

The Hardest Choice

One of the hardest decisions that a senator or representative in a government—whether state, national or college—has to face is where to draw the line on politics.

This is the line between doing the "safe" thing and doing what actually is the individual's heritage: an honest attempt to do right by man, to try to ameliorate man's inhumanity to man.

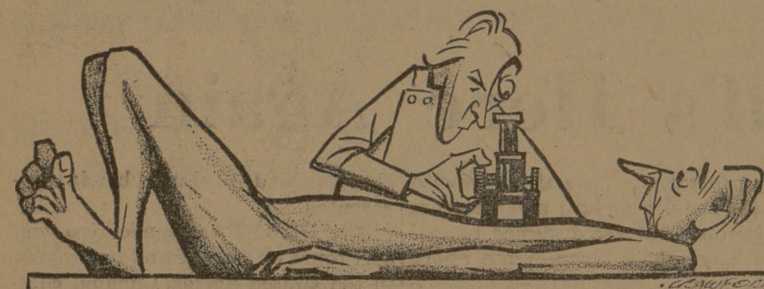
Our A&M Student Senate, and the individual senators, tried to do this in their decision on segregation. For taking action, The Battalion salutes them. For their decision, The Battalion pledges its wholehearted support.



ADVENTURES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE: NO. 3

Today, ranging again into the fascinating world of social science, let us take up the subject of anthropology—the study of man and his origins.

The origin of man was indeed a vexing question until the Frenchman, Jean-Louis Sigafoos, discovered the skull and shinbone of Pithecanthropus Erectus in Java in 1891. (What Sigafoos was doing in Java is, incidentally, quite an odd little story. Sigafoos was a Parisian born and bred. By day one could always find him at a boulevard cafe, sipping Biere de Racine and ogling the girls; each night he went to a fashionable casino where he gambled heavily at roulette and jacks; in between times he worked on his stamp collection.



(Well sir, one summer Sigafoos lost his entire fortune gambling at the casino, and he was seriously contemplating suicide when a ray of hope appeared in an unexpected quarter. It seems that Sigafoos, through the international stamp collectors journal, had long been in correspondence with a girl in Java, a mission-educated savage named Lotus Petal McGinnis, herself an enthusiastic stamp collector. The nature of their correspondence, though friendly, had been entirely philatelic. Now, suddenly, a new kind of letter came from Lotus Petal. She declared that although she had never laid eyes on Sigafoos, she loved him and wanted to marry him. She said she was eighteen years old, beautiful, and her father, the richest man in his tribe, would give half his fortune to the husband of her choice. Sigafoos, in his reduced circumstances, had no alternative; he sold his last few belongings and booked passage for Java.

(The first sight of his prospective bride failed to delight Sigafoos. She was, as she said, beautiful—but only by local standards. Sigafoos had serious doubts that her bright red pointed teeth and the chicken bones hanging from her ear lobes would be considered chic along the Champs Elysees.

(But sobering as was the sight of Lotus Petal, Sigafoos had an even greater disappointment coming when he met her father. The old gentleman was, as Lotus Petal had represented, the richest man in his tribe, but, unfortunately, the medium of exchange in his tribe was prune pits.

(Sigafoos took one look at the mound of prune pits which was his dowry, gnashed his teeth, and stomped off into the jungle, swearing vilely and kicking at sticks and stones and whatever else lay in his path. Stomping thus, swearing thus, kicking thus, Sigafoos kicked over a heap of old bones which—what do you know!—turned out to be the skull and shin of Pithecanthropus Erectus.)

But I digress... From the brutish Pithecanthropus, man evolved slowly upward, growing more intelligent and resourceful. By the Middle Paleolithic period man had invented the leash, which was a remarkable technical achievement, but frankly not terribly useful until the Mesolithic period when man invented the dog.

In the Neolithic period came far and away the most important development in the history of mankind—the discovery of agriculture. Why is this so important, you ask? Because, good friends, without agriculture there would be no tobacco, and without tobacco there would be no Philip Morris, and without Philip Morris you would be without the gentlest, mildest, sunniest, pleasantest, happiest smoke that money can buy, and I would be without a job.

That's why.

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To their Neolithic ancestors, the makers of Philip Morris extend a grateful salute. And so will you when you try today's new gentle Philip Morris in today's new pack of red, white and gold.

The Battalion

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

The Battalion, daily newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, is published by students in the Office of Student Publications as a non-profit educational service. The Director of Student Publications is Ross Strader. The governing body of all student publications of the A&M College of Texas is the Student Publications Board. Faculty members are Karl E. Elmquist, Chairman; Donald D. Burchard, Tom Leland and Bennie Zinn. Student members are Derrell H. Gullies, Paul Holladay, and Wayne Moore. Ex-officio members are Charles Roeder and Ross Strader, Secretary. The Battalion is published four times a week during the regular school year and once a week during the summer and vacation and examination periods. Days of publication are Tuesday through Friday for the regular school year and on Thursday during the summer terms and 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, \$6.00 per full year, or \$1.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Member of The Associated Press

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BILL FULLERTON Editor
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Letters To The Editor

Editor, (To Mr. J. W. Osborn):

In regard to your letter to The Battalion editor of Wednesday March 14, I would like to point out, for your benefit, the order of senatorial elections by the student body, according to Article 3, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Student Body of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, (as amended) August 26, 1954.

There is no distinction between corps and civilian students in electing senators from the separate classes. There is a civilian senator to represent each civilian dormitory; the corps dormitories do not have this privilege. The other members of the Senate are elected by a general class election in which both civilian and corps members vote.

ARTICLE III The Student Senate Section II Representation

1. There shall be elected two student senators from the day students.
2. There shall be one student senator from College View.
3. There shall be one student senator from each non-military dormitory.
4. The Vice-President from each class shall be a member of the Student Senate.

5. There shall be fifteen (15) senators elected at large from the Senior Class, by the Senior Class.
6. There shall be ten (10) senators elected at large from the Junior Class, by the Junior Class.
7. There shall be six (6) Senators elected at large from the Sophomore Class, by the Sophomore Class.
8. Any Texas A&M students who are officers of the TISA will, by virtue of their office in TISA, become ex-officio members of the Student Senate, representing the student body in excess of the numbers listed above.

Thank you, Mr. Osborn for your interest in the operation of the Student Senate. I wish that more students would take a more active interest in their school, such as you have.

John D. Cunningham, Jr., '56
John Petty, '56

Editor, The Battalion:

The Student Senate met Thursday night to decide the student body's view on integration. To you I presume, the decision was most pleasing. But was this really

the way the student body feels? Or was this the feeling of the individual senators?

The purpose of the Senate is to represent the students in making policies for the student body. But, how many senators ask the students' ideas and viewpoints? Only one of the senators that I know has ever asked me what I thought about something and that was Thursday morning in the MSC barbershop. This senator told me that they were going to discuss integration at the Senate meeting that night. He then asked me if there was anything I wanted him to say at the meeting on integration. I told him that there was but since he knew I pro-segregation he probably would not say it. This senator then said, "That's right!"

Also to my knowledge in one of

C. B. Ryan Named Outstanding Prof

C. B. Ryan, professor in the Poultry Husbandry Department at A&M, was chosen as the outstanding professor of this year in Agriculture by the Collegiate FFA Chapter last week.

The chapter voted to sponsor another \$125 scholarship to the most needy junior Agricultural Education major next year. A plaque will be presented to the outstanding junior and senior in the department at the Professor and Student Banquet April 11.

CADET SLOUCH by James Earle



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tors refuse to carry with them the senate meetings the views of the students they represent. It is destroying the ideal we are looking for by having a Student Senate.

If the Student Senate is going to act in this manner this campus would be in a better position if there was not a senate.

James C. Blackmon, '56

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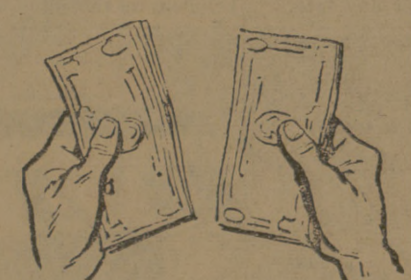
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