

# Letters to The Editors

## Coeds Involve New Expense

(Letter to the Editors will be accepted through the mail or can be delivered to The Battalion offices, second floor of Goodwin Hall. The Battalion reserves the right to print excerpts unless request to the contrary be made by the writer. Author's name must be signed. The shorter the letter the better its chance of publication.)

**Editors, The Battalion:**  
I was greatly impressed by your editorial (an editor's column) of Feb. 25 in which you offered two alternatives to the present condition in which we find our college. However, in subsequent issues of The Battalion I have discovered that only one of the two alternatives has been proposed and elaborated upon, that of coeducation.

Looking upon this issue from the taxpayer's viewpoint, (it) is obvious that considerable investment of state money must be made in new facilities—the present dormitories are certainly not

### Shakespeare Speaks Again

**Editors, The Battalion:**  
Another Great Tragedy. Friends, Texans, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come to bury A&M, not to praise it. The evil that schools do lives after them; The good is oft interred with their bones; So let it be with A&M. The noble senator hath told you A&M was outdated; If it were so, it was a grievous fault, and grievously hath A&M answered it.

Here under the leave of the senator and the rest, For the senator was an Aggie? So are they all, all Aggies, Come I to speak at A&M's funeral. It was my friend, faithful and just to me: But the senator says it was outdated; And the senator is an Aggie?

It hath sent many soldiers to war, Whose deeds did the state of Texas honor: Did this in A&M seem outdated? When the people of Texas have needed, A&M hath helped Obsolescence should be made of sterner stuff: Yet the senator is an Aggie?

I speak not to disprove what the senator spoke, But here I am to speak what I do know. You all did love it once, not without cause: What cause withhold you then to mourn for it?

O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts, And men have lost their reason. Bear with me; My heart is in the coffin there with A&M, And I must pause till it come back to me.

Edward V. Wright '54  
Steve Williams '54

**EDITORS' NOTE:** A&M is not dead. Other schools also have provided soldiers for wars; A&M alone did not win World War II. Obsolescence means "going out of use;" do you mean A&M is losing its usefulness? We think not.

Improvement is possible and needed. No one has showed the way yet. Lincoln said: "I shall try to correct errors where shown to be errors, and I shall adopt new views as they shall appear to be true views." A&M needs to correct errors and adopt new true views. Burying the school, is not the answer.

### 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 \$5.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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suitable for women to live in—and also the curriculum offered to students must be broadened to include a school of fine arts. There won't be many women taking agriculture engineering, or the present liberal arts courses. The difficulties presented here are obvious, and the expense involved would be great.

Now looking at the question from the standpoint of an Aggie, and I hope The Battalion is, just how would a coed system affect that "Aggie Spirit" which is, I can safely say, world famous? There is no question but that it would destroy the very meaning of Texas A&M, the purpose for its existence, and the fraternal spirit which holds our graduates together in a unified body.

Should we follow in the footsteps of that other state school in Austin, whose loyalties and rivalries are divided among the various fraternities and sororities on the campus? Should we adopt the very methods we have scorned for 75 odd years?

A&M has a reputation at present and especially in the past for turning out men. To attain this reputation it developed methods which make out school unique among colleges. We are different. If we wish to retain our distinction we must not follow in the pathway of other colleges whose contrasting methods have made us distinct.

These men who have graduated from A&M have helped lead this nation through two world wars, and are now fighting and dying in Korea. We have leaders in industry, commerce, agriculture and education, also, who were trained at this college by methods which now are condemned.

You have raised the problem of our drop in enrollment and have made the statement, in which there is some truth, that the increase of college ROTC units among other schools has hurt us. Yet you also say that we are rated alongside VMI and The Citadel in military proficiency, at least officially.

These schools are state supported and have not proposed coeducation to solve their enrollment prob-

### BACKWARD GLANCES

**One Year Ago Today**  
The class of '52 launched a campaign to change the name of College Station to Aggeland.

**Five Years Ago Today**  
The campus livestock departments have given animals to students to be groomed and trained for the Little Southwestern Livestock Show.

**Ten Years Ago Today**  
Upon inauguration of the Army Specialized Training Program, seniors and juniors now under contract were assigned to active duty immediately. The men were sent to Replacement Training Center for "processing."

**Fifteen Years Ago Today**  
Members of the senior class of '38 will select the five most popular seniors.

lems. Our state with its great public resources should be able to more than adequately support A&M if the comparatively small states of Virginia and South Carolina can support their institutions.

Yet these are military colleges. It is so disgraceful to be military, "corps happy," if you please? Have we forgotten that the very principles, traditions, and customs which most of us observe are military, and are the very methods which produced the men who have made this school so famous?

As you stated, we must admit that we have descended into a state of mediocrity. Yet, you have in subsequent issues of The Battalion mentioned the most obvious solution. We must have a revival of the spirit, the military standards, which made this college great.

I think that all of us, some consciously and some unconsciously, are proud of the uniform we wear. To rise from our present state of mediocrity we must return to the military basis on which we formerly stood.

To me, the corps is the very heart and backbone of this school. If it is disrupted or shaken any further, the college itself, as we know it, and as the ex's know it, will collapse. To make this school coeducational will destroy the corps, save, possibly in name only.

Plans have been discussed which might possibly help solve the problem of mediocrity. They would put A&M back on a more military basis. But, to do this, action, not words, is needed. It would certainly be the most immediate, practical and inexpensive way to solve the problem of mediocrity.

The problem of enrollment will solve itself when the children born during the war, whose numbers greatly increased the birth rate during the years 1941-45, attain college age. Until that time we must concentrate on quality, and let quantity take care of itself.

We can certainly get a better education in all male classes, with no feminine distractions. Let the males in coed colleges go to class with the girls. We can take care of them in their off-periods as we've always done.

Yours for a bigger, better and "greater A&M College."  
Carl Bruce Sterzing Jr. '54  
John Curtis Farrell '54

**EDITORS' NOTE:** In Co-Editor Austin's column of Feb. 25, he stressed that A&M should become a quality military school and not simply the largest. He did not say go coed, but did say the college may be forced to turn to coeducation to uphold an adequate student body. President Harrington believes our enrollment is remaining stable and has not dropped more than expected. The drop is because of the fewer males to graduate from Texas high schools.

If A&M went coed it should not make the mistake made by Georgia Tech, but should plan and

build for the newcomers. After a year of being coed, the technical school of Georgia has four females. Certainly it would be impractical to become coeducational without planning for these students.

It may be well to remember that at A&M are housed home economic specialists which include extension services in clothing, food and nutrition, homestead improvement, home management, parent education, recreation specialist and other women's organizations.

But if A&M's enrollment would drop to 500 students, the state could continue to support it as an all-male college. The question of enrollment is minor.

"Aggie Spirit," world famous? We are glad you added the question mark. Few colleges are known outside of their immediate states by many people, unless they have exceptional athletic teams, and then their popularity is short lived. No one wants to destroy the fraternal spirit which exists at A&M although it would be helpful to destroy the secret fraternal groups which are present. And we disagree with you that the many years A&M has existed are "odd."

A&M certainly has a reputation for turning out men. Women are not allowed to enroll, hence only one legal produce—men.

Consistently following contrasting methods. Does not mean you are always right. As to the methods now condemned at this college we presume you mean some of the hazing principles. Again we differ with you. Hazing does not produce men.

Both VMI and the Citadel are military throughout. They are listed in the World Almanac as "military," and A&M is not. We agree some are "unconsciously proud" of their uniform. Many wear it that way.

You say to make the school coeducational would destroy the "save possibly, in name only." We said that today A&M has a corps, in name only.

No one can say whether or not all male classes provide better educations. Better check your psychiatrist and English teacher on the last sentence in the next to the last paragraph.

### What's Cooking

Thursday

6:30 p. m.—Management Engineering Short Course Banquet, MSC Ballroom.

7 p. m.—Agriculturist Staff, Agriculturist Office, Picture for Aggeland.

7:15 p. m.—Debate Teams, A&M vs. TU, Assembly Room, MSC.

French Club, Room 2A, MSC. Aggie Wives Bridge Club, Rooms 2C & 2D MSC.

TSCW Ex-students Association of Brazos County, Rooms 3B & 3C, MSC.

Student Senate Senate Room, MSC.

New club being formed of States East of the Mississippi River and South of the Mason Dixon Line, 301 Goodwin.

8 p. m.—MSC Bridge Committee, Room 2B MSC.

8 to 10 p. m.—Management Engineering Short Course Lounge, Room 3D, MSC.

Friday

9 to 12 a. m.—Management Engineering Short Course, Assembly Room, MSC.

12:15 p. m.—Style Show, Dining Room, MSC.

7:30 p. m.—Journalism Club, Ballroom, MSC.

8 p. m.—Musical Concert, Assembly Room, MSC.

9 p. m.—Journalism Club Coffee

Room 2A & 2B, MSC. Saturday 6:30 p. m.—Baptist Student Assembly Room, MSC. Banquet, Ballroom, MSC.

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### Campus Wolf Looks Over Underwear Situation

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"O' DEACON IS BRINGIN' A GUEST TO INTERVIEW ON THE 'DIRT' HOUR... MEANWHILES YOU PRACTICE YO' ACT."  
"DO YOU HERD SHEEP?" O' GRAMMA CRIED... MY GRAMMA LEAPT IN FRIGHT... "THAT GRAMMAR'S WRONG!" TO ME HE SIGHED, "HAVE YOU HEARD SHEEP... IS RIGHT!"  
"I AIN'T HEARDIN' NOTHIN' WITH MY LEFT EAR!"  
"WHOOP!"  
"NO OFFENSE INTEND... IT WAS THE MATERIAL I WAS TRYIN' TO CLEAN UP, SIRS."  
"HEY! WHIFFO IS YOU SPRAYIN' US? FERT WE CLEAN AS A WEASEL!"  
"SHE GAVE HER LIFE TO PROTECT MAH UNBORN CHILD—OH, MAMMY, MAMMY—BLESS YORE SPLATTERED HIDE!"

**L'L ABNER**  
"THEY SCREAM! IT COME JUST AS SHE LOOKED AT TH' PITCHER—AFORE SHE (SST) HIT TH' BOTTOM OF BOTTOMLESS PIT!"  
"THE SHOCK OF MAMMY'S DEATH RESTORES DAISY MAE'S SANITY."  
"SHE GAVE HER LIFE TO PROTECT MAH UNBORN CHILD—OH, MAMMY, MAMMY—BLESS YORE SPLATTERED HIDE!"