

# The Battalion

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## Great Issues Speaker Asks Faith In Mankind

### Story on Speech Written As Personal Impressions

By BILL FULLERTON

Norman Thomas, in opening his talk at last night's Great Issues, indicated that a nation to remain strong must have faith. And then this great American, backed with the warmth of a highly appreciative audience and bothered toward the close by a persistently itchy nose, proceeded to demonstrate by word and eloquent sincerity the type of faith that can fulfill the promise of American life.

## Great Issues Announces More Speakers

Three outstanding speakers have been scheduled to speak on controversial subjects during this semester for Great Issues programs. The speakers are presented by the Memorial Student Center's Great Issues Committee.

Norman C. Thomas, political philosopher and ordained Presbyterian minister, spoke last night on "A Faith for Our Times".

Hodding Carter, liberal editor of the Greenville, Miss., Delta-Democrat Times, will speak Feb. 29 on the problem of desegregation. Carter, called the "Hot Middle" editor, is in the middle of the school desegregation fight since he has chosen to fight both sides at once. In his editorial he has denounced both sides of the issue for their approaches to inter-racial issues.

T. V. Smith, called the "Sage of Syracuse", will be the next speaker in the series April 20. He is a native Texan and a graduate of the University of Texas, and is now a professor at Syracuse University. Smith will speak on the subject, "Capitalism Unbloated". His public service has been quite varied and has included radio and TV programs, State senatorship in Illinois, Illinois congressman-at-large, and authorship of some 20 books.

The Great Issues Committee has tentatively planned a program with Harold Stassen on May 1, as well as one or two others who will be announced later.

His was not a political speech, nor was it an ideological oration; he did not try to convert anyone to Socialism.

Thomas preached, for this is the medium of faith, social or religious, on the need for a unified social faith in America—a faith that he saw lacking in our modern times.

Did Thomas describe this faith? He said what it was: a faith in the worthfulness of effort, in the sincere belief that man hasn't done all he can to bring about the peace that the world so desperately wants, a faith for the validity of faith in mankind and faith in the validity of all religions.

But he could not give to the audience such a faith; only the individual can realize faith. Thomas could not give to us what we wanted; he could only describe in words and in the sincerity that was so obvious in his person what was his own. The closest his talk could come was in describing the negative effects which accompany a lack of faith.

This description was the main part of his speech, a description that ranged in subject matter from a lack of crusading zeal in the younger generation—in my generation—to the pressing problem of desegregation.

Thomas drew on facts, just a few of which I might mention were the millions of displaced persons in the world, the cold and almost brutal fact of our thermonuclear weapons, incidents such as the violence in Auburn College over the presence of one Negro woman who wanted to pursue higher and better education, and others. But this man, humanized by the deepness of his own faith, interpreted the facts in relation to mankind. An interpretation, I might add, that is all too often forgotten in an era of cold objectivity. And an interpretation that prevents me from trying to give an entirely objective report of his speech.

The main fact you might say that Thomas denied was the present prosperity of America. He reminded us that ours was not a well-distributed prosperity. He also reminded us that ours is an economy pulled out of a depression by a major war effort and sustained since this rise by huge expenditures (See WRITER'S, Page 2)

## Batt Coverage To Include All College View

Starting today, 260 families in College View will receive The Battalion every day instead of just on Thursday as it has been in the past.

Until the Student Publications board met yesterday and voted the change, there were 260 families who had the paper delivered to them only on Thursday. This situation existed because of the higher cost involved when these persons didn't pay their activity fees.

The business department of The Battalion received a letter in November from Stanley Dutscher pointing out the interest and desire the residents of College View have in receiving the paper daily.

After a survey was made to determine just what the cost would be, the publication board members unanimously agreed that The Battalion should be delivered to all of College View even though it will cost the paper more money.

The extra cost will run around \$600 per year to serve those who don't pay their activity fee.

Ross Strader, student publications manager, said that he hoped the voting of the board would serve as an answer to the letter from Dutscher since he couldn't give a satisfactory answer until the cost survey had been made.



TYPICAL AGGIE LOOK—James McNaughten, freshman from Milam, gives out with the typical Aggie or any other College, expression when paying for books. All of the local bookstores have had a busy week as students prepare to DS during the coming semester.

## Town Hall, Feb. 15

## Houston Symphony To Play

By THE MUSIC EDITOR

Town Hall will continue its roaring pace of entertainment next week when it presents the Houston Symphony Orchestra with Sir Thomas Beecham conducting. The program will open at 8 p.m. Feb. 15 in White Coliseum.

Sir Thomas is one of the great figures of the music world, combining an audience-winning personality with outstanding musicianship. The appearance here is one of only three he will make in

Texas, and the Town Hall staff feels that his appearance here with the Houston Symphony is a rare opportunity for the people of this area.

He has done what he pleased and said what he pleased and, by unorthodox methods and speech, has accomplished more for the musical life of his country than any contemporary. His jokes between numbers and singing during them has won him endearment with Texas audiences.

The Houston Symphony Orchestra can hold its own in the field of greatness, too. High regard for the orchestra is held in Houston and in the many cities where it has appeared on tour. Guest conductors and soloists have had warm praise for the ensemble.

Sir Thomas himself, who appeared with it during the 1954-55 season, has called it one of the finest orchestras in the United States, and Leopold Stokowski, now its music director, Ernest Ansermet, Bruno Walter and other eminent conductors who have in recent years appeared with the Houston Orchestra have been equally enthusiastic about its quality.

The average age of the musicians in the Houston Symphony is 30, well under that of many other orchestras, and is one reason for the vitality and extra zest for which the group has been acclaimed.

A typical season includes: 16 student concerts, five "Pops" concerts, 20 subscription concerts, 24 broadcasts heard throughout the Gulf Coast area, 21 summer park concerts and 20-40 out-of-town concerts. This orchestra was the first southern one to tour above the Mason-Dixon line. Regional tours are frequent, and many cities of the Southwest which do not have their own orchestra have "adopted" Houston's as their own.

In the spring of 1955 Stokowski, in accepting the invitation of the Houston Symphony Society to become music director for the Houston Symphony Orchestra, said, "I see in Houston the possibility of building one of the greatest orchestras of the world."

A rare chance indeed to see and hear one of the fine orchestras of our nation conducted by one of the greatest men in the world of music.

## Civilian Weekend

## A&M Goes Western

"The Daddy of Western Swing", Bob Wills with his Texas Playboys will storm Sbis Hall March 10 as A&M goes western with the second annual Civilian Student Weekend.

During the past 20 years Bob Wills has remained at the top of the list as America's number one western dance and show band.

The celebrated radio, television and motion picture star is still the most-copied western band leader in the nation. Having introduced more

than 400 songs, he has received gold records for million-record sales for tunes such as "Home in San Antonio," "Trouble in Mind," "Iowa Jima Isle," "Steel Guitar Rag," "Take Me Back to Tulsa" and "San Antonio Rose."

His Western Dance Music in all its native vigor and authentic sound has attracted a large following over a period of years, and has earned him the title of "Daddy of Western Swing."

The name of Bob Wills and His

Texas Playboys as a box office attraction is attested by the fact that the biggest turnout ever to attend a dance on the West Coast, 8,808, were on hand recently when the Texas Playboys were in Los Angeles.

Wills hails from a family of famous fiddlers. Both his grandfathers had won the hearts of Texans who had seen them walk off with the highest honors from practically every fiddle contest they entered. His father was known as a champion fiddler and great showman. There were 17 close relatives in his family who were prize-winning fiddle players.

Also to be featured at the Civilian Weekend and barbecue will be Buster Satan and his Rhythm and Blues band who currently are featured at the Three by Twelve Club in Dallas.

Manning Smith, local square dancer and president of the Square Dancing Association of Texas, will be master of ceremonies.

## Hobgood Named To Farm Research

Price Hobgood of the Department of Agricultural Engineering has been named to the Farm and Home Equipment and Structures Research Advisory Committee by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson.

In a letter to Professor Hobgood, Secretary Benson said, "Membership on this committee offers real opportunities for you to aid the Department (USDA) in solving some of the problems facing farmers and farm homemakers in regard to farm buildings, farm machinery, and household equipment.

"The advice and counsel of the Farm and Home Equipment and Structures Research Advisory Committee aid us in developing needed research on all aspects of farm structures and farm machinery research."

First meeting of the committee which Professor Hobgood would be expected to attend will be held in Washington, D.C., Feb. 29-March 2.

## Bobby Wilkins Improved After Spinal Attack

Bobby Wilkins, freshman A&M student and son of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Taylor Wilkins, is reported improving in Bryan Hospital after an attack of spinal meningitis last week.

Wilkins entered the hospital last Friday afternoon, and was in a coma for several hours. Doctors at the hospital have tapped Wilkins spine to remove fluid collected there as a result of the disease. Also reported improving was John Lynn Barkley, a veteran student majoring in Pre-Veterinary Medicine, who was stricken with internal hemorrhages and a collapsed lung during final week.

Mrs. G. W. Pollan of College Station has received a letter from Barkley's wife who said a tube had been placed in her husband's side to drain fluid from his body. The lung has started functioning again and he is breathing much easier.

Doctors have started exercising Barkley but there has been no diagnosis as to what his trouble is as yet. Barkley is in McClosky Hospital in Temple. He was first taken to the College Hospital where blood transfusions were administered before he could be moved to Temple.

## Cvl. Seniors, Etc. Can Get Pictures

Civilian seniors, graduate and veterinary medicine students should have class pictures for the 1956 Aggield made Feb. 6 thru Feb. 17.

Civilian students growing beards may have their pictures made during the week of March 12-16.

The schedule is as follows:  
Feb. 9-10—H-N  
Feb. 13-14—O-S  
Feb. 16-17—T-S

Portraits will be made between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Aggield Studio in North Gate.

## Physics Assistants Wanted For Spring

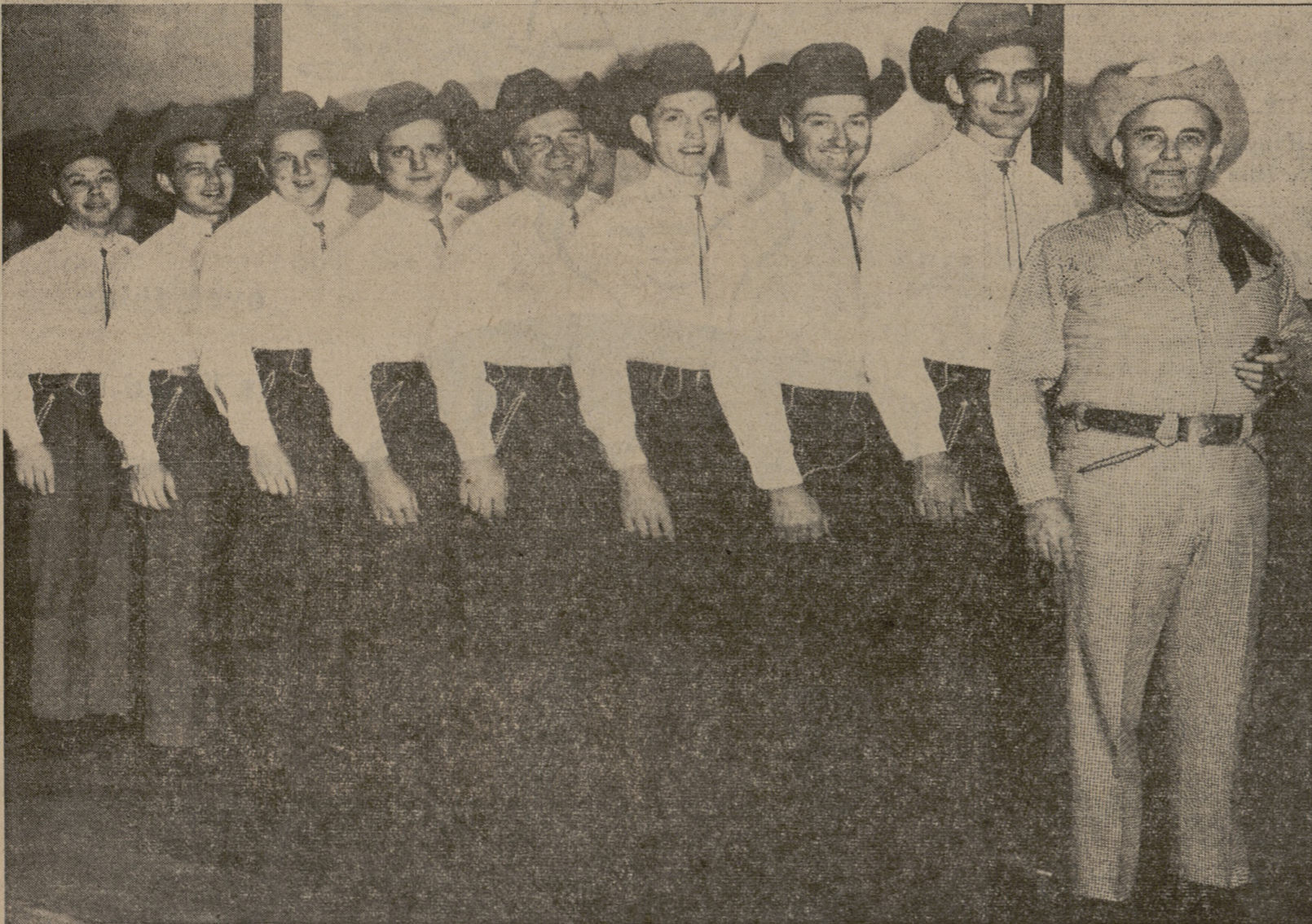
Laboratory assistants are needed in the Physics Department for the spring semester. Students who have completed sophomore physics courses with superior records are needed to assist with instruction, grading and handling of apparatus in the laboratories.

Compensation is 90 cents per hour for new assistants and \$1 for experienced assistants. Applications should be turned in to J. G. Potter in the Physics Department.

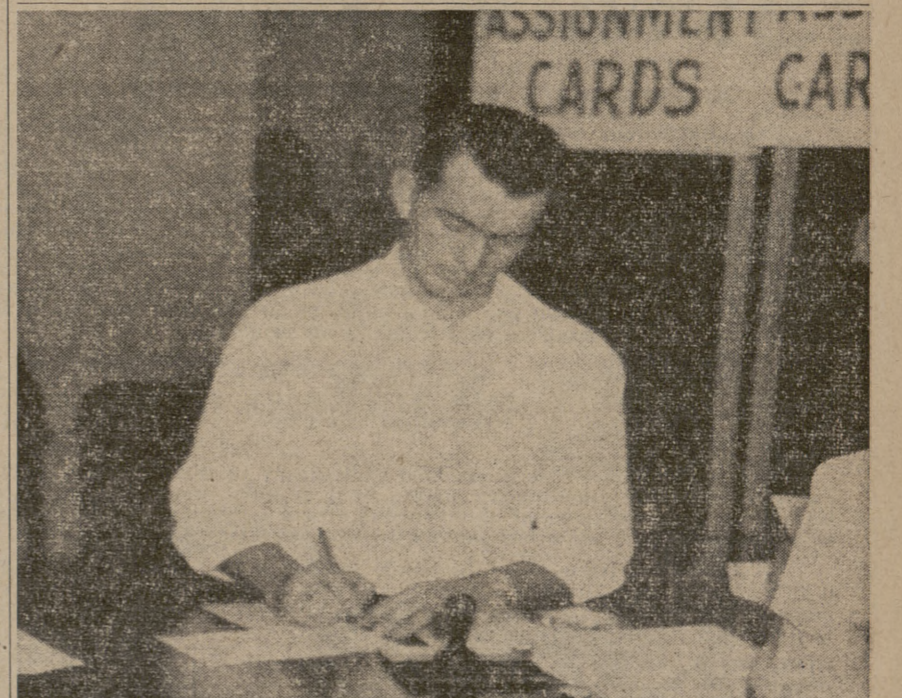
## Weather Today

CLEARING

The light rain will clear off around 4:30 this afternoon leaving the temperature lower from a slight cold front. Tomorrow is forecast as clear. Yesterday's high was 66 degrees with a low at 7:30 this morning of 55 degrees. Temperature at 10:30 a.m. today was 56 degrees.



Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys To Be Here For Civilian Weekend



SNOWBOUND—Many A&M students like T. L. McMordie Jr. from Odessa were forced to register late due to the severe cold wave which gripped Texas late last week and is still hanging on. One advantage of registering late is you don't have to fight the crowds—or do you?