

An Editorial

Does A&M Really Need Compulsory Corps?

In light of the Board of Directors recent action making military training compulsory for the first two years, those interested in the progress of A&M and the future of Texas young men might ask:

Is the main function of A&M to mass produce military officers in West Point fashion or "to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanic arts"?

The latter is directly quoted as the main object for establishing land grant colleges under the Morrill Act of July 2, 1862. That act placed only minor emphasis on teaching military tactics.

Therefore, A&M's primary purpose is not to become another West Point but to provide training for Texas young men in the agricultural and mechanical arts.

Each board member should ask himself if he has hindered chances of ambitious, intelligent Texas young men to pursue studies in agricultural and mechanical arts.

Since A&M was established for the specific purpose and we like to think that no other college or university in the state can provide as thorough training in those fields, why restrict any qualified young man from attending A&M merely because he does not wish to participate in Corps activities?

If academic education is the main goal of A&M, why didn't you give more regard to the top A&M educators' opinion that the non-compulsory system was the best?

If making A&M another West Point is your goal, you are overlooking the major objective of the land grant college.

Since the Morrill Act did mention training in military tactics, and if you feel it important, why not provide means by which a student may take military tactics but be required to wear the uniform while participating only in the theory classes and at drill?

It has already been discovered, and as board members you have probably learned, that students not in the Corps of Cadets have averaged higher grades.

You may also be aware that some engineering companies are concerned because Civilian students are getting more liberal education than Corps students. Civilians are not using the three semester hour elective during the junior and senior year for military or air science courses but are taking other courses.

A point which has been brought out time and again but which has evidently been lost in the shuffle is the value of the non-compulsory system to the Corps of Cadets.

There are few who advocate disbanding the Corps. Of course such a move would be entirely unnecessary and unwise.

There are those, however, who think that because entering students do not have to remain in the Corps of Cadets, the truly dedicated cadet is the only one who remains in the Corps.

As a result, the Corps has the most dedicated men and those who do not prefer military training may find their niche in Civilian life. If they cannot adjust to either situation, they ultimately leave school.

Perhaps the Board is not familiar with just how much progress the Civilian student body has made in its 4-year lifetime. If it is not, it should be in order to make an intelligent decision.

Corps leaders have probably indicated they feel the Corps would be stronger if military training were compulsory the first two years. It may make them stronger in numbers but they're kidding themselves if they think quantity will bring with it quality. The basic problems will still exist whether there are 3,000 or 6,000 cadets.

There is some merit to the argument that two years of military training won't hurt anybody. But the decision must be left with the student after he evaluates what he wants from his college career.

The Board would do well to respect the opinions of such men as former acting President D. W. Williams and the deans and department heads of the college. These men have been closely connected with both Civilian and Corps students and know the problem well.

Though it would probably be difficult to reconsider the decision, the best interests of future A&M students and young men of Texas might be best served in this manner.

Reaffirming our belief in the future of A&M College and forever striving for a better Aggieland, The Battalion places its confidence in the Board of Directors and respectfully requests it to reconsider and return A&M to the non-compulsory system in the interests of future Aggies.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS by Dick Bibler



"SAY DIDJA NOTICE THAT NEW CHICK SERVING THE DESERTS?"



Everyone has heard of flagpole sitters. But who ever heard of a flagpole sacker? Well, there was one in the new area last night—peacefully bagged out, wrapped in a red blanket, at the foot of the flagpole. Now, if it hasn't been stolen in all these years, chances seem pretty slim. Maybe this night-watchman need night-watch no more.

Charles Wilson, junior vet student, had this to say yesterday regarding the board's action on compulsory Corps. "I can hardly wait until I'm an 'Ex.' I'll be like all the rest—anti-non-reg and anti changes in the school in general. If it was good enough for me, it'll be good enough for my grandchildren."

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

The Battalion

Your editorial concerning the Honor Code and the Corps of cadets versus the civilian students stinks as far as I'm concerned. I personally feel that you are abusing your rights as editor of The Battalion for printing such material as this. You have continually fought a one-man battle against the Corps since you took your position last year as editor.

I guess that my respect for the Texas Aggie must rank higher than yours. I figured that Aggies have always had respect and honor, and that it would be impossible to "force" honor upon those who already had it.

And as for your civilian buddies, they can eat crow in my book. I'm not speaking of the veterans, fifth-year men, or the Corps upperclassmen, who had to leave the Corps for various reasons.

It's the "boys" that come to Aggieland and never join the Corps; or even worse, the "fish" that joins the Corps, can't take it, and leaves to join a very lonely group, the "non-regs." If I had to leave the Corps of cadets, I'd also leave the entire school system. To me, the only thing that keeps me here is the Corps. If I were a non-reg, I'd be better off in Austin with some sweet,

young thing to keep me company.

I personally feel, as a junior, that the Honor Code isn't being forced down my throat. A lot of people don't understand it, and it's certainly going to take a lot more preparation and indoctrination before it is brought into effect. But it isn't impossible! If this Honor Code flops now, it'd be spread across every paper in the state, and possible the country. Wouldn't that look great? "Texas A&M students feel they can't live up to an honor code."

You're fighting a losing battle, Mr. Editor. I feel that this Honor Code is for the Texas Aggie Corps of cadets. If the non-regs feel they can live up to it, they're invited to join. If not, c'le la vie!

Jack Teague, '59

CAMPUS
 WEDNESDAY
 "Rodan The Flying Monster"

SKYWAY DRIVE IN THEATRE
 THROUGH FRIDAY
 "Band of Angels" With Clark Gable plus "Attack" With Jack Palance

PALACE
 STARTS TODAY
 20 PAT BOONE SHIRLEY JONES
 April Love
 CINEMASCOPE
 COLOR BY DE LUXE
 Hear all of Pat's and Shirley's new song on our new 4-track stereophonic sound equipment. Feature time. 1.21 3:21 - 5:21 - 7:21 - 9:21.

QUEEN
 Last Day
 "HOLIDAY FOR HENRIETTA"

LPL ABNER
 DO YOU, JACK S. PHOGBOUND SENATOR BY COURTESY OF THE SQUEEZEBLOOD LOAN COMPANY...
 pssst!! QUIET!! FOLKS MIGHT THINK AH IS TIED UP WIF THEM CROOKS...
 WHICH AH IS—
 DO YOU TAKE THIS-ER- LOVELY YOUNG LADY AS YOUR LAWFUL WEDDED WIFE, COURTESY OF SHAVO, THE MODERN METHOD OF REMOVING SUPERFLUOUS HAIR?—
 YOU HAVE BEEN GENEROUSLY ALLOTTED 10 SECONDS TO SAY "I DO" BY THE DANDRUFF INSTITUTE OF AMERICA!!
 AH—GRANT—DO!!

PEANUTS
 THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH HATRED!
 DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S TRUE, CHARLIE BROWN?
 I KNOW IT'S TRUE.
 THE WHOLE WORLD HATES ME!

Arts String Quartet Show Here Friday

By WELTON JONES

Admirers of chamber music and particularly of classic string quartet will have a chance to see one of the better such ensembles performing in the United States at this time, when the Memorial Student Center Recital Series presents the Fine Arts String Quartet Friday at 8 p. m.

Far more permanent than such groups, the Fine Arts Quartet has been performing together since 1946. In addition to concert tours, they have been featured in radio and television programs and on Decca and Mercury records.

Each member of the group is active in other facets of the music world. All are members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with the exception of Abram Loft, second violinist, who is a music professor at Columbia University.

The group consists of the traditional first violin, second violin, and violoncello. Leonard Sorokin is first violinist; Loft, second;

Irving Ilmer, violist and George Sopkin, cellist.

The quartet has appeared extensively in concerts across the nation and are planning their first European tour this Spring.

A recent nation-wide mail vote conducted by Dave Garroway on his television show "Today", disclosed that the group was the most popular musical organization to appear on the program in the six years of its history.

Included in the quarter's repertoire are the complete quartet cycles of Beethoven, Bartok, Brahms and Shostakovich; the single works of Mozart, Haydn and Schubert; the modern composers Britten, Prokofieff, Milhaud, Williams, Villa-Lobos and many others, both modern and contemporary.

The four instruments used by the group were all made before 1729, and Ilmer's Viola, a Gaspar Da Salo, was made in 1560. First violinist Sorokin plays one of the few remaining Stradivarius violins known to exist.

DO YOU HAVE VACANT SPOTS ON YOUR WALLS?

Is there a Discord in the Decor of your Den?

Is There a Lack of Luster in your Living Room?

Is there a Bold, Bare wall in your Boudoir?

Is there Space to Spare on the walls of the bed room reserved for Special guests?

If your answer to any one of the above questions is, "Yes", we have an easy and inexpensive solution to your problem.

Read Friday's Battalion—get all the details of our Gigantic Print Sale, and shop The Exchange Store early Monday for the opportunity of a lifetime.

We sent a buyer to New York to personally select the prints of famous water colors and oils which will be on display in The Exchange Store starting Monday, December 9.

These are offered to you at from 1/3 to 1/10th of their publication price.

Mark your calendar to shop The Exchange Store Monday.

The Exchange Store

In Its 50th Year of Serving Texas Aggies
 P. S. We also have a large stock of Mat Board in a wide range of colors and a large selection of Unfinished frames.

Shaffer's
 THE PLACE TO BUY RECORDS
 North Gate College Station

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 Dr. Carroll D. Laverty, Chairman; Prof. Donald D. Burchard, Prof. Robert M. Stevenson and Mr. Bennie Zinn. Student members are W. T. Williams, John Avant and Billy W. Libby. Ex-officio members are Mr. Charles Rober, 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. Subscription rates are \$3.50 per semester, \$6.00 per school year, \$6.50 per full year or \$1.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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 JOE TINDEL Editor

Guion hall
 THEATRE
 WEDNESDAY

ELIA KAZAN'S
 production of
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS'
 boldest story!
baby doll

FROM WARNER BROS. STARRING
KARL MALDEN - CARROLL BAKER
ELI WALLACH
 Story and Screen Play by FRANCIS WILLIAMS - ELIA KAZAN
 A WARNER BROS. Production

By Al Capp

By Charles M. Schulz