

An Editorial

# School for Parents

The "good old days" may be gone forever, but this week College Station parents have a special invitation to go back to school and once more smell the chalk dust when blackboards are erased, the mixture of odors coming from the chemistry laboratory and hear the marching feet on the way out to recess.

But visiting their children's school is much more important to a parent than just recalling fond memories. This is Texas Public School Week, honoring the Texas schools which were created 104 years ago when the first law was passed establishing the public school.

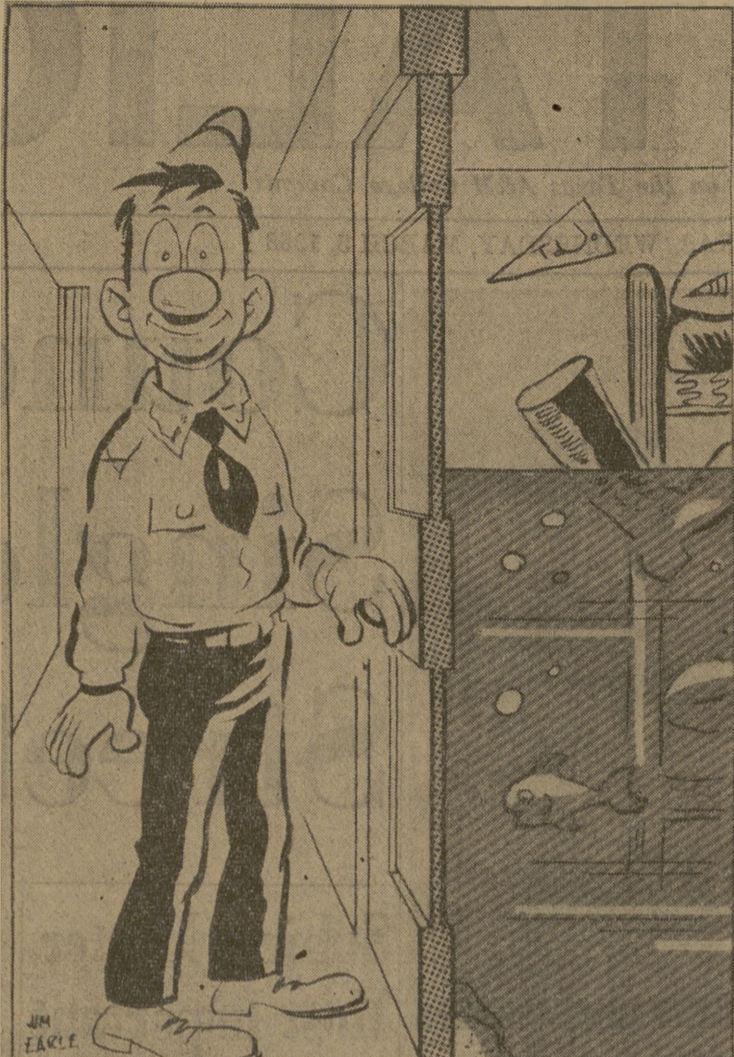
The need for the public school never changes, but times and conditions may change or require the change of methods and practices in education. This is inherent with anything that grows, for growth is the result of change.

It is a healthy thing in our democratic way of life to have intelligent understanding of the important functions of our basic institutions. This is especially true of the schools. The initiative and resourcefulness and the wisdom and leadership that our schools are inculcating in the youth of today are the answer to the problems of citizenship in the years ahead.

Local citizens can be assured of this and do their part in understanding and helping the public schools to fulfill their great obligation to America's future by being a participant in the annual Public School Week, which began Monday and closes Friday.

Open house is being held in all College Station schools. Their hospitality should not be wasted. Anyone who cares enough to send his child to school should care enough to want to know what kind of school he is attending. (—GM)

## CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I'M SURE GLAD TH' WATER FIGHTIN' CRAZE IS OVER!"

# American Science Students Climbing Despite Handicaps

By GARTH JONES

AUSTIN, (AP)—Three traveling salesmen for better teaching of science and mathematics think the nation is well on its way to regaining the lead in worldwide science education.

"It's the students themselves that make you feel good about the whole thing," says Wayne Taylor, director of the Science Teaching Improvement Program at the University of Texas.

He and two colleagues traveled 70,000 miles during the past year trying to help Texas teachers give better math and science instruction. Their traveling, however, was not without certain instruction of its own.

### Football Monuments

"Cities and towns all over Texas are building monuments to football spectators which are used maybe half a dozen times a year while their gifted youngsters daily struggle along in inadequate laboratories where they can't even lift a test tube without bumping into somebody else's Bunsen burner," says the outspoken Taylor.

"I have yet to see a football team go on the field without adequate equipment, yet every day we see science teachers laboring to teach our children without proper or even adequate facilities."

In addition to working with teachers and school administrators, Taylor's center is making big plans for the addition of a science incentive contest to the annual Texas Interscholastic League competition in the spring of 1959.

"Last year Texas schools held more science fairs than any other state," Taylor said proudly. "Ten per cent of the entries in the na-

tional science fair came from Texas and we had 10 per cent of the winners."

Such response keeps Taylor and his partners bubbling about the educational wares they peddle.

### Back Yard Dangers

They are not promoting a "crash program" to turn out millions of "smooth dome" prodigies. For instance, they do not encourage backyard rocket launching experiments.

"In fact we have asked some local papers not to publish rocket fuel formulas," said Alan Humphreys, a member of the team. "There are plenty of creative activities in science without taking up the dangerous ones."

The science teaching improvement center here is completing its second year of operation, with funds from a two-year grant by the American Assn. for Advancement of Science. The association also supports similar programs in Oregon, Nebraska and Pennsylvania. Even though the science association grant will end this year, the program will continue in Texas because 19 participating schools have agreed to share its cost.

Duties of a science counselor include explaining and encouraging the use of visual aids, planning experiments, advising advanced students, and giving expert counsel on everything from planning a new laboratory to staging science fairs.

### Work With Converts

One of their most important functions, according to John Wagner, another team member, is working with teachers with no previous experience in science instruction.

These "retreads" — teachers converted from one job to another — are a big problem. In 24 Texas schools last year, 14 vocational agriculture teachers were converted to science or math teachers. The decrease in rural population has cut down the demand for agriculture instructors while the need for science and math teachers is almost unlimited.

# Survey Shows Students Like Sports Participation

Results of a recent survey by the Associated Collegiate Press National Poll of Student Opinion Show that College students in general prefer to take part in sports rather than just to watch.

Men interviewed contributed most strongly to this overall high preference. Coeds who would rather participate barely edged out their sisters who would prefer to be spectators.

To obtain these preferences, the Associated Collegiate Press asked the following question:

"Do you prefer to watch sports events, or would you rather take part in them? Why?"

The overall figures showed that 56 per cent of the interviewed students preferred to participate,

24 per cent preferred to watch, 18 per cent had no preference and 2 per cent were undecided.

Broken down, 65 per cent of the men preferred to participate, 18 per cent had no preference, 13 per cent liked to watch and 4 per cent couldn't make up their minds one way or the other.

From the girls asked, 42 per cent liked to participate, 49 per cent preferred to watch and 18 per cent showed no preference.

Although the more energetic coeds were barely in the majority, they all at least were certain whether they preferred action, observation or whether they were neutral. The more ambitious men, on the other hand, have a few in their ranks who haven't decided which class they fall into.

## Letters To The Editor

Editor: The Battalion

After reading the figures concerning the effect of optional Corps on enrollment at A&M I

am wondering if you have the figures on how many of the 3,616 Civilian students enrolled for the spring semester of this year are fifth year men (not graduate students) who have completed four years in the Corps. I suspect this number plus the men who are veterans will reduce your Civilian majority to a considerable minority.

Don Lummus '58

## Job Calls

Thursday

Reliance Electric & Engineering Co. will interview electrical, industrial and mechanical engineers interested in sales, manufacturing, production, marketing and research.

Cabot Carbon Co. of Pampa will interview chemical, civil and mechanical engineers.

Owen-Illinois of Toledo, Ohio, will interview accounting, business administration, economics, physics, chemistry, and industrial, chemical, mechanical, electrical, civil, and architectural engineering majors.

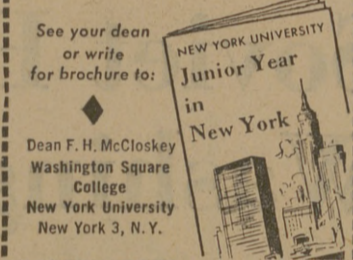
Bell Telephone System will interview economics, business administration, civil, electrical, industrial, and mechanical engineering majors.

You may glean knowledge by reading, but you must separate the chaff from the wheat by thinking.

—Francis Osborn

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