



FRANKLY SPEAKING

Academic Freedom Aids Everyone, Including You

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

By FRANK N. MANITZAS Battalion Co-Editor

A&M COLLEGE is no different from other state colleges and universities in the respect that the governing factor in the administration's policy is the attitude of the people of Texas.

However, the majority is not always correct and it is idiotic for one to assume that the Legislature can produce a better system of higher education through its latest venture: whether or not to ban or brand or list all subversive authors or literature in the state's libraries.

Because of such actions, one finds it impossible to limit Academic Freedom as a term which applies only to the professors in universities and colleges and the teachers in the public schools.

One might say that Academic Freedom literally means liberation from restraint and from imprisonment for those pertaining or belonging to a university or college.

Students, administrators, professors and even the owners—the people of Texas, are connected with the state colleges and universities. Consequently, Academic Freedom directly and indirectly affects everyone.

Breaking it down, here's what we feel it means:

To professors and instructors, he can:

Know he is "right, then go ahead," and answer any question on Democracy, or Communism, or Fascism, whether he be in the mathematics, English, history or any other departments, and be safe from persecution.

Give his opinions on any controversial subject and explain to the students that these are his views and encourage the students to check other references to form their own opinions.

Be with students after hours and speak informally, whether at a local beer hall, a fraternity or company party, or a church picnic, yet remember to act respectfully so as not to bring discredit to his profession or institution.

Be more than an echoing "yes" for administrative action which concerns him.

To the administrator, he can:

Execute his duties freely, abiding to the laws and regulations under which he took his position.

Encourage speakers to his campus on controversial subjects, striving always to have informers from both sides to explain their views.

Place responsible persons to positions and allow them to dictate policy within the original set limits.

Run an open-book policy, and give the public, his instructors and professors and students the complete discourse on administrative matters.

To the student, he can:

Ask questions of anyone on anything and expect a respectful answer and if it is "no", why so.

Seek answers to problems, no matter their disputatiousness and obtaining these through the guidance of school officials.

Conduct research freely and have access to any literature that he may judge for himself.

Expect encouragement from the institution to inquire and fill a promoted and continuous quest for knowledge.

Know the operation of his institution, similar institutions; his church other churches; his government, other governments with the help of his school.

Opinionize truthfully and freely in all school problems.

To The State and National Governments, They Can:

Enter academic circles only for the purpose of supplying necessary funds to improve the educational abilities of institutions and to further research.

Promote better relations between the schools and public they each represent.

See that freedom always exists to administrators, to instructors and to students in order that each can carry out his duties.

Never seize or overpower an educational institution or initiate "witch hunts" without the consent of the institution.

Encourage institutions to teach the advantages of free people and show comparisons with the people of other governments

To the Public, it can:

Learn how its educational institutions operate. Be informed on new methods of instruction being used to further the intelligence of the nation.

Told how their money is used in these educational institutions.

Be treated with respect, both as parents of the students and as the owners of the schools.

Summing it up, Academic Freedom means a freedom of ideas.

Chancellor Albert C. Jacobs of the University of Denver expressed it effectively when he said:

"The cornerstone of Academic Freedom is nothing more than the specific application of the freedoms in the American way of life. It must be preserved because the advancement of knowledge is possible only through the unrestricted questioning of old ideas and free inquiry into the validity and significance of new ideas."

Faith in the preservice of Academic Freedom, in its promotion and assurance of its continuation through our heritage was shown by the then Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and now President, who said: "All our freedoms are a single bundle; all must be secure if any is to be preserved."

Of all the freedoms, Academic Freedom, is, indeed, the cornerstone.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pageant Flop, Not Sexy Show

Editors, The Battalion:

Reference is made to your editorial "Program Lessens Pageant Dignity" in The Battalion, Tuesday, April 28.

In editorials of the past you have advocated that you be allowed to print the facts and the truth, no matter how distasteful they may be. Then why don't you?

In your editorial you are obviously using the entertainment as a scapegoat for the "flop" of the Cotton Pageant. Why don't you call a spade a spade?

The Pageant was a flop because it was poorly planned from the beginning to the end.

Mainly it was too long, boring, and just plain slow. Taking two and a half hours of paying public's

time by having them sit and watch an astronomical number of dressed up ordinary people parade across a poorly lighted gym floor is asking too much.

In my opinion, this is why so many people left before the program was complete. I think that I am qualified to express this opinion, for I was one of those who left.

At 9 p. m., after seeing people parade in front of me for an hour and a half, I got up and left. Three quarters of an hour later I returned and people were still parading across the floor.

I grant you that the entertainment was not exactly fitting for the attempted occasion. But let's not blame them for it all. After a

45 minute rest I really enjoyed the entertainment, except for being disturbed by people leaving. But they had my sympathy, for I understood the agony they must have been through.

My main gripe promoting the writing of this letter is the tone in which your editorial was written and not the Pageant. It sounded like something from a so-called "yellowpress."

Typical phrases being: "Program Lessens Pageant Dignity," "Cheapening the program with supposedly sexy performers..." "Agronomy Society could have used better taste in selecting performers..." etc.

In other words your editorial, rather than presenting the whole story, singled out the "sexy" entertainers and attempted to smear them for the whole incident.

From now on, how about presenting all of the facts and not "cheapen" our school paper with such "undignified" editorials.

In signing off, I realize that the vultures on the second floor of Goodwin Hall calling themselves editors, will surely pick my poor bones to pieces for criticizing them. They always do get in the last word.

Teddy J. Hirsch '52

EDITORS' NOTE: In the editorial you refer to, we were pointing to the inadequacy of such a program to fit into an occasion like the Cotton Pageant. At a less formal affair, like Rue Pinale, it might well have been in place.

The Agronomy Society is faced with a rather perplexing problem concerning the number of duchesses in their pageant. We understand they issued approximately 150 invitations for representatives and had a response numbering over 220. It's rather difficult for them to reject an entry after the girl has already been notified.

The Goodwin Hall "vultures" will be glad to hear from you again if there is further rebuttal.

Alton Fuchs to Head Poultry Science Club

Alton Fuchs of Cameron was elected recently president of the Poultry Science Club.

Charles Kamindiener was named vice president; George Luquette, treasurer and executive secretary of the Texas Chick, Poul and Egg Show; Gene Rozacky, secretary.

David Taylor was named to the Agricultural Council.

FOR BETTER EDUCATION—5

Children Main Point in Saturday Bond Issue Vote

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

By HARRI BAKER Battalion City Editor

ALL the facts and figures for tomorrow's \$385,000 bond issue election have been presented time and time again. The A&M Consolidated School Board of Trustees, architects, bond agents, education authorities and friends of the school have said that the plan will give Consolidated the facilities it needs.

But maybe one factor has been forgotten or slighted: the children of the community. It's easy to get lost in the maze of figures and forget about the prime purpose of education.

This building plan is not a goal; it's a means to a goal. A school needs good and adequate buildings to produce top-quality students.

In the past, the people of College Station have been proud of their children, and justly so. Consolidated graduates have done above average work in most of the nation's best schools.

The people of College Station are all directly or indirectly connected with education work. Almost all of them have received good educations themselves.

It would be ironic for a college community to fail to provide the means to give their children a better education.

Vote Yes — For Bond Issue

Here's a summary of the issue to be voted on tomorrow:

If a majority of the voters say yes, the school board will issue \$385,000 in 30 year bonds. Rauscher, Pierce and Company has signed a contract to buy the bonds, at a little over 3 percent interest rate.

The money will be used to pay for a 14 room high school, a 600-seat auditorium, 13 acres of the Dobrovoly - Holick tract immediately east of the present campus and a general purpose room for

Lincoln School for Negroes.

The buildings will be designed by architect William Caudill, of Caudill, Rowlett, and Scott.

The buildings probably will be ready for use by September 1954, if contracts can be let soon after the election.

By rearranging the grades in the new buildings, the school administration says that this program will take care of the needs for the next four years.

Tax Raise Will Pay For Bonds

A raise in taxes has been made to pay for the bond issue. The tax raise is not an issue in tomorrow's election—the taxes have already been increased. Most taxpayers were notified of their new rate in the mail this week.

The tax raise is costing the average tax payer (\$2,000 evaluation) only one dollar a month, or about a 30 per cent increase.

Because a centralized campus is cheaper and easier to maintain, the school board decided against building a new elementary school.

They plan to expand the bus system in both the rural and city areas, get students to school quicker and better.

And that's it.

The voters of the community will decide tomorrow:

Yes or no; better education, or worse education because of crowding.

Remember the children when you vote. The school belongs to the community, but the children belong to the future.

Zumwalt, Elliott First in Math

Robert Elliot Zumwalt won a 17-jewel watch Tuesday night when he took first place in the sophomore division of the annual Math contest.

A sophomore from Hallettsville, La., Zumwalt is majoring in chemical engineering.

First place in the freshman division was Herman Hoyle Keller, mechanical engineering student from Sherman. He also was awarded a 17-jewel watch.

Second place winner in the sophomore division was Travis Gerald Wunderlick, civil engineering student from Houston. He was awarded \$15 cash.

Harold Gene Fox, science major from Slaton, took third place honors and a \$10 cash prize.

AZ Installation Banquet Planned

The Texas Alpha Chapter of the Fraternity of Alpha Zeta, agriculture honor society, will hold its installation banquet Monday, May 4, in Maggie Parker's Dining Room in Bryan.

Dr. Carl Moore, agricultural economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, will be the guest speaker.

New officers of the chapter are Jake Landers, chancellor; Mel Holubek, censor; Wesley Gross, scribe; Mike Sliman, treasurer and Roy Sullivan, chronicler.

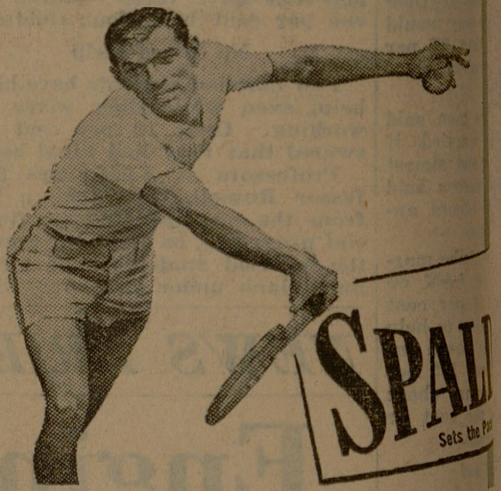
Outgoing officers are Gene Earl Steed, chancellor; Bobby Ragsdale, censor; Charles Stone, scribe; Bill Huffman, chronicler and Dick Miller, treasurer.

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May 5

7:45 P. M.

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