

# Battalion Editorials

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THE BATTALION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1953

## Freedom of Press Born With John Zenger Case

YESTERDAY in the Federal Hall of New York City the John Peter Zenger Memorial room was opened and dedicated.

Zenger is important to every American for he played one of the most important roles in our history of independence with establishing freedom of the press. His case established the freedoms we enjoy at this college.

It is not true to say that Americans have always enjoyed this principle of freedom, for censorship was prevalent in the early Colonial period. From Zenger's case emerged the doctrine that "truth is defense in libel."

At that time, the law of England on libel read:

"It is not material whether the libel be true, or whether the party against whom it is made be of good or ill fame; for in a settled state of Government the party ought to complain for every injury done him in an ordinary court of law, and not by any means to revenge himself, either by the odious course of libeling or otherwise."

The court insisted it should say what was "scandalous and infamous and false," and it also said: "If people should not be called to account for possessing the people with an ill opinion of the government, no government can subsist; for it is necessary for all governments that the people should have a good opinion of it; and nothing can be worse to any government than the endeavor to procure animosities."

"It is right," said Andrew Hamilton, Zenger's lawyer, "which all freemen claim, and are entitled to, to complain when they are hurt; they have a right to publicly remon-

strate against the abuses of power in the strongest terms, to put their neighbors upon their guard against the craft or open violence of men in authority and to assert with courage the sense they have of the blessings of liberty, the value they put upon it, and their resolution at all hazards to preserve it, as one of the greatest blessings heaven can bestow."

But Hamilton, said the requirement of truth is upon the critic. He said:

"I frankly agree that nothing ought to excuse a man who raises a false charge or accusation, even against a private person, and that no manner of allowance ought to be made to him who does so against a public magistrate. Truth ought to govern the whole affair. . ."

The liberty which Hamilton so stoutly defended was not merely that of one man. It was the definite stand of a man who knew that a citizen must have the liberty both of exposing and opposing arbitrary power by speaking and writing the truth.

And the results brought forth from the Zenger case can be thus seen. Not only that truth was defense in libel but that this case was a fight not for the right to spread error, but to speak truth; not freedom to mislead, but to enlighten with reason and conscience.

Freedom is responsibility of thought and action—the responsibility to present news fully and fairly. Freedom involves a positive responsibility to contribute to further freedom with the truth. Without this freedom, others would collapse. It is good to remember John Peter Zenger.

## An Examination For Intellectuals

HOW EDUCATED are you? Many seniors may think they have reached that supreme point where no more knowledge can be absorbed in their "highly intellectual" minds.

To test this type of intelligence, a professor at a northwestern college has prepared the following test. Answers of Yes to all questions qualify an educated man.

Has your education given you sympathy with all good causes and made you espouse them?

Have you learned how to make friends and to keep them?

Do you know what it is to be a friend yourself?

Can you look an honest man or a pure woman straight in the eye?

Will a lonely dog follow you down the street?

Can you be high minded and happy in the meaner drudgeries of life?

Do you think washing dishes and hoeing corn just as compatible with high thinking as piano playing or golf?

Are you good for anything to yourself?

Can you be happy alone?

Can you look out on the world and see anything but dollars and cents?

Can you look into the sky at night and see beyond the stars?

Can your soul claim relationship with the Creator?

## Reds Continue Hurting America

JOHN J. McCLOY, speaking no longer as High Commissioner to Germany but as chairman of the board of America's second largest bank, recently paid high tribute to the integrity, loyalty, and competency of the career government official, who, he said, "is getting rather knocked about these days." And he pointed up one way in which the Communists have really hurt Americans:

The Communists . . . have proven themselves capable of disseminating a sort of corrosive, divisive influence among . . . the people of the United States. We have developed a tendency to lose faith and hope in ourselves . . . to suspect too many of our government servants—too many of our neighbors—and we are inclined to follow some of the methods of the totalitarians in doing so.

And he had a deserved word of rebuke to liberals of the New Deal era. Had they protested as vigorously as do their successors now when business was being pilloried by congressional investigations, the undemocratic weapons of innuendo, part truths, and slanted hearings might never have gained such currency.

Which, carried a step further, might serve as a warning to good people who see no danger in their use today so long as they are used against anyone whose opinions they don't like: They may be willing witnesses to the whetting of that fabled two-edged sword which in other—or even the same—hands could some day be turned against themselves. —The Christian Science Monitor.

## 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 \$.50 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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Ed Holder, Jerry Bennett, Managing Editors  
Harri Baker, City Editor  
Peggy Maddox, Women's News Editor

### Today's Issue

Ed Holder, Managing Editor  
Frank N. Manitzas, News Editor  
Bob Boriskie, Sports News Editor

## Main Power Can't Be Cut During Taps

It would be impossible to turn off all the lights on the campus from a central point during Silver Taps, said J. K. Walker, head of Building and College Utilities.

The statement was made in answer to a letter printed in The Battalion asking if such a thing is possible.

The college furnishes power to the surrounding area; it would not be possible to turn out the lights on the campus without turning off all power to the adjacent area, Walker said. Another thing to be considered, he said, is that machines in various buildings would be turned off and would have to be re-set by hand.

## What's Cooking

Friday  
7 p. m.—Du Pont Paint Company Dinner, Room 2D, MSC.  
8:30 p. m.—Plant Science Colloquium, Room 2B, MSC.

Monday  
7:30 p. m.—Wichita Falls Home Town Club, Academic Bldg.  
Rusk County Club, 307 Goodwin Hall, Important.

Tuesday  
7 p. m.—Election Commission, Student Activities.

8 p. m.—Industrial Education Wives, Mr. Pema, architect, will talk on color scheme for home fabrics, election of officers, South Solarium, YMCA, Bring guests.

## Treasury Bonds May Be Converted

The Treasury Department reminded today holders of Treasury Series F and G bonds which mature between May 1 and Dec. 31, 1953, that they may convert those into the new 3-1/4 per cent fully marketable bonds if they desire.

Transfer must be made before May 1 to a Federal Reserve Bank or the Treasury.

This offer of transfer does not apply to Series E saving bonds which mature during the same period, the department added.

## FOR BETTER EDUCATION—1

# High School, Auditor Included in School Plan

(First in the series of articles dealing with the building of a new high school for College Station.)

By HARRI BAKER  
Battalion City Editor

A new school for College Station is again in the hands of the voters.

The A & M Consolidated School Board of Trustees has called an election May 2 to decide whether or not the people will give the school board the power to issue \$385,000 in bonds.

The need for a new school was established in the unsuccessful bond election Jan. 20. The increase in students will be felt definitely next September, when

double sessions will be necessary in the first grade.

The question remains: what kind of new school?

After a year of hard work and extensive research, the school board has presented a plan that they believe will adequately take care of the problem.

They propose:

• Purchase of the 13-acre Dobrovoly-Holik tract across Holick street to the east of the present school, and an option on seven acres immediately south of this site.

• Construction of a new 14-classroom high school on the new tract, to include a 600-seat auditorium, with band and choral rooms.

• Expansion of existing industrial education shops by using the present band and music room.

• Construction of a general purpose room at Lincoln School for Negroes.

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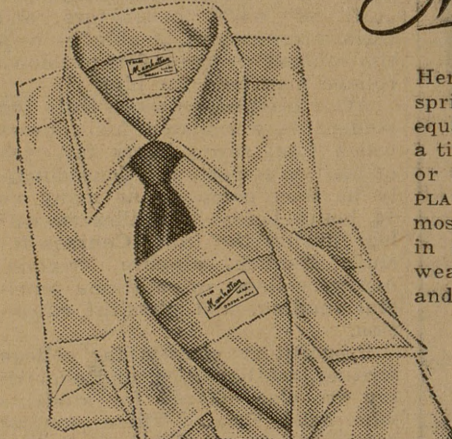


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win perfumed letters

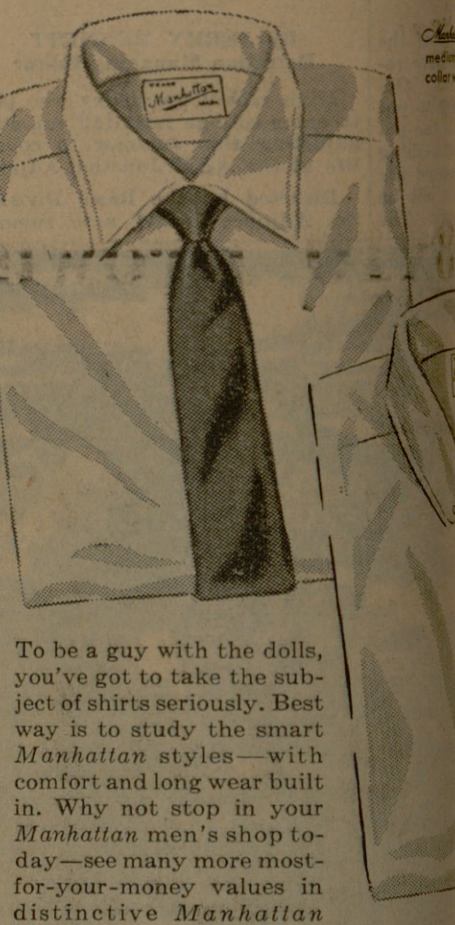
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is to slip on a handsome

Manhattan®  
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spring colors or white. Looks  
equally good with or without  
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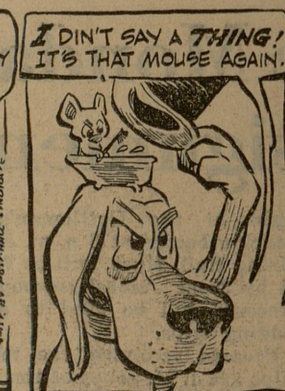
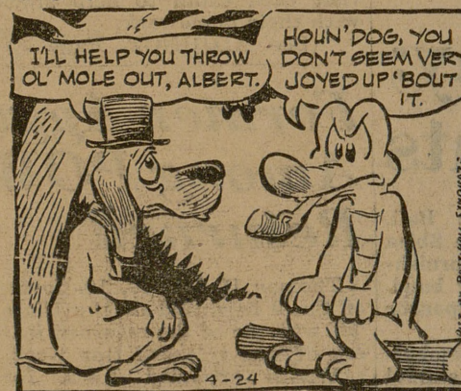
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College Station Bryan



To be a guy with the dolls,  
you've got to take the sub-  
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way is to study the smart  
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comfort and long wear built  
in. Why not stop in your  
Manhattan men's shop to-  
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