

# Battalion Editorials

Page 2 THE BATTALION TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1954

## An A&M Honor Code: To Be or Not To Be?

The student engineer's council has come up with the best suggestion so far for an honor code for A&M.

They haven't proposed the definite wording of a code, but they have taken the first step toward getting some such code adopted school-wide, by each school's council.

This is the factor that makes this idea the best one yet—everyone, in every class, would be bound by it.

It is obviously impractical to have an honor code that is in effect in one class but is not in effect in the next class.

It's like asking a student to be honorable between 9 and 10 a.m. and allowing him to run wild between 10 and 11.

The engineers' proposal would also have every member of each class bound by the code. It is even more obvious that one student should not be attending class under an honor code while the man next to him is not bound by the same code.

The engineers' proposal is to be discussed by each school's council before anything is done and a definite code must be drawn up.

But let's look at this honor code in a different light: would an honor code, even a perfect one, work at Texas A&M?

Those who propose an honor code for A&M are pointing to the success of the honor code at such colleges as West Point and the University of Virginia. If it works there, why not here, they say.

But these colleges each have only about half the enrollment of A&M. Also, their student body is more selective than A&M's. In other words, they to some extent choose the type person who will attend their colleges.

A&M, on the other hand, is open to almost anybody who has a high school education. This is good, because it means that a college education is available to everybody. But it also means that A&M is more liable to get within its student body the type of person to whom honor means little or nothing.

Then, even at these colleges with highly selective entrants, the honor code doesn't always work perfectly. A notable breakdown in the system was the West Point cheating scandal of a few years ago.

This leads to another factor in the working of an honor code.

These other colleges have long-standing traditions of the honor code. All incoming students there know before they enroll that they will be expected to live up to the honor code, and the upperclassmen at their college drum into them the principles of the code. The faculties and alumni also emphasize the tradition of honor.

A&M, unfortunately, has a long-standing tradition of minor cheating being condoned, or at least not openly condemned, by the students and even a few professors and former students.

Incoming students here are not taught that cheating is bad; in some cases they are taught that it is part of being "an Aggie"—"you can do anything you can get away with."

This is partly because of the "rough, tough, fightin' Texas Aggie" tradition, and partly because of the terrific emphasis on grades here. Many students have not been strong enough to make the "honorable" decision in a case of a vital passing grade versus honor.

(The School of Veterinary Medicine here has a workable honor code within its school, but the students there are selected and instructed to the same degree as the colleges mentioned above. A&M's School of Agriculture has an honor code described as "strictly voluntary", with individual members in each class deciding whether or not they will subscribe to it.)

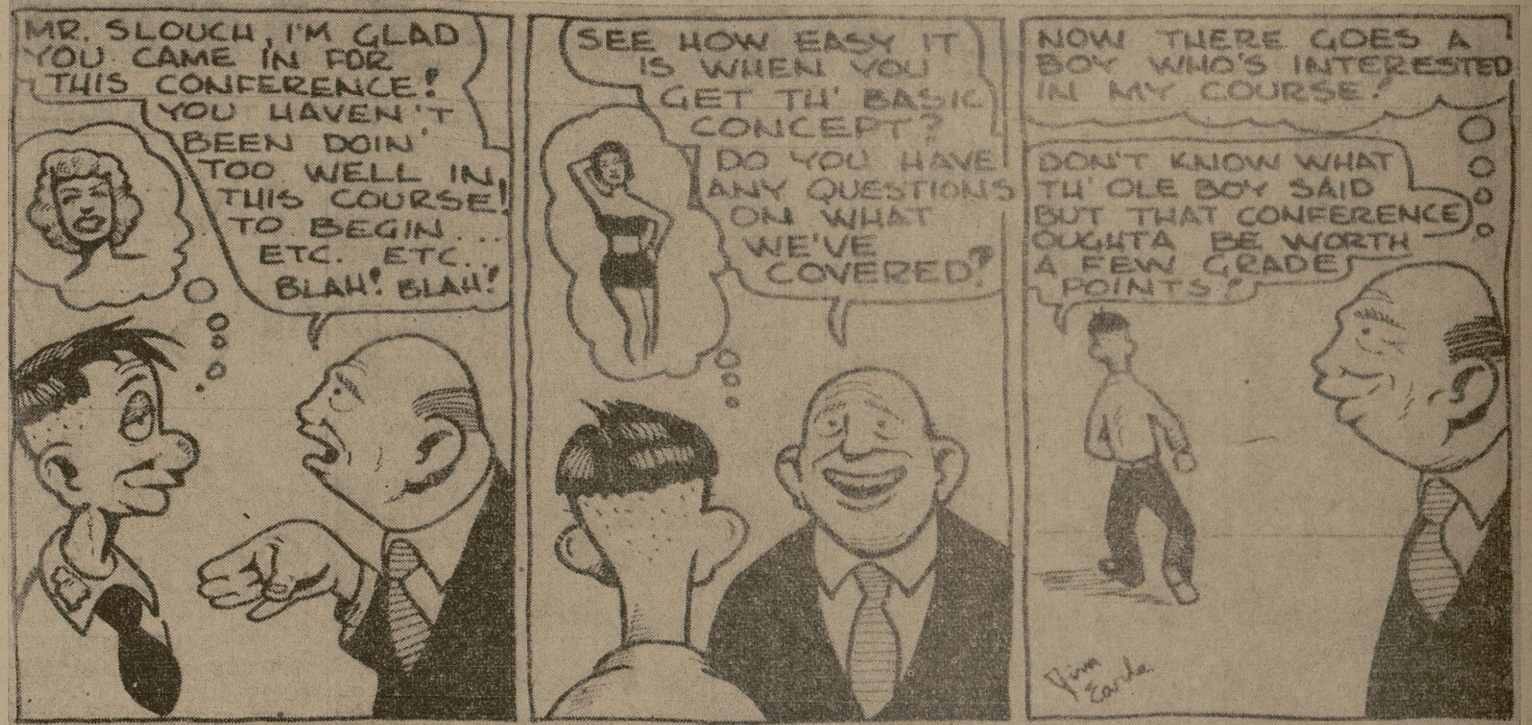
This is not to say that A&M could not develop an honor code tradition; possibly it could, given enough years and given the whole-hearted support of the students and faculty.

In time—much more time than many students realize—a good honor code could become so engrained in the way of life here that it would be an integral part of it. First, it will have to overcome all these difficulties.

But it could never come into being, or even be given a fair trial, until someone started it. So congratulations to the engineers' council, and may we wish them luck.

## Cadet Slouch

by Earle



### What's Cooking

**TUESDAY**  
5:45—AFS, at the foundry.  
7—Aggie Players, room 2B MSC, will allow members to attend Town Hall, refreshments.  
7:15—Permian Basin club, cabinet room, YMCA, movies—1939 Aggie football games.  
7:30—Student Weather club, room 23, Old Science building, movie—"Fronts and Air Masses."

### Horticulture Show Sells 200 Boxes

About 200 boxes of grapefruit were sold at the horticulture department's annual show last week, according to L. E. Spangler, assistant professor of horticulture. Spangler said people had been calling to buy more fruit, but "we're sorry; we don't have any more."

### Lions Club Doing Good Tree Sales

Christmas tree sales are booming for the College Station Lions club at Walton drive and highway 6 south at the East Gate, Bob Wood, committee chairman, said yesterday.

All trees were sold out before closing time both Friday and Saturday, Wood said.

Proceeds from the trees will go to crippled children of Brazos county, Boy Scout troop 450, and for A&M Consolidated high school scholastic awards. Profits thus far are about \$60.

### MSC To Sponsor Caroling Party

The Memorial Student Center house committee will sponsor a Christmas caroling party Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in the main lounge.

The Singing Cadets will begin the party by singing several songs, and the group will then go to the front steps to sing carols. The party is open to anyone in the College Station-Bryan area, according to Richard McGlaun, committee chairman.

## FRIDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 17 The Junior Class of S.F.A.

Presents

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### SHAFFER'S BOOK STORE

North Gate Across From Post Office

### Citizens Can Help Veterans' Drive

College Station people, as well as A&M students, can participate in the collection of apples and oranges for the patients at the Temple Veterans Administration center.

Each classroom in the Lincoln and Consolidated high schools will have someone in charge of collecting the fruit and getting it to the collecting area in the Memorial Student Center Dec. 15.

Anybody else that wants to donate can bring fruit to the Center that day.

The corps of cadets and other students will donate their breakfast fruit that day.

This annual project was started three years ago by P. L. (Pinky) Downs jr.

### Two Seniors Get \$950 Scholarships

Two engineering seniors are among 13 students in the nation to receive scholarships for the 1954-55 academic year from the California company.

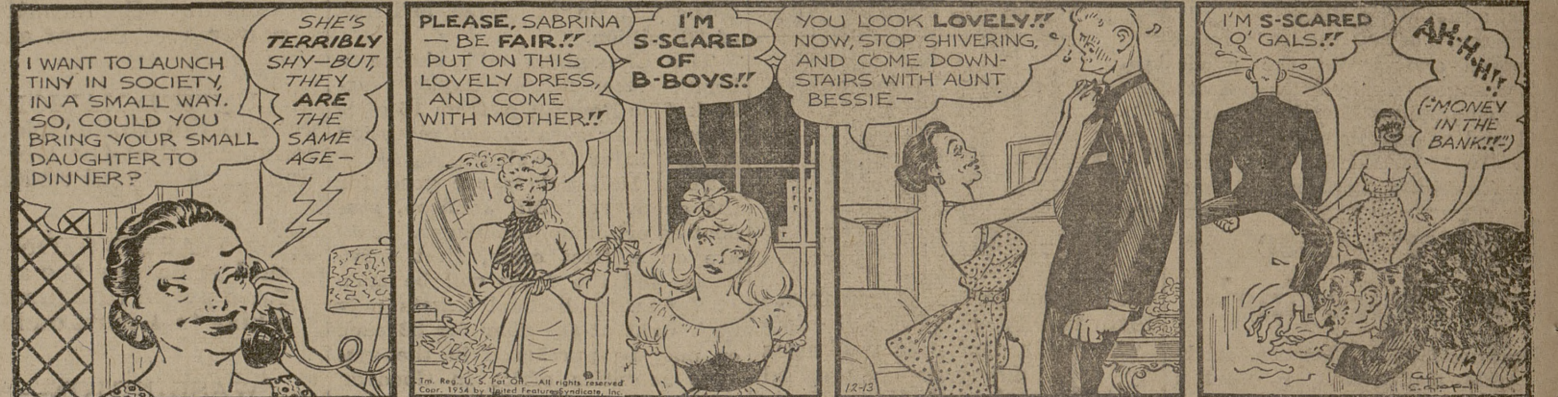
They are Albin J. Zak jr., of 507 Nall Lane, Bryan, and Paul O. Roberts jr. of 1219 Lovers Lane, Arlington.

Selections, based primarily on the student's scholastic standing and personal qualifications, were made by the department heads. Zak is majoring in petroleum engineering, and Roberts in civil engineering. Each scholarship amounts to \$450 cash award plus tuition and research expenses to a maximum of \$500.

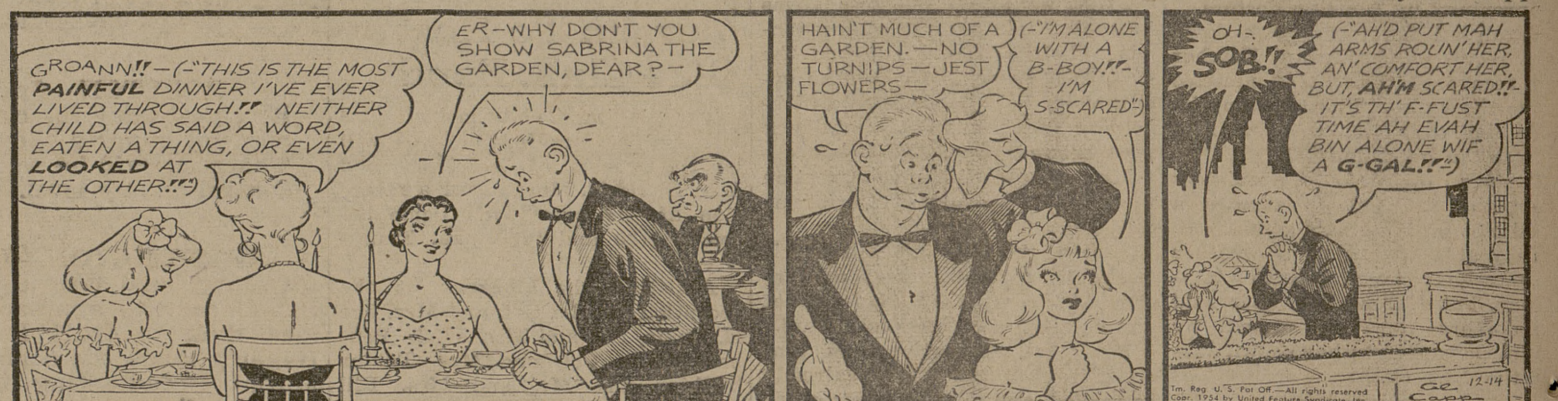
### New Dorm Officer

First Lt. James Terry, an air force officer, will be dormitory I's new tactical officer. Terry, a 1952 graduate of A&M, was a two-year letterman in track while he was here. Married, his home was originally Mesquite.

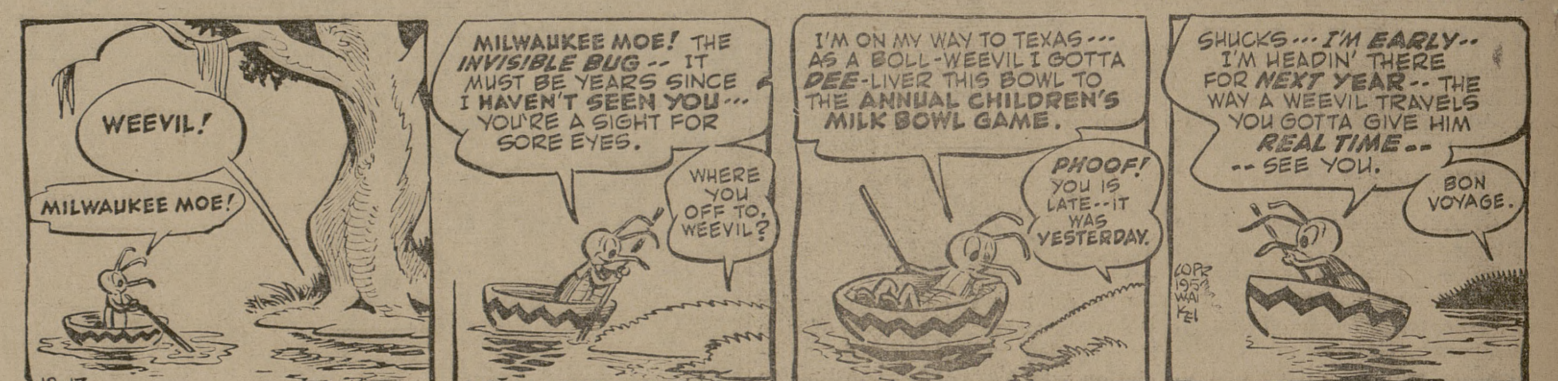
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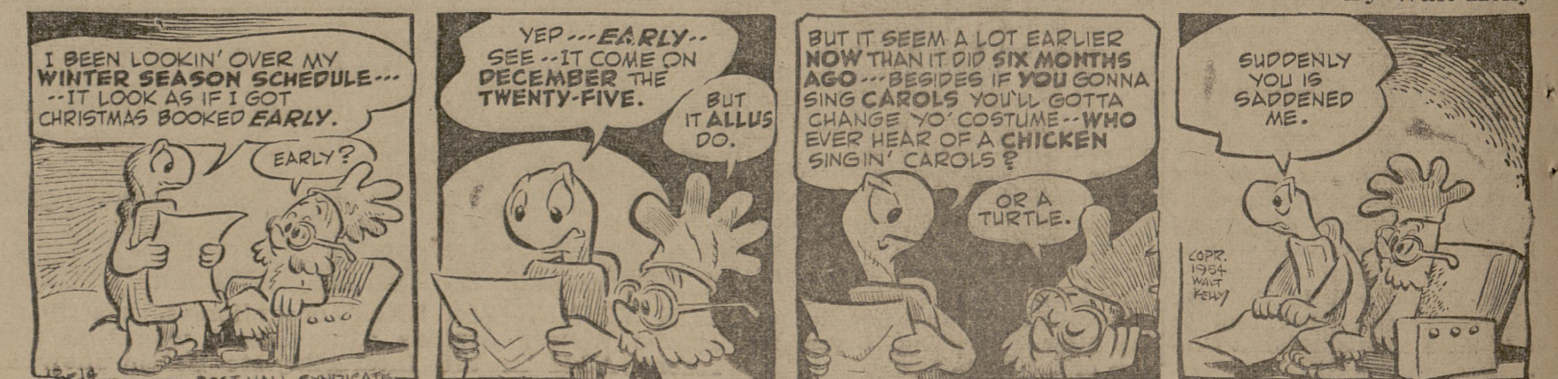
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