

Battalion Editorials

Page 2

THE BATTALION

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1953

Ross Hall 'Flood' Hurts College and Students

THE MINORITY is at it again — hurting A&M.

This weekend, a small troublesome group helped spread unwelcome news about Aggies throughout the state with two uncalled-for incidents, one of which is proving costly both to the school and the state.

Leading off the events of childish stunts, which supposedly went out with painted knees, was the effigy hanging of a college official.

Secondly, and more important because of the serious damage caused, was the float-out of Ross Hall, the old military headquarters. The method was not new: it was the simple removal of the flush valves from commodes which allowed water to run throughout the building.

Included in the damage were many awards which were to be presented at the Mothers' Day review. Records, decals, filing cabinets and new desks also were included in the damage which swept through the building in its hours of unnatural dampness.

It is important that the citizens of the state know the individuals responsible for this are not representing the true feeling of the students.

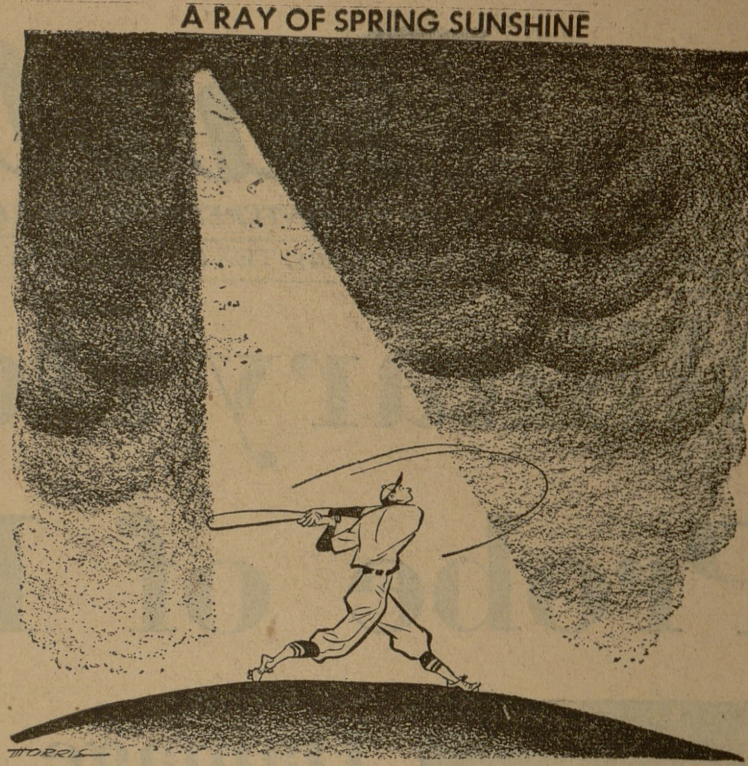
Needless to state, there has been some unrest between the Corps of Cadets and the Commandant's Office through this year, as in years past, but no incident could justify such destructive action.

Consequently, relations between the military department and the corps were not strengthened by the action.

One lieutenant colonel said Sunday while dropping a stack of ruined records: "I think I can speak for many of the officers when I say, thank God I'm leaving this place soon."

We feel that whatever "good bull" was felt in the planning and carrying out of the action has now degenerated into the staleness where it belongs.

Again, we reiterate. This minority group has hurt the name of the college and A&M students everywhere. The state will be watching A&M to right itself.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR A&M Needs Better Entrance Exams

(Letters 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. The Battalion has the right to withhold from publication all letters of a libelous and malicious nature.)

Editors, The Battalion:

I have read with interest "The Aggie-nizer" of April 8, and I am in agreement with a large portion of your editorial. Truly A&M College needs "top students" and "top athletes" and the former students should endeavor to secure both. "By their fruits ye shall know them" reminds us that our football teams have not won a championship for many years. Evidently there is a weak link in the football chain somewhere.

Now, A&M has secured many "top students" in the recent past as evidenced by the Opportunity Award boys who are selected by competitive examination, but, I wish to call to your attention a recent survey made by an outstanding, retired Air Force general. This survey was the result of a study of the West Point graduates who commanded Armies in World War II.

Of the 13 highest ranking Army commanders only two finished in the top quarter of their class. Such a man as Gen. Patton was a turn back, and finally finished 46 from the top of the class. The general who made the survey stated, "in my class we had six generals from the first third of the class and 11 from the bottom third. Of the 13 commanders mentioned above, only five are from the top half of the class."

"At West Point when a cadet cannot keep up with his class he is either dismissed or turned back to join the next lowest class. These rejected men prove to be just as good as the star students."

One of our distinguished Military Day guests and a West Pointer, had something to say about academic standards here at A&M. (He said):

"Now if A&M could just begin pioneering in taking a student from the educational level on which he entered and graduating him on a higher level the graduates of the school would really stand out."

"A&M along with almost all colleges does not give an entrance examination to find out how much a candidate knows but how little he knows. If he knows a base minimum he fills the necessary requirements and they let him in."

"On that same exam they should have tested his knowledge and found it to be on the sophomore or junior or even senior level and with that date they could have planned his course of study so he would progress forward during his stay at A&M."

This man further stated that top ranking academic students are better fitted for dealing with scientific research than for dealing with men.

Therefore, if follows, that the former students need not place too much emphasis on the "top students."

A. F. Mitchell '09
(President,
Former Students Association)

FRANKLY SPEAKING

'Right to Know' Requires Action Student Interest

By FRANK N. MANITZAS
Battalion Co-Editor

"The right to know" the facts about a matter has been the inspiring phrase which has led to the democratic way of life.

No one can deny that the "right to know" about their government has been obstructed here, at several levels. But democracy knows how their government progresses, or retrogrades, facts, and not merely the nomenclatures.

Here at A&M, "the right to know" has been impaired recently by a Commission. We believe that the Commission's Commission voted to withhold tabulated results of the 1947 which simply and without flourish a democratic people should take.

"Every subject not only has the right to know, but also has the right to know that he has been discovered that some of the sureties tend towards over-turning the liberal and by his making such a discovery in time, appointing their effort."

"This enquiry ought always to be made to our superiors in power, but it should be with freedom and even with jealousy."

We feel that at A&M, valuable training toward making better citizens is consistently underfoot. However, this training is impaired if not carried out in the democratic fashion which our government tends to imitate and religiously attempts to follow.

Our college governments, both the student and administrative, are of a similar nature. Everyone has a "right to know" what, where and how a story might concern him.

Needless to say, many students were disappointed because the election results were not printed. We were disappointed too. For we felt that A&M was making tremendous strides, past the dark ages of manipulated elections which had occurred long ago, and that finally, everything would be open and above board for everyone to see and know.

The major reason given by the Commission for not releasing votes was that "many persons received no votes; hence, it would prove embarrassing to them if the tabulations were released."

We feel that here at A&M, individuals placing their name in contest with others certainly want to win, but will not necessarily behave as children because they do not. It is childish to say that "feelings will be hurt."

Only after generations of struggle did democratic peoples succeed in gaining, by constitutional

provision, by a climate almost universal that people have the right to know what their government is doing.

The right to know is not a privilege, it is a right. It is a right which cannot be taken away without fear of reprisal.

The right to know is a right which is a fact.

Under our constitution, we know that they have earned the right to know that a change in their government is being made.

The program will be held every Monday until May 25. It is informal and anyone may dance or watch.

NEWS BRIEFS

A&S Picks Top Profs

THE STUDENT Arts and Sciences Council selected last night three instructors to receive Student Appreciation Awards.

Named to receive the awards are Dr. John Hugh Hill, associate professor in the history department; Dr. T. F. Mayo, professor in the English department; Jack D. Steele, instructor in the business department. Awards will be presented May 11 at the Arts and Sciences Convocation.

NO OFFICIAL announcement concerning the location of APROTC summer camps has been released, said Capt. Jack N. Hoffman, air force adjutant. Site for the camp will probably be announced sometime this week, he said.

DAVID MITCHELL, senior architecture major from Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been given a fair chance to live, by doctors in the Albuquerque, N. M. VA Hospital.

Mitchell, suffering from a ruptured lung, is showing some improvement over his initial condition, reported the doctors.

MRS. DALEE GREEN was honored Thursday with a surprise shower by Mrs. Alice Watson and Mrs. Lee Michelitch.

After several games were played, Mrs. Green was presented with baby gifts from about 18 members of the Vet Wives '56.

MISS DOROTHY BATES, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Bates of 1010 Milner, has been selected to represent the La Vallita

chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in the Cotton Pageant and Ball, April 24.

Miss Bates was graduated from Consolidated High School in 1951 and is attending Sam Houston State Teachers College in Huntsville. She was selected the DAR Good Citizen in 1951. She will be escorted by Raymond Galvin, senior petroleum engineering student.

"UNSOLVED PROBLEMS of the Sun's Atmosphere" will be discussed here April 21, by Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, of the High Altitude Observatory of Harvard University and the University of Colorado.

He is a Sigma Xi national lecturer and will speak to the chapter here.

JACK CHANEY, A&M Consolidated School teacher, was elected president of the Brazos County Unit of the Texas State Teachers Association last week. Other officers are Mrs. R. L. Nolen, Crockett School, vice-president; and Mrs. L. P. Dulaney, A&M Consolidated, secretary-treasurer.

H. D. BEARDEN, assistant to the vice-director of the Texas Engineering Extension Service, has been elected vice-president-at-large of the Texas Vocational Association.

He will serve on the Executive Council, governing body of the association. The council will meet in Houston, May 9, to set up plans for the various activities to be carried on during the coming year.

FFA Group Sets Confab Here April 18

About 650 Texas Future Farmers of America will be here Saturday, for their annual Area III contest, said Henry Ross, professor in the agriculture education department.

The teams will compete for honors in livestock, dairy cattle, meats, dairy products, poultry and egg classes.

Senior and junior Ag Ed majors will tabulate the results of the contest, said Ross.

Approximately 87 high schools will be represented at the contest, Saturday night, the FFA Chapter presidents and their chapter sweethearts will be guests of the A&M Collegiate FFA Chapter, at the second annual FFA western dance in Shiba Hall.

Jimmy Eller and His Bronco Busters will furnish the music.

Dancing will be from 8-12 p. m. Tickets are \$2, with or without a date.

Weekend 'Flood'

(Continued from Page 1)

ners were damaged in the commandant's offices, Davis said. Also soaked were citation cords to be presented on Mother's Day by the Houston Military Affairs Committee of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, the commandant added. Davis said everything not completely ruined would be salvaged.

Myers said none of the damaged Army ROTC records were beyond salvage. These include some cadet physical examinations and records of training for ROTC summer camp. Three or four days will be needed before the extent of damage to Army furniture and records is known, Myers said.

The administration and logistics office was the only Air Force office to suffer damage from the water, Way said.

Crude Expression
Looking at the damaged building, the PAS&T said, "This is a sorry thing for college people to do, if they did it. It is a crude way of expressing themselves."

"This act gives the Corps of Cadets a reputation they don't deserve," was the opinion of Davis. Myers refused to comment.

The damage was discovered shortly before 11 a. m. Sunday by John Scroggin, sophomore wildlife management major from Helotes. Scroggin immediately notified the Office of Campus Security who called military personnel.

Investigating officials believe the person or persons causing the flooding may have entered the building's back door which was found unlocked.

The Ross Hall flood is the latest incident in a week of campus unrest beginning with the expulsion for hazing of Marvin Seth, commander of the ASA company. Seth received his final dismissal last Wednesday. The following Friday, Robert S. (Bob) Travis, president of the Student Senate and first lieutenant in the cadet corps, was demoted to private and removed to a civilian dormitory for saying he was "not proud to be an officer in the cadet corps."

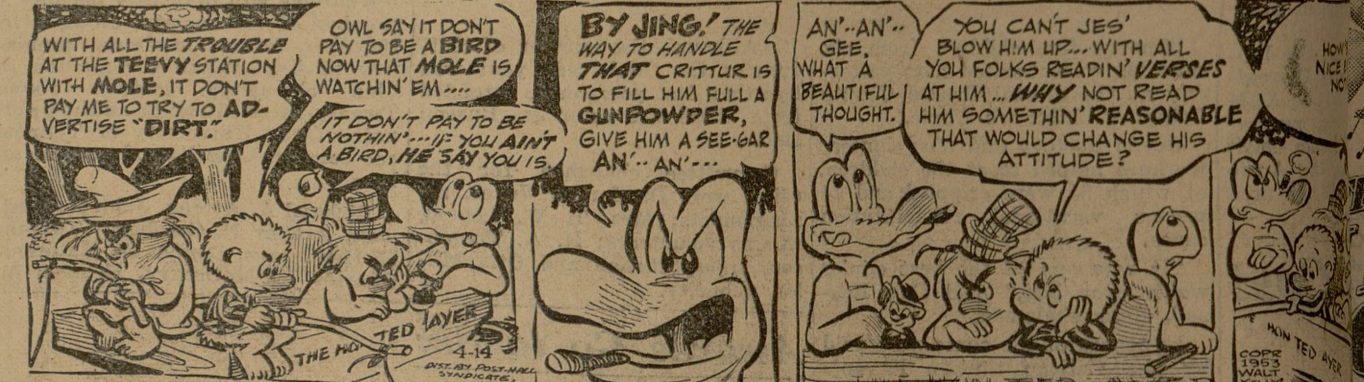
That night a dummy supposedly representing Davis was hanged with a knife in its hand in front of Duncan Dining Hall. The Ross Hall flood followed Sunday.

MSC to Broadcast New Dance Show

Manning Smith, MSC dancing instructor, will call for the MSC Square Dance radio program at 5 p. m. Monday over WTAW, said Miss Betty Bolander, MSC program consultant.

The program will be held every Monday until May 25. It is informal and anyone may dance or watch.

POGO



LPL ABNER There'll Be Some Changes Made

TRANS-SLOBOVIAN CABLENIK
THE LOWER SLOBOVIAN STATE DEPARTMENT DECLARES THAT THE INDIVIDUAL KNOWN AS MR. ABNER YOKUM WILL LIGGALLY BECOME A LOWER SLOBOVIAN GORL IN EXECTLY 24 HOURS.
SIGNED
JOHN FOSTER DULLNIK
SECRETARY OF STATE



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.

Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of republication of all other matter herein are also reserved.

News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444 or 4-7604) or at the editorial office room, 202 Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209 Goodwin Hall.

FRANK N. MANITZAS, JOEL AUSTIN..... Co-Editors
Ed Holder, Jerry Bennett..... Managing Editors
Harri Baker..... City Editor
Peggy Maddox..... Women's News Editor

Today's Issue
Jerry Bennett..... Managing Editor
Chuck Neighbors..... News Editor
Gus Becker..... Sports News Editor

Bob Hendry, Joe Hipp, Chuck Neighbors..... News Editors
Gus Becker, Bob Boriskie, Jerry Estes..... Sports News Editors
Vernon Anderson, Frank Hines, Bob Alderdice, Al Leroy Eruton,
Guy Dawson, W. P. Franklin, R. D. Gossett, Carl Haie, Donald
Kemp, Alfred McAfee, Bill Rogers, Ray Smith, Jerry Sonnier,
Edward Stern, Roy Sullivan, Jon Kinlow, Dick Moore, Lionel
Garcia, John Moody, Bob Palmer, Bill Shepard..... Staff News Writers
Jerry Wizig, Jerry Neighbors, Hugh Philippus, Bill Thomas..... Sports News Writers
Jerry Bennett, Bob Hendry..... Amusements
John Kinlow, Dick Forter, Calvin Pike..... City News Writers
Conrad Stralu..... Circulation Manager
Lawrence Casheer, Jewell Raymond, J. R. Shepard, Fred Hernandez, Charles F. Chick..... Circulation Staff
Bob Godfrey, Davey Davidson, Roy Wells, Keith Nickle, Melvin Longhofer, Herman Melmers..... Photo Engravers
Gene Tyrell, Perry Shepard, John Merrill..... Advertising Representatives
Dean Kennedy..... File Clerk