

# Battalion Editorials

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1954

## Colleges Soon Will Produce Human Robots, Not Thinkers

Dr. Joseph U. Yarborough of the SMU faculty, lashed out recently in a speech at Dallas, criticizing educators who would mechanize the teaching process and manufacture human robots rather than free thinking individuals.

The Dallas Morning News carried the story on Yarborough's speech to the Altrusans last week.

Yarborough is head of SMU's psychology department and former president of the Association of Texas Colleges.

The News' story quoted him as saying, "The present tendency toward uniformity of subject matter and method and toward mechanization of the teaching process, shows the extent to which individual interest, needs and ability are neglected.

"These people find misfits in school and desire to change them to make them fit the narrow and limited curriculum.

"Would these same people when they take their sons to buy a suit of clothes expect the salesman to alter the boy to fit the suit or the suit to fit the boy? Is the boy not more valuable than the suit?"

Yarborough listed three schools of thought, according to The News.

People in the first group "are aiming at a transformation of our free society, by means less violent than revolution, into a society quite different from our historic pattern. The end they desire will justify any means."

Then the Caspar Milquetoasts show up in the second group. They "wish to retreat to the educational patterns of their forefathers with the hope of finding academic security."

Promises of support in elections, offers of

subsidy and other pressures are used by these two factions in an effort to win their goals.

The third group are those who "know that diversity of opinion, within the framework loyalty to our free society, is necessary and basic to any educational institution. I identify myself with this group," The News quoted Yarborough.

If educational trends continue as they are now, American colleges soon will be producing just exactly what Yarborough says—human robots.

Colleges today teach people the technical knowledge needed to cope with nearly any job, but they are falling far behind in teaching their graduates how to think for themselves.

For instance, in a recent survey conducted, more than 70 large companies were asked about the people they had fired over the past several years. These companies were asked why each of these employees was dismissed.

It was found that roughly 10 per cent were fired because of lack of technical knowledge, and about 90 per cent were fired because of a deficient personality.

Many American colleges no longer stress thinking, but have put the emphasis on memorizing. A student can go to many of his classes, memorize what the professors say, then write it down again on quizzes and make excellent grades.

This is about as close as we can get to the "human robot". The only thing needed now is a multi-million page book containing all the answers to the myriad of personal problems which arise, and give it to the robot to carry through life with him.

## Club To Present Weekly Program

The A&M collegiate 4-H club will present one radio broadcast a month from WTAW and other stations throughout Texas.

Next Saturday and the first Saturday of each month are the times set aside for the program.

One 4-H Club member will be interviewed on each program, showing how 4-H work at home has led him to go to college at A&M.

R. B. Hickerson with the agricultural extension service is directing the program. Jimmy McMullan, freshman from Ozona will be interviewed Saturday.

"It is hoped that this program will help 4-H club members throughout the state to decide to further their education at A&M," said Jake Landers, president of the A&M collegiate 4-H club.

## Council Discusses School Honor Code

The honor system and types of quizzes in the School of Agriculture were the main topics Monday night of discussion at the meeting of the Agriculture council, according to Don Thompson, president of the Agricultural Economics club.

No vote was taken on the types of quizzes given but opinions were about equal in favor of both essay and objective quizzes.

The council was in favor of the recently revised honor system and favored its being presented to all agriculture classes for vote next semester.

## Plant Team Readys For National Meet

The range plant identification team, consisting of four range and forestry students, is practicing now for a national contest to be held Jan. 26-29, at Omaha, Neb.

The team, coached by W. J. Waldrip, consists of Lamont Bennett, I. G. Janca, Mark Nash and Jake Landers.

The contest will be held in conjunction with the national meeting of the American Society of Range Management at which eight teams from western agricultural colleges will be participating.

"This is the first year that A&M has entered a team and it will be up to us to make a good showing against tough competition," said Landers.

## AFROTC Interviews Tell 'Future Value'

Senior air science instructors are interviewing this week all Air Science IV cadets to evaluate them in terms of "their future value to the air force."

The ranking will be used for various purposes by the air force, said Col. John A. Way, PAS&T.

## Cadet Slouch

... by Earle



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## Aggie Gospel Time Returns to WTAW

The Aggie Gospel Time has returned to the air at its regular time 9:30 to 10 a. m. Sunday, on radio station WTAW.

After being off during the Christmas holidays, the program will continue as before, and will be presented in the same manner, said Walt Pumphory, director.

"All the work for the program is done by students here," said Cliff Harris, director of the Baptist Student Union.

Wayne Young announces the program, which consists of gospel songs and selected readings.

## Ag Students Take Civil Service Exam

About 100 agriculture students took the Civil Service examination set by the U. S. Civil Service commission here Saturday.

The examination is for qualifying applicants for different agricultural positions with the USDA.

## What's Cooking

WEDNESDAY

7:30 p. m.—Knight's of Columbus, basement of St. Mary's Chapel.

THURSDAY

7:15 p. m.—Lavaca county A&M club meeting, Academic building. Urgent.

Rio Grande Valley club meeting, 2nd floor, YMCA.

Houston hometown club meeting, room 301, Goodwin hall. Very important.

7:30 p. m.—Dallas A&M club meeting, Biological Science building, lecture room. Important business.

Whispering Pines club meeting, room 228, Academic building. Election of officers.

Guadalupe Valley hometown club meeting, room 3B, MSC.

Port Arthur A&M club meeting, room 106, Biology building. Very important.

## News Briefs

**DR. J. H. QUISENBERRY**, head of the poultry husbandry department, will serve on the research award committee of the National Turkey federation. He will present the award to the 1953-54 winner.

**NINETY VOCATIONAL** agriculture teachers of Area III are meeting here this week for a teachers conference. Activities include a tour of the dairy, beef and poultry farms and an inspection of the meats laboratory. E. V. Walton, head of the agricultural education department will speak at the group's banquet Friday.

**DR. R. L. ROGERS '25**, Fort Worth veterinarian and president of the Texas Phenothiazine company, has been appointed a member of the Texas Board of Veterinary Examiners by Governor Allan Shivers.

**THOMAS SUTHERLAND** of the Institute of International Education will be in room 192, Goodwin hall Thursday to talk to students who are interested in studying abroad.

**THE TEXAS SECTION** of the American Society of Range Management will meet here Wednesday, with G. W. Thomas of the range and forestry department as chairman. The group is composed of technicians, ranchers, farmers and other persons interested in grasslands management.

**TONY VARISCO** and Lt. M. R. Moore will be in charge of the

## WTAW To Start Classical Programs

Radio station WTAW will start a series of hour-long classical music programs in February.

The program will be presented three times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 2 to 3 p. m.

John Scogin, WTAW program director, will narrate the program. He will explain the story behind the music and give facts of the composers lives.

Among the composers to be heard on the program are Handel, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Wagner and Debussy.

program at the Brazos Aviation association meeting Thursday at 7:30 p. m. The association will meet in the council room of City Hall in Bryan.

**THREE A&M STUDENTS** have received appointments to the U. S. Military and Naval academies. Will Holiday, Fort Hamilton, N. Y., and Charles Sinclair, Fort Worth, received appointments to West Point. John Lima, Fort Worth, received an appointment to Annapolis.

**STAFF JUNIORS** and first sergeants should have pictures made for the Aggie Year '54 before Feb. 14, said Paul Roper, military editor at the yearbook. Senior favorites and vanity fair entries should be in before Feb. 8, Roper said.

## Three Aggie-Exes Get Editorial Jobs

Three of five technical men and writers added recently to the editorial staff of The Oil and Gas Journal are former students.

The additions represent an expansion program designed to enlarge the Journal's coverage of the news and technology of the petroleum industry.

Robert G. Deering formerly with Sun Pipe Line Co., Beaumont, joined the Journal staff Dec. 30 as assistant pipe-line editor.

Edwin McGhee, formerly with Mene Grande Oil Co., Venezuela, is now headquartered in the Journal's Tulsa office, handling drilling and production material.

Harry Taylor, oil editor of the Shreveport Journal, will become a member of the Journal's central news staff located in Tulsa Jan. 11.

## McCombs Joins Experiment Station

Don W. McCombs of Livingston, has joined the Supervisor training staff of the engineering extension service.

McCombs is a butane safety instructor, and will have a state-wide circuit for instructing dealers in handling butane safely.

The program which McCombs will help develop is sponsored by the Texas Butane Dealers association, and is concerned primarily with accident prevention.

McCombs now is working in conjunction with the firemen training division of the extension service in preparing a short course in butane safety to be given at A&M during the summer. A recommended butane storage and loading area will be set up at part of the training program.

## 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 \$9.00 per year or \$7.75 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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