

A&M's Honor Code A Hypocrisy U OF VIRGINIA HAS REAL CODE

THE FAULTS and merits of an Honor Code are many.

But perhaps the main fault with the one introduced here this spring was that it was not wholly a student project. The main merit was that the students rejected it.

Until the time that the students are ready to accept an Honor Code with a backbone and not merely an inviting false-front, A&M will be better off without any hypocrisy of a code.

If an Honor Code is needed, it should be one with a firm foundation and not one of a half-way measure. Most important, it must be student inspired, developed, worked.

To say one has honor means nothing. One must show it.

The following is the speech delivered to the first year men by T. Munford Boyd, a professor of law and a graduate of the University of Virginia, in September, 1950.

In it, he explains the workings of an Honor Code.—The Editors.

In speaking to you this evening about the Honor System I want to step out of my role as a member of the faculty and talk to you as an alumnus or, if you please, as an ex-student whose privilege it was, when a student here, to live six years under that system.

Like other institutions of learning which have endured through the years, the University of Virginia has many traditions. Certainly the noblest of these is her Honor System.

But I dislike to refer to the Honor system merely as a tradition. The word tradition is much overworked, and in its usage too frequently connotes some custom or practice which is followed now simply because it has been followed for a long time, regardless of its value or even of its intrinsic absurdity.

Vitalizing Force

Though it is more than a century old, the Honor System is today as it has always been, a living, vitalizing force influencing the lives of those who participate in it and giving character to this University.

Some of you have doubtless come here from schools where cheating on quizzes and examinations is, by a common acceptance of the students, or at least some of them, considered not to be a breach of honor but a legitimate practice for those who can "get away with it."

I shall not pause to pass censure on this practice. As mature men and women you know in your hearts that this is wrong, that there can be no compromise of honorable conduct.

If I were asked to give a short definition of the Honor System, I think it would go something like this: That it is a high convention among men and women who have chosen to seek the truth, by which it is mutually agreed that no end, however important or however desirable, will justify the use of dishonest means in its attainment.

Student Function

I have said that I choose to speak to you not as a member of the faculty but as an alumnus, and this is because the Honor System is in both origin and administration purely a student function. It did not emanate from the faculty nor is it under faculty jurisdiction. This system did not always exist at the University.

For the first seventeen years of active life of the institution, a rigid proctor system prevailed. During this time, we are told that the general level of the conduct of the high spirited lads who made up the student body was practically riotous in character. It was during this period that a professor was fatally shot by a student in a general brawl. The men were rigorously watched while taking their examinations and during their other classroom activities. Student dissatisfaction with this atmosphere of suspicion continued to mount.

Honor Pledge Starts

In 1842, a wise and eminent Virginia jurist and lawyer, the Honorable Henry St. George Tucker, joined the law faculty of the University, and at the instance of representatives of the student body, he procured the passage of a resolution prescribing a pledge to be signed by all students taking examinations and submitting other written work by which it was stated on honor that the student had derived no assistance from any source during the time of the examination. This was the birth of the Honor System. Later, the pledge was modified to include the giving as well as the receiving of aid but was still restricted to classroom work.

At a still later period and mind you, by the students themselves and not by faculty action, the scope of the Honor System was extended to embrace all student activities so that any dishonorable conduct came within its purview, and that is its scope today.

Some of your older fellow-students will undertake to explain to you the details of the working of the Honor System Code. It should suffice for me to point out to you the positive as well as the negative aspects of the system. In other words, the Code says to each student not only that thou shalt not live nor steal nor cheat, but also that thou shalt not tolerate others in your midst whom you know have lied, cheated or stolen.

Demand Withdrawal

The duty thus imposed is not to report an offender to the faculty or to some policing body, but as a member of the Honor System and a signatory of its code, to con-

front the offender and demand his withdrawal from the University or else to exercise his right to a trial by the Honor Committee.

It would be a grievous mistake to conceive of the Honor System as merely the substitution of a student police system for one managed by the faculty.

It is a united affirmation of a living principle, a declaration of a faith that men who have come together in quest for the truth

must and will live honorably in all phases of their activities.

It stands for the proposition that only honorable men are free men; that the liar, the cheat, and the thief are eternally fettered in the toils of their own perfidy and as hounded by an inescapable conscience that for them the pursuit of truth is intellectually impossible.

In Comparable Climate

Can there be any doubt that the mutual trust engendered by this code of honor provides an incomparable climate for intellectual achievement?

As was recently said by one of the great statesmen of our times as he nears the end of a long and useful career of public service, the Honorable Henry L. Stimson, "Honor begets honor, trust begets trust, and faith begets faith."

In preparing to talk to you this evening I read again an address on the same subject delivered by a late distinguished Dean of the Engineering School of the University, Dr. William M. Thornton, before the Association of Preparatory Schools of Southern States at its annual meeting in 1906.

This passage impressed me because its time-free applicability:

"The great malady of our modern times is the adoration of the winning side. In the business world to be rich at whatever cost to body and soul; in the political world to be powerful whatever the price in sincerity and faith; in the social world to lead, through whatever sloughs of ignoble pleasure and brainless folly—these are the manias of the life of our day."

Challenge Today

That was descriptive of life in 1906 as viewed by Dr. Thornton in relation to the principles of honor governing human conduct. Perhaps at no time in history have these same principles been so blatantly challenged as they are today, with eight hundred million people dominated by a ruling philosophy which extols the practice of deception in the ruthless pursuit of an end which is preconceived by it to the good.

Although most of you have come to Virginia without any previous

Sidewalk Scrapings

By HARRIET THOMAS IV
Battalion Scrapings Editor

Orchids go to anyone who has a birthday today. Our best wishes for peace and happiness in the years ahead to everyone who was born on this day many years ago.

Orchids, belated, to G. E. Madeley, whose birthday was Jan. 17. Celebrating the same day was Ray George. Happy birthday, Ray

Speaking of Ray, he received a tremendous accolade at the Former Student banquet a few months ago. Ray had just finished a football season that was a little less than successful—his team missed out on the championship—but they gave him a great tribute. They said, "Unpack."

Judge Otis Miller dropped by the office and left us a new born calf. Thanks, Otis. We've always wanted one. The judge—he's from West Texas—has been having great success with his cattle ranch, in addition to his teaching duties at A&M's journalism department.

Johnny Longley at the water fountain in the Business Administration Building... Jim Baty out surveying the drill field with his young engineers... John Paul Abbott in the halls of the Academic Building during the between classes rush... Wayne Stark up late in the MSC.

Saw Hershel Burgess, Sid Lovell, and Lucian Morgan trying to sell each other insurance. Don't know who won, but it looked like a lively discussion... Les Richardson, Ewing Brown, C. A. Bonnen and the rest of the school board with their heads together. What do you suppose those boys are cooking up now?

J. J. Skrivaneck had a bad blister on his finger last week from working in the garden. College Station gardens are coming along in fine shape, except for a slight tendency to wash away. But remember last year when we were praying for rain.

Ernest Langford, riding the elevator to the fourth floor of the Academic Building... Kubby Manning gave us a ride to the office today... Roland Bing going to class... Ran Boswell out looking at the streets... Tom Harrington just standing around. Don't mean no harm.

Ralph Rogers, Dan Russell, Wheeler Barger, and some other people from the Agriculture Building taking a coffee break... Bob Cherry eating lunch at the same time we were... Don Burchard up at North Gate.

"Model aircraft will warm up and operate in designated areas only"—A&M College Blue Book, page 26.

Oceanography Awards Fifteen Fellowships

Fifteen fellowships and assistantships totaling \$26,750 have been awarded by the Oceanography Department for 1953-54.

They were made available through the A&M Research Foundation.

The United Gas fellowship in engineering oceanography, which provides \$3,000 for research in the engineering phases of oceanography, was awarded to Roy Ellis of Danville, Ky.

Charles M. Proctor of Madison, W. Va., now beginning his second year of study toward a Ph D degree, received the Dow Fellowship in chemical oceanography. This is a grant of \$2,000 from the Dow Chemical Co. of Midland, Mich., and Freeport.

Assistantships range in amount from \$1,300 to \$2,400. In addition, two recommendations for Graduate School teaching assistantships were made. The research assistantships are for half-time work on government and industry-sponsored research investigations conducted by the department through the Research Foundation.

Two foreign students are also recipients of fellowships. They are available in the summer.

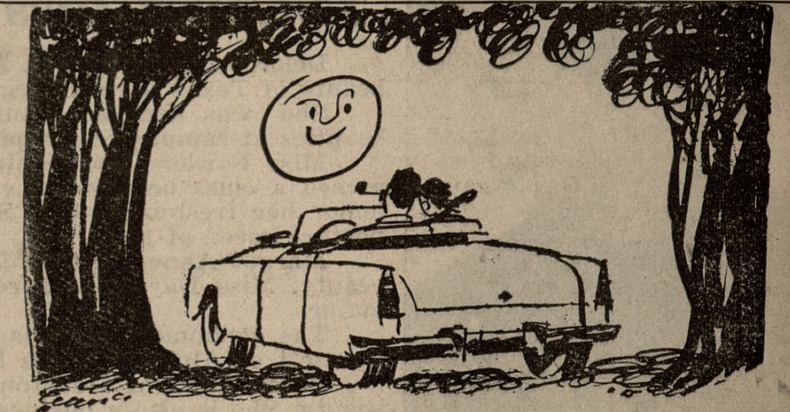
Poornachandra Rao, a geophysicist from Andhra University, Waltair, India, and Chang Wen Hsuan, a chemistry major from Taipei, Formosa.

Others receiving graduate assistantships are Gordon Resch, bachelor of science from Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; Warren Dannenburg, bachelor of science from Bristol, Tenn.; David Miller, master of science from Hamden, N. H.; Frank Moon Jr., bachelor of science from La Habra, Calif.; George Reynolds, master of science from Decatur, Ill.

John Wise, master of science from Durham, N. H.; William Bradley, bachelor of science from Big Spring, Neb.; Randolph Blumberg, master of science from San Antonio; Joe Creager, bachelor of science from Wichita Falls.

Julius Marcus, bachelor of science from Brooklyn, N. Y.; Rudolph Savage, bachelor of science from Willard, N. C., and Jerome Stein, master of science from New York City.

Dr. Dale F. Leipper, head of the oceanography department, said additional assistantships may be available in the summer.



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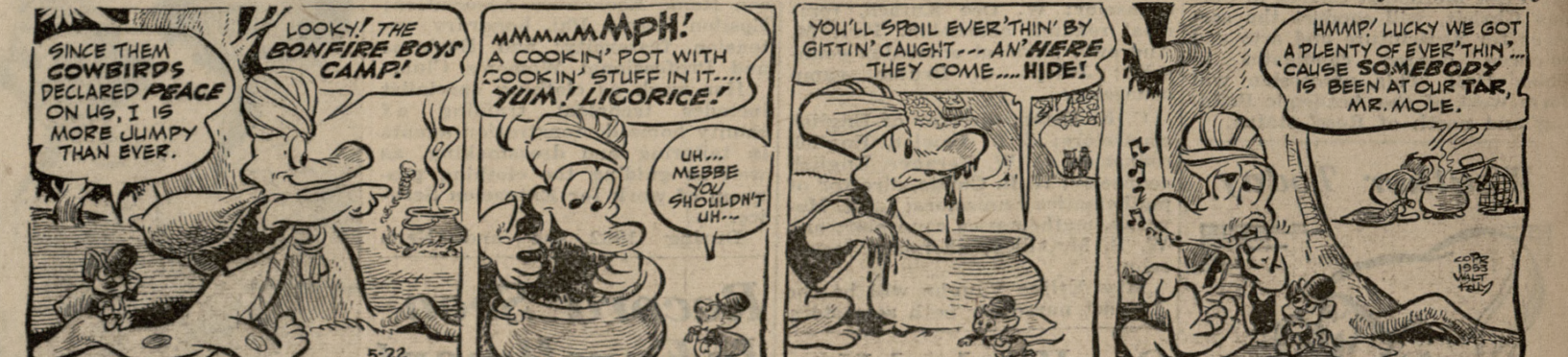
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