

**BATTALION EDITORIALS**

Our Liberty Depends on the Freedom of the Press, And It Cannot Be Limited Without Being Lost... Thomas Jefferson

**The Right to Differ**

In America people are not compelled to join a single political party, attend a special church, live in a certain district or work at a particular job. Americans make up their own minds—they can like or dislike anything they please. And most everyone has different ideas on the best place to live, the prettiest girl in the world, the most valuable profession to society. Yet these seemingly complete different people live together in close harmony—despite their differences.

This is what makes America great. The privilege to disagree—and a privilege it is—is one of the most sacred of American heritages. It motivated the country to separate from England and set itself up as a bulwark to individual freedom. It inspired the writers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. It is still governing for our nation.

Newspapers of America are like people. They disagree on occasions with their readers and sometimes with each other since they too, have the privilege of deciding for themselves.

This doesn't make the newspaper's side of an argument right—only a fool denies the possibility of "another" side. But it is one side. Because of the wealth of information a paper has to draw on through its many sources, it usually has some support in fact.

Since the very first issue in 1893, The Battalion has been no different than its counterparts across the nation. It has taken sides editorially, often at the risk of losing friends, advertising and sometimes the right to publish on the campus. But the side the "Batt" takes isn't always the right side.

This is certain since the men writing and editing the paper are human—just like readers. They have opinions based on fact from conversation or reading—and partly from prejudice-like readers.

Occasionally The Battalion gets the "right slant" on things and comes up with a good solution for a change. On these occasions the editorial agrees with your opinion. Again, the human element should not be belittled.

But whether an editorial is for or against the side you personally favor, it must be remembered that it is presented only as an approach to the problem... not the final answer. Readers have the same choice as newspapers; they can weigh the argument and disagree if they wish. A newspaper will not, since it cannot force readers to agree.

But so long as America is free and people disagree, The Battalion and all the other free papers of the country will, in the words of Voltaire, "defend your right to the death to say it, though we may not agree..."

**An Editors Viewpoint**

**Loss for Words**

(Ed. Note: The following article, written by E. E. Kauffold in the Dodge (Neb.) Criterion, is a candid viewpoint of an editor's relation with the public... at least on occasion.)

I was reminded of all this when a man said to me: "I wish you hadn't printed that picture of my daughter. It was a poor one and didn't look like her at all." I said: "I'm sorry."

It wasn't long after that a man complained to me that I was showing favoritism when I failed to print a picture that he was interested in, yet had printed a similar one of a different group later. I said: "I'm sorry."

Another fellow some time later asked, "How come you passed up the story on that particular farming activity?" I said: "I'm sorry."

And then there's the time the irate young matron called on the phone and in no uncertain tones said that we had misspelled the name of her new baby. I said: "I'm sorry."

Another member of the gentler sex called one time and informed

me that we had omitted a name from her party guest list and that she wanted to cancel her subscription. I said: "I'm sorry." Then I checked the list and found she was a long time in arrears.

Still another called one day last winter and indicated that we had intentionally failed to print the story of his vacation trip. I said: "I didn't know about it. I'm sorry."

Then there is the fellow who informed me that they didn't want the story of their vacation trip printed in the paper "because somebody might steal our chickens while we're gone and besides it's nobody's business." I said: "I'm sorry."

Then one day, while in our shop to renew his subscription, a man said to me: "We sure like your newspaper. It's so full of news and good pictures, so clean and so well printed. No wonder you have such a large circulation."

By golly, I couldn't think of a thing to say.



FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

**Newspaper is Eyes, Ears' Conscience of Community**

National Newspaper Week is a concentrated effort to explain the functions of a newspaper. To inform, to interpret, to entertain—this is the role of the American press. Its foundation is the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of the press.

The American people possess many other freedoms, as set out in our Constitution, and a priceless one springing from them is the right to know and to be informed. Here the newspaper performs its greatest service. It is the eyes, ears and conscience of a community. It jealously guards the many rights of people while giving them the facts and information necessary to be good citizens. For only when we know the truth can we support what is good or condemn what is bad.

Wars have been fought to gain and preserve our independence. So, too, is battle waged by the newspapers of our country to defend and guard the freedoms and rights of a free people. This is a never-ending fight, quiet at times, at other times loud—but always on behalf of the American people.

A newspaper informs its readers of what is going on in the world. It deals with such diverse events as the fall of a foreign government or an accident at a country crossroads. It could be that the accident is of more interest to the average reader, but what is happening around the world affects us all. A good editor realizes this and balances the significant with the interesting.

A newspaper is a service organization whose prime responsibility is always to the reader. It performs a service when corruption in government is exposed. It performs just as important a job when the reader is informed of an outstanding accomplishment of a public official. It gives its subscribers an opportunity to voice their thoughts in its letter columns and provides accurate information upon which to form opinions.

Public opinion is reflected in the people's choice of elected leaders. To keep this country strong and free our leaders must be honest and wise. Therefore, sound thinking and a good foundation of knowledge are vital necessities to good government.

The free world has been shrinking. Evidence of real trouble comes in a nation when despotism finds an implacable foe in a free press, and muzzles it. We free Americans must be on guard constantly against any encroachment on the people's right to be informed correctly. For that is the real meaning of freedom of the press.—(Buford Boone, Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News, winner of 1957 Pulitzer Award for editorial writing.)

Since 1893

**Completely Uncensored Battalion Stands Alone**

By FRED MEURER  
 Battalion Managing Editor  
 Thomas Jefferson, one of the early and most energetic fighters for freedom of the press in the United States, once said: "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press—this cannot be limited without being lost."

As the years progressed these words took on more meaning. After the American Revolution the government escaped censorship and newspapers had their first firm foothold. They began their growth towards being the industrial giants as we know some of them today.

The Battalion is not one of these "giants" serving a great metropolis. It serves as a source of news to a limited number of

people in a rather small area, not counting the scattered circulation in other parts of the state and nation.

Yet the Battalion, ever since its conception in 1893, has experienced freedom of the press just as its huge counterparts do.

For the Battalion boasts being the only completely uncensored college newspaper in Texas.

However, just as the early newspapers—printed one at a time on crude presses—fought for their freedom, The Battalion had its "ups and downs" through the years in the form of differences between the views of student editors and those of the administration or students.

Such editorial controversies come and go, only to be remembered when similar occurrences take place. Perhaps, or probably, that is why the Faculty Publication Committee was formed in 1929. This body later became known as the Student Publications Board as it is today.

In such a body, The Battalion found a device which would guide it, but not censor it. It was the milestone the newspaper, was seeking, just as the early American press awaited court action to make it free.

And this has been the device which has kept The Battalion the only completely uncensored college newspaper in the state. (Several others claim freedom from censorship but each is governed to an extent by journalism department faculty. The Battalion is a separate student activity and is independent of the Department of Journalism at A&M.)

Readers who remember the editorial difficulties of the past may still wonder what good freedom

of the press is if it doesn't help the people whom the newspaper serves.

Right or wrong, the true editor still believes he is aiding the right cause when he makes editorial comments. This is, perhaps, what the general reader fails to see.

Looking on the other side, however, this same freedom serves readers by giving a true inside picture of what governing forces are doing. Law-making bodies can't hide from a free press.

It all boils down to what another great writer, St. John, once said: "And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free..."

**LETTERS**

The Battalion welcomes letters to the editor but reserves the right to edit letters for brevity, clarity and accuracy. Short letters stand a better chance for publication since space is at a premium. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Editor,  
 The Battalion

Major General Robert G. Gard, Commanding General, VIII U. S. Army Corps (Reserve), has asked me to convey his congratulations to you upon observance of National Newspaper Week, October 1-8.

He also asked that I tell you of his appreciation for the support you, through your newspaper, have given the U. S. Army Reserve program.

Veon M. McConnell  
 Lt. Col. Infantry  
 Area Commander

Confidence in another man's virtue is no slight evidence of one's own.

—Montaigne



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**Do You Think for Yourself? (THIS TEST WILL TELL YOU!\*)**

- Do you often dislike doing favors for others, even though you tell yourself you enjoy it? YES  NO
- Do you refuse to worry about things you can't do anything about? YES  NO
- Would you be completely at ease if you found yourself suddenly in the spotlight at a social gathering? YES  NO
- Would you vote for establishing an international language other than English? YES  NO
- Can you compete with another person without feeling hostile? YES  NO
- Do you ever say things you don't believe, just to start a discussion? YES  NO
- When you're very hungry, do you like to try out strange foods? YES  NO
- Do you enjoy being called upon as an umpire to settle disputes? YES  NO

**The Man Who Thinks for Himself Knows...**

**ONLY VICEROY HAS A THINKING MAN'S FILTER... A SMOKING MAN'S TASTE!**



Now answer this one: Do you really think about the filter cigarette you choose? YES... NO... If your answer is "Yes"... well, you're the kind of person who thinks for himself. You can be depended on to use judgment in everything you do. The fact is, men and women who really think for themselves usually smoke VICEROY. Their reason? Best in the world. They know for a fact that only VICEROY—no other cigarette—has a thinking man's filter and a smoking man's taste.

**\*IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED YES TO 6 OF THESE QUESTIONS, YOU ARE A PERSON WHO THINKS FOR HIMSELF!**



**THE BATTALION**

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the student writers only. The Battalion is a non-tax-supported, non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students as a community newspaper and is governed by the Student Publications Board at Texas A. & M. College.

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