

Battalion Editorials

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THE BATTALION

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1954

Dallas A&M Club Doesn't Like Changes

The following letter appeared in the Dal-Aggie, official newsletter of the Dallas A&M club. We thought it deserved wider circulation.

Mr. G. R. White, President
Board of Directors
Texas A&M System
Brady, Texas

Dear Mr. White:

The membership of the Dallas A&M club at its Friday meeting instructed the undersigned to convey to the A&M board through you its attitude toward the recent action of the A&M Board in making military training optional for entering students.

We have the highest respect, Mr. White, for the integrity and complete sincerity of each member of your board, whether he approved or opposed this move. Although those at our meeting appeared unanimous in thinking the move would prove exceedingly detrimental to the A&M College and therefore to Texas, there was no word uttered in criticism of the motives nor intentions of any board member. Further, we recognize fully that complete responsibility for running the school is that solely of the Board.

We readily concede that members of the A&M Board are in a position to have first hand facts of the problems presented in running the school, which facts could not be widely known in detail by us. (We feel that the facts which prompted the Board action, however, may have been emphasized here and minimized or ignored there because of having been pre-

sented by people prejudiced against our full-time military system.)

But the school's objective is to produce ex-students, not students.

And WE DO NOT CONCEDE in any degree that a member of the A&M Board is necessarily any better qualified than we or any other interested citizen of Texas to JUDGE THE QUALITY OF THE SCHOOL'S FINISHED PRODUCT. The full-time military system primarily, and the non-co-ed system secondarily, have been the two most distinctive and productive features of the school while its FINISHED PRODUCT has been making an unparalleled contribution to the life and welfare of the state.

The apparently uniform opinion of ex-students in Dallas is that the move, if carried through, will be followed by turning the school into one of Civilian Cadet status, and this will finish destroying the prime attribute which has made Texas A&M distinctive, and made most of its graduates outstanding citizens in peace and war. To have made the school co-educational would in our opinion have been most harmful, but not nearly so much as this move to weaken its military system and provide a breach schism and source of conflict between military and non-military students.

It is not reasonably to suppose, we feel, that either our curricula or our faculty, although both may be very good, will continue to at-

tract a substantial number of students, after A&M has attempted to copy the student life of other schools of the state, which almost without exception are in localities much more attractive to the high school senior than is the drab terrain of Brazos county or the entertainment facilities of a small town like Bryan.

The Board is not the first upon which pressure has been exerted to abolish the full-time military system. For fully fifteen years this has been going on. We regret exceedingly that the present Board has yielded to this pressure to abolish the system which for 78 years has been so fruitful.

We further respectfully submit, gentlemen, that the school's ex-students have made the mark they have, in spite of the weakening of its military training because it has been administered in recent years by officials who were of a school of thought opposed to it. We would urge you to give the full-time military system a chance to regain the effectiveness it displayed for 50 years or longer, and the first fair chance it has had in some years, by emphatic and explicit instructions to administrative officials that their continuing in their present capacities was contingent upon their complete compliance and aggressive cooperation with the spirit and letter of the Board's ordered policies.

Very respectfully,
THE DALLAS A&M CLUB

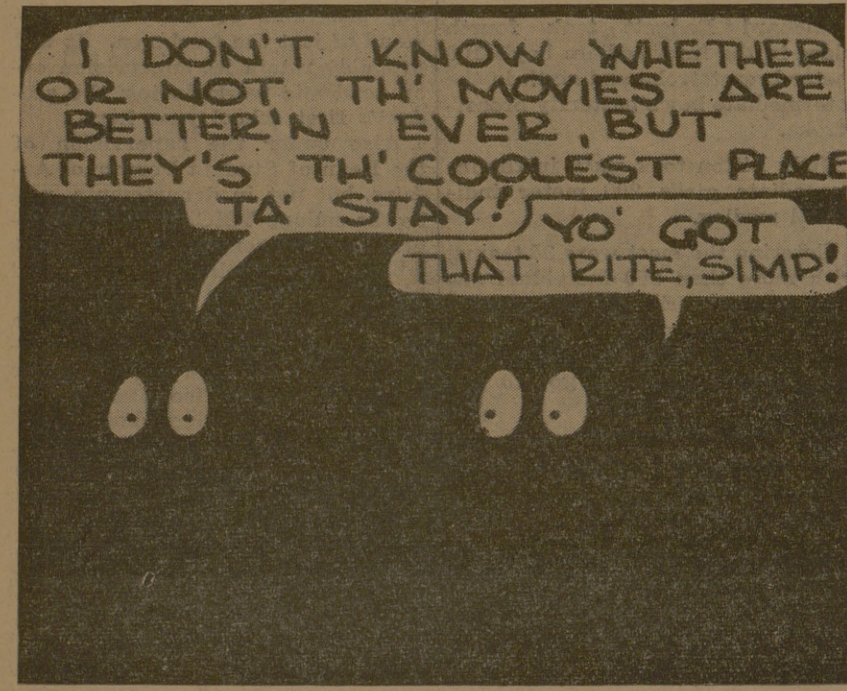
Of course, the Dallas A&M Club, as well as anyone else, has the right to express their opinion on any matter. But there must be a more tactful way of doing it than an illogical letter like this, full of accusations and false conclusions, based on scanty knowledge of the facts.

We have the fullest confidence in the over-all ability of the board of directors and the college administration to run the school, and we also believe that A&M should concentrate on educating students, who will become ex-students in due time. We do not believe, as the Dallas A&M club seems to believe, that the primary function of the school is to produce ex-students.

Perhaps the Dallas Aggies are afraid that the Corps of Cadets can't stand by itself, without students being forced to take military.

Or perhaps they just aren't sure what they want.

Cadet Slouch . . . by James Earle



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 \$.75 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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Harri Baker, Editor, Advertising Manager
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New Organization

(Continued from Page 1)

organizational set-up, under its own board, reporting directly to the president.

Minor details of the new organization have not yet been worked out, Shuffler said. "This is just the overall plan," he said.

"This move," Morgan said, "is an adjustment of our organization to our new policy of placing military training on an optional basis for all students. It provides for the development of organized activities in the civilian student body comparable to those developed for military students.

"We recognize that in many areas of student activities our programs should be developed simply for A&M students, with no distinction between the military and civilians. In other activities the two will be separate, with a special program developed to meet the needs of each group."

'Young Mr. Pitt' At Film Society

The Memorial Student Center Film society will present "Young Mr. Pitts" Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Starring Robert Donat, the film is a biography of William Pitt Jr., who was prime minister of England during the Napoleonic war.

The film includes readings of Pitt's speeches before England's Parliament.

Ashlock Named Program Editor

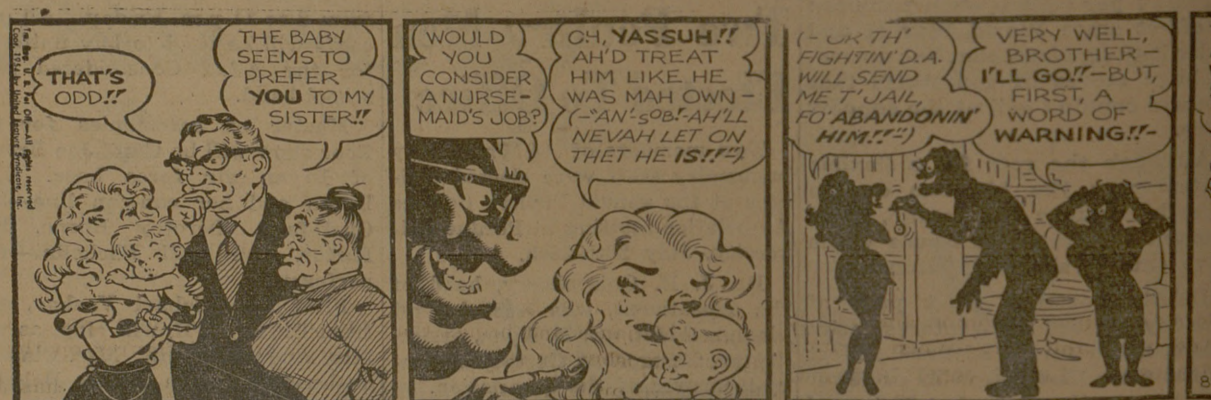
Jim Ashlock, senior journalism major from Pecos, has been appointed editor of the 1954 football programs.

Calvin Dodd will be business manager and Oscar Garcia will assist Dodd in advertising selling.

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