

THE AGGIE-nizer

A&M Needs Top Students In Addition to Top Athletes

By JOEL AUSTIN Battalion Co-Editor

A&M's fine organization of former students is making great progress with its development fund and other projects for the betterment of this college. But there is an underlying motive in the mind of many former students that should be checked before it goes too far. This motive, or objective, can cause a great deal of harm if allowed in excess.

We are speaking of over-emphasis on athletics. There are former students who complain our athletic program is badly deteriorating and all possible efforts must be made to furnish the college with top athletes. And if this material they furnish doesn't produce winning teams, they say get coaches who can win games.

Some former students opposed the expansion to Kyle Field, which includes building a new press box and 2,800 seats in the center section. They contend the money could best be spent on scholarships and fixing up facilities for athletes. One former student believes an "all-out" program should be undertaken to secure good athletes. "Buy them all Cadillacs, if necessary!" he says.

Apparently many of these men are forgetting that something more basic, more wholesome is set about in the purpose of an institution of higher learning. This college was established to teach and to educate.

One of the college requirements is that students—including athletes—pass a prescribed amount of academic work to be enrolled. The Southwest Conference has regulations which state how many hours must be passed by an athlete in order for him to maintain eligibility.

Students and exes of the University of Texas are crying because their Olympic track star Dean Smith is scholastically ineligible for SWC competition this season. One remarked recently "I understand the professor that flunked him doesn't like athletics."

Academics, Then Athletics

We recognize the fact most athletes are given special privileges for the time and effort they put in training and practicing for their sport. But they should not be given grades just because they perform on Saturday afternoon. We can name any number of these men who are proficient scholastically as well as athletically. The valedictorian of last year's graduating class, Jaro Netardus of El Campo, was an end on the football team.

Academics come first, and then athletics. A college should be great because of the records it establishes in the field of education and in the quality of men it graduates—not because of athletic victories.

We believe if these former students who spend so much time trying to provide A&M with top athletes would spend just one-fourth of those efforts in securing top scholastic high school graduates, our academic rating would be upped several notches.

The Former Students Association has an excellent program for providing scholarships to needy high school graduates. This Opportunity Award program has given boys a thorough education with a very low personal expenditure required.

Why not include a program to offer scholarships to the top ranking students in Texas high schools, and direct efforts toward gaining their enrollment at A&M?

Yet many former students continually associate nothing but athletics with the name A&M. They talk about more money for athletic scholarships and getting better coaches. A group is now talking of getting a higher salary for a head football coach and giving him a contract in excess of one year. We remember how some members of the former students group bought up the last long term contract given a football coach.

Remember FSA Objectives

Many of the objectives of the Association are being overlooked by our former students. Including aid to the college athletic teams, here are some of the FSA objectives furnished us by their office on the campus:

- Increasing student enrollment and improving its quality through cooperation with A&M men over the state.
Encouraging and cooperating with all A&M clubs and their activities.
Aiding the legislative program of the A&M College System.
Extending every aid possible to the athletic program of the college and helping A&M men and clubs to do the same.
Administration of student loan funds (in the six figure bracket).
Promoting, encouraging, and organizing various A&M former student activities such as class reunions, Muster Day programs, annual meetings, etc.
Cementing and keeping alive the deep affection of A&M men for each other and for their Alma Mater—and concentrating and applying the influence of A&M men for the advantage of their school and for themselves.

We believe a statement to ex-students of the University of Kentucky by its former president Frank LeRoy McVey has particular significance in this discussion.

"The great alumnus is the one who rejoices in the advancement of his Alma Mater and does not mourn for the old days. He has a kindly memory for those days and looks back upon them as something to be cherished and as a happy part of his life. If he is a great alumnus, he knows his university cannot stand still.

"New faces must appear in the faculties, new buildings must be built on the campus, and changes must take place in the curriculum and its procedure of his college. His university must be a contributor to the life of his time as it was in previous generations.

"... I have often thought the reason for alumni's being so enthusiastic about athletics is that they do not know much else of what their Alma Mater is doing. Perhaps institutions have been neglectful in not giving to alumni the plans and difficulties of the institution."

A&M's Distinctive Qualifications

A&M has many things to be proud of. In addition to the fine, all-around athletic program it maintains in the Southwest Conference, this land-grant college has established itself in an important place in the educational system of the country.

Dr. David H. Morgan, dean of the college, has compiled a partial list of particular distinctions A&M enjoys. Included in this list are the following:

- Basic Division—A&M is one of the few colleges in the country with a Basic Division in which all freshmen enroll for administrative purposes in an effort to see the new student will be adequately supervised to assist in his adjustment to college life.
Agriculture—Sixth largest in the US; one of the most modern and best equipped college dairy, poultry, and livestock plants in the country.
Arts and Sciences—Graduates about 20 pre-medical and pre-dental students every year and their record at dental and medical schools is among the best in Texas; one of five top colleges in US offering instruction in oceanography.
Engineering—Largest engineering enrollment in state; the various departments are gaining national fame for research on technical projects; only school in this section of the country that offers a degree in geophysics; Personal Aircraft Research Center is the only agency of its kind in the world.
Military Science—A&M has one of the most comprehensive programs of training in military and air science in the nation; it enrolls the largest corps of cadets in the country and is the nation's greatest source of trained officer reserves for the Army and Air Force.
Veterinary Medicine—One of the 17 accredited vet schools in the US; has graduated 1,045 DVMs.
Graduate School—A Masters degree program in more than 40 fields; PhD degree programs in more than 15 fields.

We suggest that members of the Former Students Association consider these fine qualifications—and hundreds more—which have been gathered to show reasons why A&M is outstanding, in addition to the athletic program.

Perhaps these men would be interested in obtaining a complete list of Dean Morgan's findings to help in securing academically outstanding high school graduates.

A&M needs athletes, but it also needs students with a high academic potential. Why can't a little of the work directed toward getting athletes be shifted to getting boys with high school marks?

A college proves its worth in the men it educates, not in the number of athletic contests won and lost.

YOU and Mediocrity

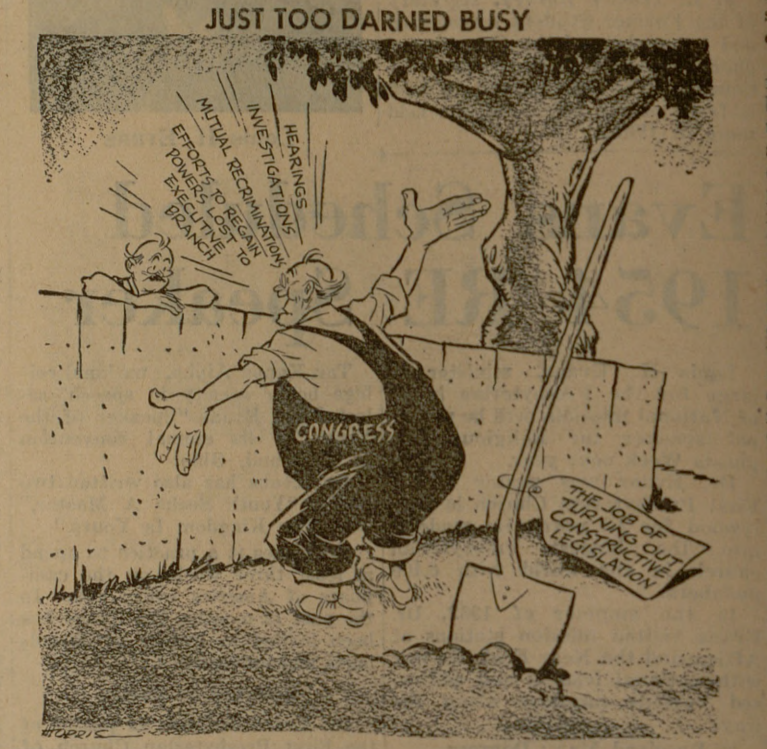
Educators Should Consider Harmful Effects of Equality

From the Purdue Exponent: "Are we placing a premium on mediocrity?" This question is well worth consideration, and it should be especially considered by the field of education.

Our country is founded on the principle of equality, but contrary to what some would have us believe, there are several limiting factors to this concept. We can guarantee equality before the law by the protection of certain rights and we can provide, in as much as possible, equality of opportunity,

but here the idea starts to break down. Just as it is commonly observable that all men are not created equal in physical stature, it is only naive to believe that all men are created with equal abilities. On top of this inequality of ability, there is also an inequality of those factors which enable men to exploit and make use of talents and abilities.

Instead of feeling sorry for ourselves and others when we find that certain talents are lacking,



Funeral Services Set For Haltom and LeRoy

Funeral services have been set for Dr. Thomas H. Haltom Sr. and Dr. Royce H. LeRoy, A&M chemistry professors, who were killed Saturday in a boat explosion on the Neches River near Beaumont.

The funeral of Dr. Thomas H. Haltom Sr., 505 Bryan Ave. of Bryan, will be held at 2 p. m. today in the chapel of the Hillier Home in Bryan. Dr. W. H. Andrew, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bryan where Haltom was a member, will officiate. Interment will be in the Bryan City Cemetery.

Born in Benchley, May 12, 1896, Haltom was 56 years of age. He was a member of the teaching staff of the A&M chemistry department. He was involved in chemical research. Haltom was a 35 year resident of Bryan.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Sybil Johnson Haltom of Bryan; three sons, Bart Haltom of Cleveland, Lt. Col. Charles Haltom of the United States Air Force stationed in Germany, and T. H. Haltom, Jr. of Benchley; two sisters, Mrs. L. E. Sikes of Bryan and Mrs. Roger McGee of Navasota. Also surviving are five grandchildren.

Memorial services for Dr. Royce H. LeRoy, 53, of 1010 Foster Dr. at College Station will be held Friday at 4 p. m. in the A&M Methodist Church. Ferris Baker, director of the Wesley Foundation at Denton will conduct the service. Survivors are his widow, Mrs.

Mary LeRoy; a son, William LeRoy, and one grandchild.

Family Requests The family requests that flowers not be sent to the service but that contributions to the Heart Fund or to other charitable organizations be made.

LeRoy joined the A&M teaching staff five years ago and he was active in chemical research. His body is being taken overland to Houston from Beaumont by the Williams Funeral Home of Beaumont for cremation.

The two were accompanied at the time of the accident by Elmo Daunie, a Texas Gulf Sulfur Company employe. He was also killed. The trio was conducting chemical research in the Neches River. The bodies were found near the remains of a 23-foot fire-razed cruiser which the men had rented for their work.

Observers from Beaumont said an explosion ripped the boat. The hull was found burned to the waterline near an island in the river.

Wives Club Holds Bridge Tourney

The Aggie Wives Bridge Club will sponsor Saturday a bridge tournament in the MSC Assembly Room at 8 p. m.

The contest is open to everyone. The admission fee will be \$1 a couple. The tickets can be bought at the door.

NEWS BRIEFS

Pageant Ticket Sales Start

A GOODWILL TRAIN containing 160 Shreveport businessmen and manufacturers will make a two hour stop here Thursday, said Leslie Kelly, of the Bryan Chamber of Commerce.

The visitors, arriving at 12:05 p.m., will be greeted by representatives of the Bryan-College Station Chambers of Commerce and College Station Development Association. They will have lunch with the College Station Kiwanis in the MSC, they leave for Houston.

MOTHER'S DAY activities will be discussed in the Student Senate meeting to be held Thursday, according to Robert (Bob) Travis, president.

Other topics of discussion are student-professor relations, Aggie Muster, Senate banquet, and a writing of constitutional amendments on elections, Travis said.

COTTON PAGEANT and Ball ticket sales started today, said Fritz Welsh, head of the arrangements committee.

Tickets can be purchased at the Student Activities Office, Room 201 Agronomy building, MSC main desk, Lipscombs Pharmacy and WSD Clothing in Bryan. Reserve tickets are \$1.50 and general admission \$1.

TWO GRADUATES of A&M received advanced degrees recently from Harvard University. Lockett B. Martin of Temple, bachelor of architecture in 1941, has received his bachelor of architecture from Harvard and John B. Paxson of Houston, BS in agriculture, 1948, has received his Master of Arts degree from Harvard.

COST AND PROFIT CONTROL will be discussed at the sixth annual accounting conference here April 17-18. The main speaker will be Fred V. Gardner of Fred V. Gardner and Associates of Milwaukee. Ivan Oden, auditor, Texas division, Dow Chemical Co. in Freeport, will preside at the session, which will begin on the afternoon of April 17.

SECOND LIEUTENANT David O. Cravey '51, A&M industrial engineering graduate from Houston, was awarded April 2 his pilot wings at Reese AFB. He entered the Air Force immediately after graduation and received primary flight training at Bainbridge AFB, Ga.

The Battalion

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

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Honor Code Vote Results Unknown

Results of yesterday's voting on the honor code have not been reported to deans of the schools.

Ballots were distributed in some of the classes but the results have not been tabulated. Many classes have not yet voted.

Three electrical engineering sections have been working under the code for a week, said H. W. Barlow, dean of engineering.

"I have no idea how many classes will vote for the code, but I don't think it should be pushed too fast," Barlow said.

POGO

Comic strip 'POGO' featuring a character named Pogo. Panels include: 'I GOT A MIND TO SUE YOU... PUPDOG LOST HIS VOICE FOR YOUR OL' TEEVY SHOW'; 'WE COULD SUE YOU! WE LISTENED FOR NOTHIN'... WE DINT TAKE THAT TEEVY JOB. PUP BACKED UP THE WRENG THREE.'; 'A FRIEND OF MINE MADE A MACHINE THAT SITS AND WATCHES TV FOR YOU... ALL EVENING... SO'S A BODY CAN GET OUT OF THE HOUSE... A TEEVY SITTER HE CALLED IT... TOOK IT UP TO N. B. C...'; 'FIGGERED IT WOULD EMANCIPATE THE FAMILY AND STILL NOT WASTE THE SET... WELL, SIE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REFUSED TO LISTEN TO A MOUSE... THERE WAS A CRY OF: 'ARE WE MICE OR MEN?!' IN THE PRO AND CON DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED, AN OLD EX-DISNEY MAN TOOK OFFENSE AND TRAMPLED THE PLANS INTO PORRIDGE.'; 'I DONT KNOW WHY HE WENT TO A BISCUIT COMPANY ANYWAY... SWEET TOOTH NO DOUBT... 'WHAT HO?'; 'YOU GOT TO TAKE JOB... I PAY YOU PLANT... DONT YOU NIDD MONEY?'; 'YOU CANT REFUSE TO BE SPARRING PARTNER TO MY DOTTIE. YOU GOT IT THE IDEAL SLOBOVIAN FEMALE FIGURE... NAMELY YOU BUILT LIKE A BULL GORILLA!'; 'OH! THEM LEGS YOU GOT ON YOU!! LIKE BEER BORRELS!! IT MAKES ME THINK OF HOME!!'; 'AND THOSE HARMS!!-- SO BIG AND RED!!-- IT-- GOR-- RIMMINDS ME OF MY CHILDHOOD SWITTHEART!!'; 'APPY-GOOD! STEE-GOOD! BLANKE-GOOD!'; 'AST D... and Po... vacu...'