

FOR BETTER EDUCATION—4

Evaluators Find CHS Needs Space

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

By HARRI BAKER Battalion City Editor

A&M Consolidated School was called "above average" in all respects but one by a 20-man evaluating committee in its report yesterday.

The one point lacking was adequate space. And the recommendations of the committee coincided almost exactly with the school board's \$385,000 bond plan, including a high school, an auditorium, a general purpose room for Lincoln School for Negroes and 13 acres of land. The bond issue will be voted on Saturday.

Speaking for the sub-committee

that studied the school plant, O. J. Baker, superintendent of the Dickinson public schools, said, "A state of emergency exists here because of overcrowding—and it will get worse."

The present facilities don't meet the minimum requirements established by the National School Housing Association, Baker said.

"This site is inadequate for your program," he said. "Additional facilities would allow the faculty to do the fine work they're doing, even better."

He suggested building a new high school, since the lower grades would fit well into the present buildings. Baker also said an auditorium was practically a necessity. "A school is incomplete without one," he said.

Baker said he understood a bond

plan for such a program was to be put before the voters. He urged that it be passed.

The report was made by sub-committees in eight categories: pupil population, educational needs of youth, program study, pupil activity, library, guidance program, staff and administration, school plant and junior school.

Junior School

Reporting on the junior school, R. B. Cutlit of the University of Houston said the classes were well-behaved and interested in their work, there was good order in the halls, faculty preparation was outstanding, the building was unusually clean and there was sound teacher preparation.

He commended especially the relationship between teachers and students.

Grifford suggested more space for homemaking, industrial arts and general classes, a teachers lounge, more audio-visual aids and a physical education supervisor.

School Program

The school program is far superior to any other school district of this size that has been visited by Baker. He mentioned this in giving the program study committee's report in the absence of the committee's chairman.

This committee suggested that drama and speech classes be added to the curriculum when resources are available.

Lack of a well-round student assembly program was the main fault found by the committee on pupil activity, headed by Dan Carter, superintendent of Navasota public school. He also recommended separating the senior and junior high schools into separate buildings.

"I was impressed by the faculty-student closeness," he said.

Library Report

The library has adequate space and is doing a good job, said W. E. Wright of A&M, industrial education department, head of the library committee.

He recommended more storage space, more professional books for instructors, hiring the librarian for ten months instead on nine and possibly hiring a library clerk.

"The students have told me they feel they are learning more than students at other schools because of the guidance program here," said J. M. Moorman, superintendent of Hempstead public schools and head of the guidance committee.

His committee felt the guidance program was good but he suggested an in-service training program to make it better.

Staff and Administration

The democratic spirit of the staff and administration was praised by C. T. Gifford, superintendent of Raymondville public schools and head of that committee.

He also pointed to the cooperation between the school and the community and the efficiency of finance and maintenance.

His committee suggested in-service training for teachers, a sick leave policy, an independent transportation system and hiring of a part time business manager to take the load off the administration.

This is not a complete report of the findings of the committee.

Their entire report will be written and distributed for study by the school and community.

'Better School'

"I think we're a better school because of this evaluation," said Superintendent L. S. Richardson. The people here didn't need this evaluation committee to tell them that College Station has an excellent school; they already knew that. But this committee of non-partial educators did point out what was lacking: the space and facilities to give the kids a better education.

The means to get this better education will be put before the people Saturday. If the voters will take care of this part of the evaluation, the teachers and staff of A&M Consolidated will take care of the rest of it.

(The last article in this series, tomorrow, will summarize the issue to be voted on Saturday.)



FRANKLY SPEAKING

Academic Freedom Fight Began With Justinian

(Second in the series of three articles on Academic Freedom—its meaning and concern to every American.)

By FRANK N. MANITZAS Battalion Co-Editor

ATTACKS on Academic Freedom did not start with the last generation. These attacks can be traced as far back as 529 A. D. when Justinian closed the philosophical school founded by Plato in 298 B. C.

Both Plato and Cicero had taught in the school, and Cicero had said about the institution and its instructors:

"Their writings and methods contain all liberal learning, all history, all polite discourse; and besides they embrace such a variety of arts that no one can undertake any noble career without their aid . . . in a word the academy is, as it were, the workshop of every artist."

Attacks on institutions which attempt now, as always to be the workshops of every artist, range from direct accusations as to one's political affiliations to the teaching methods in the public schools.

All these attacks threaten Academic Freedom. These attacks have been stimulated by the lack of adult and parent education, concerning the development of teaching methods and added programs to the schools.

Stupid Parents Hurt Schools

Needless to say, no parent believes his child to be below average intelligence, nor would they readily accept this fact. This, in many cases, provides a catalyst to strengthen the storm against Academic Freedom and that schools should be dictated by boards.

Some parents attack the schools asserting they contain subversive elements. They believe the institutions use new methods of instruction, new ideas and new machines to better educate the students, the institutions must be Communist and Fascist in nature. The assertors, traditionalists to the end, probably did not receive their education by similar methods.

They will maintain the schools are restricting the teaching of the fundamental three R's and have allowed infiltration of the Communist and Fascist's beliefs into textbooks. Consequently, book burning and banning, the firing of principals, superintendents, individual scholars and sometimes en masse

remain as the only result and solution to the problem by these parents.

Personalities; More Than System

The "common learning" system in public schools was attacked in Texas, New York, California, Washington, Virginia, Colorado, Maryland and many other states. The program was attacked many times because of personalities involved, and more so because of ignorance on the part of the aggressors.

In these places, attacks were not always labeled that the people were Communists, but only vaguely subversive.

During this period, colleges and universities were deciding about loyalty oaths. Many states were requiring them of all state employes and a few educational institutions were originating loyalty oaths of their own.

Concerning these oaths, primarily designed to smoke out Communists from the schools, Supreme Court Justice Douglas said:

"The law inevitably turns the school system into a spying project. . . It produces standardized thought, not the pursuit of truth."

The instructors are handicapped. They cannot go alone into battle for Academic Freedom. They cannot alone, these few who face the public spotlights, insist that other instructors recognize their responsibilities.

Perhaps, all instructors will speak out someday, as Mrs. Roosevelt did when she said: "I am tired of being afraid."

Foe — Public's Ignorance

Then the schools can crush the foe: the public's ignorance of educational problems, the institutions and the personnel.

Only through the complete education of this public as to why and how an institution is operating can be free inquiry and free discussion and free research continue. The public must understand education—its methods, purposes, results.

To inspect the University of California, the University of Chicago, or the University of Washington, or the schools in New York City, or even here, one surely would find a Communist teacher. But the large number of innocent teachers who are attacked and forced to resign from the profession does not justify the inaccuracies perpetrated.

(Next Article: How Academic Freedom concerns A&M and similar state colleges and universities.)

Neighbors Elected Journalism Prexy

Charles C. (Chuck) Neighbors of Kane, Pa. was elected Tuesday president of the Journalism Club.

Neighbors, a junior journalism major, has been a member of The Battalion staff and of the club since 1950. He is news editor on The Battalion.

Wayne R. Dean of Brownwood, was elected vice president. Other officers chosen were Jerry Estes of Wichita Falls, secretary; Robert (Bob) Boriskie of Bryan, treasurer; Jerry Bennett of Fort Worth, parliamentarian; Jon Kinslow of Dallas, reporter.

Neighbors has been a member of the MSC Directorate since last year and is serving as chairman in charge of newspaper publicity.

Survey Shows Two Advanced TB Cases

Two advanced and seven moderately advanced cases of tuberculosis were disclosed in the recent X-ray examinations made in Brazos County, according to Mrs. R. H. Bush, executive secretary to the Brazos County Tuberculosis Association.

Neither the Brazos County Tuberculosis Association nor the Brazos County Health Unit disclosed whether there were any active TB cases in College Station.

Of the 11,837 individuals examined, 116 had some type of TB, 56 were suspect cases, and 51 had a slight degree of the disease.

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 \$5.50 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.

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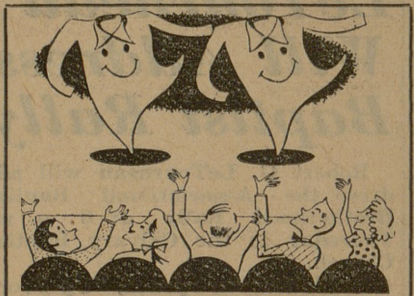
News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444 or 4-7604) or at the editorial office room, 202 Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209 Goodwin Hall.

FRANK N. MANITZAS, JOEL AUSTIN, Ed Holder, Jerry Bennett, Harri Baker, Peggy Maddox

Today's Issue

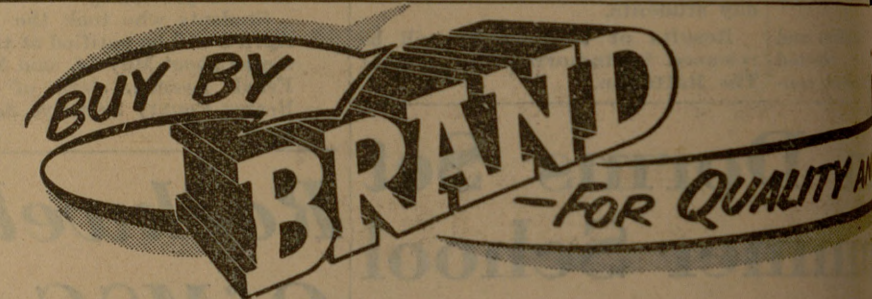
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