions which must be met:

- "The essentials of that part of liberal education which should be common to all must be thought out and agreed upon."
- "Wasteful duplication of educational experience must somehow be eliminated."
- "Provisions must be made for adapting any program to the needs and pace of individual students."
- "Every possible device must be explored which may increase a student's desire to grow in knowledge and understanding, to educate himself."

Easy for State

All of these conditions could be adapted by a state school system without affecting the overall educational program.

Since unification of college work with secondary school studies also would provide a cut in expenses, a plan of this type should prove useful.

The report also presents "specific weaknesses and failures" existing at present: wasted time through repetition of courses, failure to pursue a subject far enough to be of value, and study of relatively useless aspects of an important field. This, of course, contributes to a general failure to arouse the student's interest and to keep him fully stretched to his capacities.

Admitting that there is no substitute for good teaching, the report supports a two-part program: one designed to provide the minimum requirement of a liberal education for all and the other to provide for the exceptional student to move ahead at his own pace.

Grades of Study

In this general education basic program, the eleventh and twelfth grades would include courses in the English language and literature, third and fourth years of foreign languages, one year of American history, completion of a third year of mathematics, a science and art and/or music. There also is room for electives.

The freshman college would include literature, a study of western civilization and a science. The second college year would include a course in Values (strongly recommended by the committee, capitalizing on the particular strength of the institution), contemporary society and art and/or music.

There are some things an educated person should know," the report says. "One must have some understanding of the ideas and ideals on which our civilization depends." To make this possible, the committee recommends that the college course for engineering students be extended to five years.

Permits Advancement

An important feature of the program is that the student with a marked interest and capacity in a particular field would be permitted and urged to move ahead so that he was constantly challenged.

The committee believes the exceptional student should be allowed to compress the normal eight years of secondary school and college into seven. To measure the student's achievement in essential areas, the committee urges examinations for "Advanced Placement." These together with tests for aptitude, emotional maturity and good health, would form the basis for screening. Although the committee believes that between one-fifth and one-third of the students in a good school might meet the intellectual and psychological requirements, the final decision to accelerate should be entirely up to the student.

Motivation Increased

Student motivation which is increased with the elimination of duplication of courses, is improved by:

- Giving top priority to recruiting and encouraging imaginative, creative teachers.
- Schools encouraging and stimulating more independent work on the part of their ablest seniors.
- Finding ways to increase personal contact between college faculties and undergraduates.
- Forcing students to more active participation in their education through increased use of papers, discussions, and problem solving.

Disavowing any pretense of presenting a cure all, the report closes: "The heart of formal education is always the encounter of the teacher and the student. But when the evidence of wasted effort and loss of intellectual momentum among our best students is as clear as it is, and when some of the causes so evidently lie in faulty academic planning, then it is foolish, or worse, not to do what we can to improve programs of study and to integrate requirements.

The goal is certainly worth our efforts. It is to increase the possibility that more and more of our students may start strongly on the way to becoming liberally educated men—and find themselves unable to turn back."

LETTERS

Soccermen, Thanks

Editors, The Battalion:
The members of the soccer team are deeply grateful and wish to thank the Freshman Band for their cooperation in making last Sunday's game a success. We wish also to take the opportunity to express our thanks to everyone who came out to watch and support the team.

Guillermo Cardenas '54
Captain, Soccer Team

Eagle's Persistence

Editors, The Battalion:
Concerning the eagle's persistence in Tuesday's Battalion, the Bopster would exclaim: "That eagle is really gone."

Dick Hensz '54

Old Parable

Editors, The Battalion:
Modification of old parable: "You can push a horse off a cliff but you can't make him fly."

Jim Trimble '54

Profs & Good Bull

Editors, The Battalion:
In yesterday's (Feb. 24) Battalion, Dr. Stack compared the "in-" (See LETTERS, Page 5)

★ BRIGHT SPOTS ★

INCOMPLETE ANGLER

From the Montreal Star:
So what if your girl walked out on you? There are other fish in the sea!

Yeah, but she walked out with all my bait.

DOUBLE JEOPARDY

From Marquette Engineer:
An elderly lady driving non-chantly along, turned a corner and ran down a poor inebriate crossing the street. Without any show of emotion, she stopped the car, rolled down the window and called, "You had better watch out there, young man."

The drunk rose on his elbows and yelled, "Ye Gods, lady, don't tell me you're going to back up."

AGGIE LOVERS?

From the Daily Texan:
"Presidents just aren't what they used to be," declared a biographer of presidents recently.

People can't help wondering how Harry Truman, for example, stacked up with George Washington in their younger days with the fairer sex. Sources tell us the general fell in and out of love more times than a hen lays eggs.

Harry, on the other hand, couldn't have been much. He was a Twentieth Century army man, and when you think of "army" A&M just nacherly comes to mind. And after all, who ever heard of an Aggie who could—?

ET CETERA

From Montreal Star:
"Well Dear," said Mr. Blair, after dinner had been cleared away, "what are you planning to do this evening?"

Mrs. Blair shrugged her shoulders. "Nothing special," she replied. "I'll probably write a letter or two, read, listen to the radio, and so on."

"I see," he replied. "When you come to the so on, don't forget my shirt buttons."

WHOSE FAULT

From Illinois Education:
The College Professor:

Such ravenous in a student is a shame, but lack of preparation is to blame.

LETTERS

Harry Boyer Released From Hospital Sunday

Harry Boyer, chief of housing, will be returned from Houston's Memorial Hospital, Sunday. Mr. Boyer underwent a stomach operation Feb. 16.

Allen Madeley, assistant chief of housing, has assumed Boyer's duties during his absence.

for FRIDAY & SATURDAY.. the Choice is YOURS

- Chicken Fried Steak 75c
- Fried Chicken 85c
- Pork Chops 75c
- Select Oysters 85c
- Jumbo Shrimp 85c

With a Choice of 2 Salads . . . Milk
Coffe or Tea and Dessert

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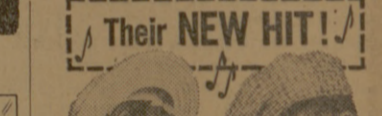
Starring
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Starring
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and
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PALACE

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NOW SHOWING
Their NEW HIT!



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MARTIN LEWIS
JERRY
THE STOOGES

EDDIE MAVEHOFF MARION MARSHALL
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Abbott and Costello Meet Captain Kidd

With a Choice of 2 Salads . . . Milk
Coffe or Tea and Dessert

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The Battalion

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

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POGO

By Walt Kelly

WELL, I'M OFF TO PICK MY BAG.
SO'S US KIN WART OUR SELFS TO WATCH THE BERMOOTHIES AND THE BELLS.
I AINT NO MIRROR.
WHY, SO YOU WANT I CONCENT PART MY HAIR... WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF.
WE NEED A IDEA FOR THE NATIONAL DIRT HOUR T.V. PROGRAM.
AN' A ROUSER FOR A THEME SONG.
EASY!
D IS FOR THE BREATH BLEW ON THE GRAY I MEANS ONLY THAT IT'S GROWIN' GOLD.
R IS FOR A WIVVER WET AN' WAWY...
T IS FOR THE COLONG SHORTLY SHOALBED L IS FOR THE ICE WITH LOWLIFE LININ'...

L'L ABNER

By Al Capp

WHAT IS 'YO' DOIN' IN CREEPEY HOLLOW AT MIDNIGHT?
-'YO' IS A EXPECTORANT MOTHER--'YO OUGHTA BE HOME IN BED A-RESTIN'!
BUT, 'YO' IS A DYIN' WOOLIN!! 'YO OUGHTA BE HOME!!
I WISH TH' L'L SNIP WOULD MIND HER OWN BUSINESS, AN' GIT LASTIN' IF AH'DONT DIG UP THE PITCHER SOON AH'LL DIE WIFOUT SEEN' IT!'