

Letters to the Editor

Editor,
 The Battalion
 The "cow" path worn by the civilians across the drill field looks just as bad as the "cow" path worn across Spence Park by the Corps seniors and the shrubs trampled down in front of Sbis Hall looks just as shabby as the shrubs trampled down at the once nice-looking entrance to the Corps Area.

As long as we have people up here who say "I'd like to see anybody stop me from walking across the drill field" or "it's my privilege" we will always have people who never speak, never whip out and write totally negative letters to The Battalion.

Kenneth Haggard '58

Editor,
 The Battalion
 In reading yesterday's letters there was one phrase that struck me as being particularly apt.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Today we are divided and A&M, not just the A&M represented by the buildings on this campus, but the A&M whose traditions and spirit have given to the graduates the reputation of having more than just an academic education cannot stand.

The division is not strictly between Corps and civilians. We are not lilly white or pitch black just because of the clothes we wear or the dorm we live in. But, consider, if a man fails to speak, fails to whip out, fails to show those traits that make up this A&M, which is he more likely to be, a cadet or a civilian?

Many of the civilians who for some reason or for their own personal preference are not in the Corps are good Aggies in this respect, and many of the men in the Corps are not, but this is the exception rather than the rule. Initially a fish in the Corps has

restrictions and threats of punishment to force him to be a good Aggie, but as he becomes higher classified these restrictions and threats for the most part disappear.

Does he quit speaking, meeting, and the like?

A few do, but in the eyes of their fellow Cadets they are considered about on a par with the "scroungy non-regs". Aggies respect a civilian who shows he is truly an Aggie, but, especially now that it is possible for a man to go through this school without ever being in the Corps, too few show it.

It is up to the civilians to settle this among themselves. A proper freshman orientation, on a par with that of the Corps, or some other means of instilling in them a proper regard for the traditions that have made an Aggie something special is needed.

This will be a difficult job, more difficult than in the Corps, but it is necessary if this school is to keep both quantity and quality. Otherwise A&M will be forced to choose between losing its hard won reputation or making the Corps mandatory for all students.

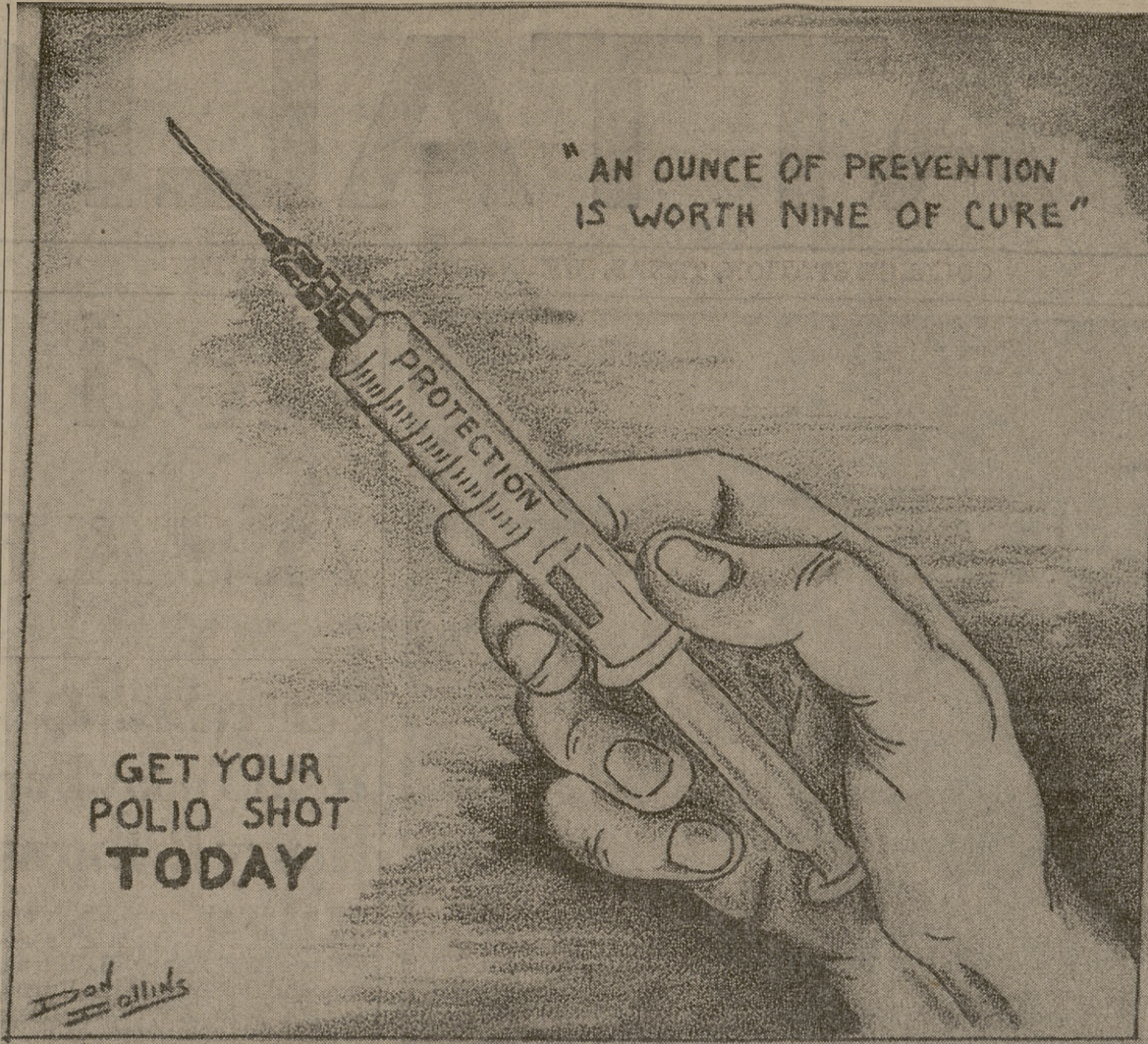
Chapman, you want to see anyone stop you from walking across the drill field.

How about walking across the MSC grass, or sitting down at football games, or burning lights at Silver Taps? The drill field is supposed to be a show place of the Corps. All, but a very few of the "scroungy cadets" respect it. The only blemish on its fine green surface is the brown path from Law and Puryear Halls to the MSC.

Don't you think you and a few of your buddies could respect it too?

If you did that might be a start toward us being all Aggies together, not Cadets and "scroungy non-regs".

Charles Tucker '58



Editor,
 The Battalion,
 For the last two days the "Letters to the Editor" column has shown more of the old dissension between military and civilian students. A person with any perception whatsoever can probably give several reasons for this.

The military students lead a daily life of discipline, part of which are the old Aggie traditions of speaking and meeting. Of the civilian students who have never had any contact with this daily military life, quite a number seem to have no regard for these and many other traditions.

It is a privilege to carry out the traditions which have been a part of the school for so long. In the Corps, where these customs were born, keeping tradition is made to be thought of as a duty, as well as a privilege. But to the average non-reg traditions are to be observed when it is convenient, and forgotten when it is not. Possibly the most outstanding example of this is the making of the annual bonfire, one of our most honored customs.

While the Corps does not pretend that working on the bonfire is a

pleasant task, it has always gone ahead, knowing that the result would be well worth the effort.

This is one tradition which can be used as a sort of yardstick in the measurement of one who has the true Aggie spirit. If, by some strange trick of fate, the non-regs turned out en masse for the bonfire

activities this fall, a long step would have been made toward a better understanding between the two factions. 'Til then the terms "two percenters" and "non-reg" will be synonymous.

John A. Strauss '59

P. S. Vive la compulsory two year corps.

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The Battalion

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

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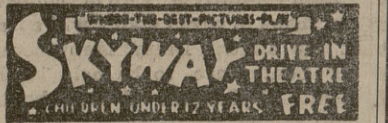
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JIM BOWER

Editor



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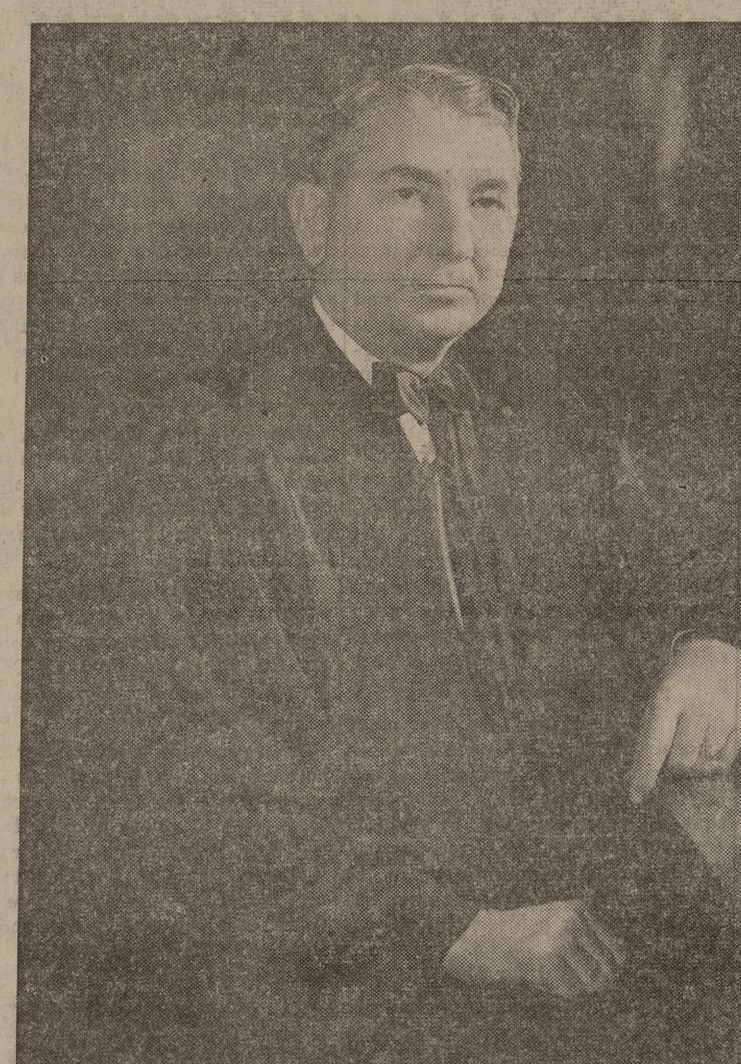
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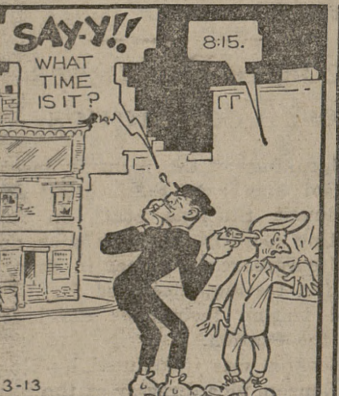
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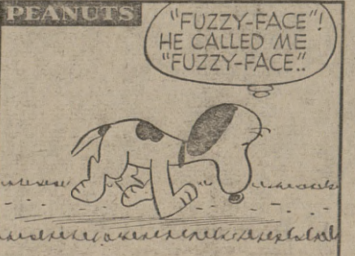
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