

SCONA

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the main function of the conference. Groups of about 20 students would meet to talk over a particular field with a specialist in that field.

Sample discussion topics are "Our Strength in Europe," "Asia—Friend or Foe?," "The United Nations—a Possible Sounding

Board?," "The U. S. and Latin America," "War or Peaceful Co-existence," and "The War of Words."

Of course, A&M students will be participating in the conference, too. Besides the planning committee and local workers, which will involve about 100 students, members of the Debate club and the MSC Junco group and Forum group will participate in the discussions.



THE GREAT CAP and GOWN CONTROVERSY

The cap and gown season is upon us, and with it comes the perennial question: which side of the cap should the tassel hang on?

This is an argument that arises every year to roil the academic world, and it is, alas, no closer to solution today than it was in 1604 when Fred Tassel invented the troublesome ornament.

Fred Tassel, incidentally, never made a penny from his invention. The sad fact is he never took out a patent on it. This tragic oversight becomes understandable, however, when one considers that patents were not invented till 1851 by Fred Patent, himself a pitiable figure. A compulsive handwasher, he died in his fourteenth year, leaving behind a wife and five spotless children.

But I digress. We were discussing which side of the cap the tassel should hang on.

For many years the universally accepted practice was to hang the tassel over the front of the cap. This practice was abandoned in 1942 when the entire graduating class of Northwestern University, blinded by tassels hanging in their eyes, made a wrong turn during commencement exercises and ended up at the Great Lakes Training Center where, all unwitting, they were inducted into the Navy for five year hitch.

There is one school of thought—large and growing daily larger—which holds that the tassel should be worn on the same side you carry your Philip Morris cigarettes. Thus a quick glance will show you where your Philip Morris are and save much time and fumbling.

This makes a good deal of sense because when one wants a Philip Morris, one wants one with a minimum of delay. One does not relish being kept, even for a second, from the clean, delicate flavor of Philip Morris, so artfully blended, so subtly concocted to please the keen and alert taste buds of young smokers. One chafes at any obstacle, however small, that is put in the way of enjoying this most edifying of cigarettes, so pleasing to the perceptive palate. Here, in king size or regular, at prices that do no violence to the slimmest of budgets, is a firm white cylinder of balm and pure, abiding content.

There is another group, small but vocal, that insists the tassel should hang over the back of the cap. The tassel, they say, is a symbol like the bullfighter's pigtail, signifying honor and courage.

They are wrong. Bullfighters wear pigtails for only one reason: to keep the backs of their necks warm. Do you have any idea what a draft a bull makes when he rushes past you? A plenty big one, you may be sure.

In fact, upper respiratory infections, contracted in the wake of passing bulls, are the largest single cause of bulling fatalities. I have this interesting statistic from the Bullfighters Mutual Life Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut, one of the few insurance companies in Hartford, Connecticut, which writes insurance exclusively for bullfighters. Incidentally, Hartford, the insurance capital of America, is a most interesting city and well worth a visit if you are ever in New England, as northeastern United States is, for some reason, called. Hartford can be reached by bus, train, plane, and the Humboldt Current. Try to make your visit in spring, when the actuaries are in bloom.

But I digress. We were talking about what side to wear the tassel on. An ingenious solution to this troubling problem was proposed a few years ago by Fred Sigafoos, perhaps better known as "The Quoit King of Delaware." An early forerunner of Mr. Sigafoos, Humboldt Sigafoos (who later invented the current which bears his name) was granted a monopoly by King George III on all quoits manufactured in Delaware. Somehow the royal appointment was never rescinded and from that day to this, every quito made in Delaware has been a Sigafoos Quito.

Well, sir, Fred Sigafoos once suggested that an equitable settlement to the great tassel controversy would be to starch the tassels so they stood upright and hung on no side of the cap at all. Mr. Sigafoos was, of course, only seeking to broaden his market, because after graduation, what can you do with an upright tassel but hurl quoits at it?

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The makers of PHILIP MORRIS who bring you this column make no recommendation about what side to hang the tassel on. But with cigarettes they say: Stay on the gentle, tasty, vintage side—with PHILIP MORRIS, of course.

The Battalion

The Editorial Policy of The Battalion Represents the Views of the Student Editors

The Battalion, newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, is published by students four times a week during the regular school year. During the summer terms The Battalion is published once a week, and during examination and vacation periods, once a week. Days of publication are Tuesday through Friday for the regular school year, Thursday during the summer terms, and Thursday during examination and vacation periods. The Battalion is not published on the Wednesday immediately preceding Easter or Thanksgiving. Subscription rates are \$3.50 per semester, \$6.00 per school year, \$7.00 per full year, or \$1.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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Battalion Editorials

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THE BATTALION

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1955

'An Awareness'

"An awareness of the problems and issues involved in formulating the foreign policy of the United States is not only desirable but essential in preparing college students for wise leadership in the free world."

With these words, the members of the Student Conference on National Affairs committee introduce the 26-page brochure that explains their conception of the SCONA conference.

There seems to be no serious doubt that A&M will be the home of the Southwest's own conference—the \$12,000 is not as big an obstacle as it sounds. There are many wealthy Texans who would like to see Texas as the home for a meeting of this type.

The SCONA conference will mean that A&M will be the focal point for international affairs in this end of the country, just as West Point is the focal point for their end of the country.

This is the sort of thing J. Earl Rudder, former student and state land commissioner, was talking about Tuesday night when he told the seniors that more people should become interested in politics—not the cat-and-dog fights of Politics with a capital P, but the politics that means taking an active interest in government at all levels.

One of the "greats" of A&M history is best known for being a gentleman, a soldier—and a statesman.

Cadet Slouch . . . by James Earle Palmer, Edwards



What's Cooking

- THURSDAY**
- 5:15—Ag Eco and Rural Sociology clubs, Hensel park, annual spring barbecue, softball game at 5:15, food served at 6:30.
 - 7:15—Kilgore and East Texas hometown clubs, room 3C MSC, joint meeting to discuss boot party.
 - Wise county hometown club, Academic building.
 - 7:30—Lavaca county hometown club, 108 Academic.
 - El Paso hometown club, 3rd floor Academic building, election of next year officers.
 - Guadalupe Valley hometown club, 125 Academic.
 - Tyler-Smith county hometown clubs, social room, MSC, election of officers.
 - Corpus Christi club, Holm's Beer Garden, election of officers and planning of boot party.
 - Pan American club, YMCA, plan beach party in Galveston.



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When you put clothes in our hands, you know they'll be returned clean, well pressed and in top form. Our reputation rests on your satisfaction.

AMERICAN LAUNDRY
 15154

Palmer, Edwards Win Math Meet

Richard Scott Palmer of Port Arthur won the freshman division of the annual mathematics contest and Charles Lauder Edwards of Itasca was named winner of the sophomore division.

Palmer won a watch presented by the Robert F. Smith Memorial fund, and Edwards received a watch provided by the H. Halperin Award fund.

Second prize winner for the freshmen was Samuel B. Wachel of Laird Hill, who received \$15. James A. Gibbs of Gainesville received \$10 as third prize.

For the sophomores, Daniel M. Stalmach of San Benito received \$15 for runner-up honors, and Ronald S. McCarter of Hillsboro won the third place award of \$10.

CIRCLE

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

MANY RIVERS TO CROSS
 ROBERT TAYLOR ELEANOR PARKER
 CINEMASCOPE EASTMAN COLOR

— Also —

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 Lana Turner

Gaiety Hall
 THEATRE
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THURSDAY & FRIDAY
"CAINE MUTINY"
 Starring Humphrey Bogart
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 with Dick Haymes

CAMPUS
 NOW thru SATURDAY

A LAFF EXPLOSION!
THE ATOMIC KID
 starring MICKEY ROONEY
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 and ELAINE DAVIS
 A REPUBLIC PICTURE

TODAY thru SATURDAY
 The "Caine Mutiny" lovers in a picture all their own!

They Rode West
 Color by TECHNICOLOR
 A COLUMBIA PICTURE

Starring ROBERT FRANCIS DONNA REED MAY WYNN PHIL CAREY
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FRI. NITE PREV. 11 P.M.

KIRK DOUGLAS JEANNE CRAIN CLAIRE TREVOR
MAN WITHOUT A STAR
 Technicolor

QUEEN
 LAST TIME
"East of Eden"
 STARTING FRIDAY
"West of Zanzibar"

USED BOOKS WANTED

We want your used books — whether reused here or not — and are prepared to pay the best price available.

FOR COMPARISON TRY ALL THE REST THEN COME TO THE BEST

THE EXCHANGE STORE
 "Serving Texas Aggies"

(Advertisement) by EARLE

FISH CUZ

I AIN'T HAVIN' NO LUCK FIXIN' MY AUTO! SOMETHINGS WRONG!

I GOT IT! I'LL GIT SOME TOOLS AT SORENSON'S! THAT'LL HELP!

THEY AIN'T NOTHIN' TO IT WITH GOOD TOOLS!

SORENSON'S HARDWARE
 ONE BLOCK NORTH OF POST OFFICE

LIL ABNER

LIME
 THE WORLD'S TASTIEST MAGAZINE

YOKUM'S HOT DOG... No end in sight...

SCIENCE

EMERGENCY FIRST AID MUSTARD RELISH HOT DOG MEAT

MEASURING METER OVEN WATER

American inventiveness took a frightening turn last week, when brawny, brainy, backwoods Pansy Yokum eliminated all competitors (who were offering 19 or 20 inch hot dogs) by inventing the ultimate—The Endless Hot Dog!!

The principle of the machine is appallingly simple. While the customer, who is charged by the yard, chops away at one end, the basic ingredients are constantly being poured into the other end. Result: Endless Hot Dog!!

And thus, for better or worse, opens a new era. Where will the Endless Hot Dog end? No one knows.

INDUSTRY

POGO

JES' PILE BOOKS UPON EACH SIDE OF THE BASKET. THAT WAY WE CAN REACH THE HANDLE AN'—

MAN-A-LIVE! WHAT IN THE FURRY TAILED WOLF WORLD DO POGO WANT WITH SO MANY BOOKS? ONED BE PLENTY.

YEH—FOR READIN' SURE. BUT HOW BOUT FER A JOB LIKE THIS OR WHEN YOU NEEDS A FEW DOORSTOPS—OH, NO, POGO GOT THE RIGHT IDEA.

NOW—WE GOT A WHAT YOU CALL A POGIUM OR A FULCRUM FROM THE LATIN OF THE SAME NAME—HELIFTS THE BASKET AN' WALKS QUIETLY—

QUIETLY IT IS.

—OFF TOWARD THE DOOR.

—OFF IT IS.

By WALT KELLY