

BATTALION EDITORIALS

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

'Poor Aggies'

As TCU and Arkansas walked into the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day to collect their trophies for being the SWC's "best sports" of the year, one could faintly hear the familiar taunt of every school that ever outscored an Aggie team: "Poor Aggies . . ."

The "Poor Aggies" came in a ragged last in the sportsmanship rating handed down by student representatives from the seven conference schools. Criteria for the judging was based on conduct of athletes and student bodies at conference football games—or so the organization's by-laws states.

In fact, it would seem that it was a popularity poll—with the exception of the University of Arkansas, schools ranked as in the past: church schools on top, A&M on bottom.

Even before the winners were announced, Pete Huff, president of the Rice Student Body and chairman of the Sportsmanship Committee, said, "Politics—and the hope of gaining votes—seems to govern the way some of the schools voted this year."

Could it be that politics—not conduct—put A&M last in the sportsmanship poll? Let's look at the record:

TCU—After taking a thorough drubbing last year—by their students, not their team—the men of Aggieland turned the other cheek and hosted the Christians as befits gentlemen and Aggies. There were no grudge battles on our home-ground—there was no return match for the beating our students received on their campus.

BAYLOR—The trip to Waco was uneventful despite the fact that a carload of Baylor students were apprehended on our campus after the MSC was plastered with a "BU" that is still faintly visible. There was no paint-slinging by the "Poor Aggies"—they left retaliation to their team. That day in Waco, the Aggie team more than made up for the pride-injuring defacement of our student center.

ARKANSAS—The team from the Ozarks and the few students who made the trip were treated with the same courtesy they have extended to our students when the contest is played in Fayetteville.

SMU—The first Corps trip of the year was truly a tribute to the discipline that comes second nature here. The "Poor Aggies" had a tough day on the playing field but the 12th Man did not re-play the game in Lou Ann's.

RICE—The boys from the Institute laid down an ultimatum early in the year—"Either return our plaster bird or we can't be responsible for the actions of our 1,600 students when you come to Houston."

The mascot was found by members of the Student Senate and returned—even though no Aggies were positively connected with its disappearance. To prevent any possible trouble with the 1,600 students at Rice, the Corps was kept in the stands for several minutes after the game and they left en masse. No incidents were reported after the game.

TEXAS—As a coup de grace to a spotless year, the Texas Aggies traveled to Austin for the hotly-contested battle with the team from the school with The Tower. Before the game an Ag was shot from a darkened "frat" house as he attempted to capture a "Prize" from one of the 'Sips' floats.

The guilty freshman, as if not punished enough by the No. 6 pellets in his leg and ankle, was dismissed from A&M, making it plain that we do not condone vandalism even when the accuser is not without guilt.

After the game, the pillows came thick and fast from the Texas student section—they seemed bent on proving their student body was as capable of victory over the Ags as their team was that day.

But the "Poor Aggies" left the stands quietly and headed for home without testing the courage the Texans displayed as a group.

Judging from the record, the "Poor Aggies" did have a poor year—not a fight to their credit. In fact, they didn't do much of anything in the stands in 1958—except back their team.

Maybe that's why they came out last in sportsmanship—they were so well behaved they just weren't noticed at the games. . .

Letters To The Editor

The Battalion welcomes letters to the editor but reserves the right to edit letters for brevity, clearness 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:

Finals are coming up presently and soon every student will be faced with the spectre of demonstrating his knowledge of things he supposedly has learned during the semester.

Everyone knows the importance of these exams. Flunk enough of them and out you go. Nobody questions whether or not this is right. One comes to college to learn. A final is merely a prof's way of seeing what we have learned.

I wonder if someone could not devise a quiz for profs to see what they have taught. I have several who would flunk it flat. Nobody minds working hard for a man who is rough, but teaches. But what about these men who seem to care only to flunk some, pass some.

Prof's have been looking for several years for something to blame for A&M's scholastic laziness. I think we ought to put the blame where it belongs—on our "educators".

W. L. Perry Jr. '59

THE BATTALION

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JOE BUSER.....EDITOR

Another TWU Date Prospect



"Eligible"

Miss Jackie Clark, freshman from San Antonio, and a Miss San Antonio finalist, is another "eligible" girl in the Texas Woman's University's Date Bureau. Applications for Tessie dates may be picked up at the office of Student Activities, Room 210, YMCA.



By VERN SANFORD

Texas Press Association
AUSTIN, Tex.—Holidays are over, but Austin is entering another period equally festive, active and exhausting for participants.

Tuesday (the 13th) the 56th Legislature convenes, bringing hundreds of new residents to the Capitol City for five or six months or more. Their arrival steps up demand in many areas—for rent houses, hotel rooms, catering services, typewriters and stenographers.

A week later comes the Inauguration of Gov. Price Daniel, with a parade, swearing-in ceremony, Capitol reception and a multitude of balls and special parties.

Thereafter, if the usual pattern continues, there'll be more social activities for and by the visitors. Lawmakers' wives, separated from home-town friends and, often, from their husbands by long hours of debate and committee hearings, form their own luncheon clubs.

Even school children come by the busload to supplement their civics studies by observation.

Last session, a period of uncomfortable concern over ethics and lobbying, saw a dropping off in the lavishness of party-giving for legislators. This round may be even more grim and business-like. Lawmakers will face staggering problems in trying to pull the state out of debt and find money for new needs. No group would want to appear too flush lest it be seen as a likely tax target.

Some events and issues on which interest is likely to focus immediately:

SPEAKERSHIP of the House of Representatives, still is in doubt. Even those who claim it's "sewed up" know that pledges can come unhitched. There'll be a big crowd on hand to find out whether the secret vote hands the gavel to Waggoner Carr of Lubbock or Joe Burkett Jr. of Kerrville. Secretary of State

Zollie Steakley will preside at the suspenseful opening session.

After the speaker is picked, attention will shift to committee assignments—who'll get the top jobs. There's also speculation as to how well members who've fought each other so hard in the speaker's race are going to get along afterward.

MONEY gets top billing on almost everybody's list of legislative problems.

Governor Daniel's recommended budget calls for spending \$2,311,434,306 during 1960-61. An extra \$185,000,000 in new tax revenue would have to be raised to cover it and wipe out the current deficit.

Overall, the governor's budget is a 10 per cent increase over present spending. Almost all the increase, he pointed out, would go to meet a growing population's need for basic state services—education, highways, welfare and hospital and correctional institutions. Governor Daniel said he had found "no public sentiment" for reducing these services.

Not included in this budget are several items for which there is certain to be demand, such as teacher pay raises and medical aid for persons on the welfare rolls.

EDUCATION, on all levels, will be a broth that many will try to stir.

For public schools, the Hale-Aikin Committee of 24 is presenting a lengthy report on ideas for improving programs. Included are more pay for teachers, longer school terms, special instruction for the gifted, driver education, etc. Total cost of the additions would be \$80,000,000 a year for the state, about \$32,000,000 a year for local districts.

Both the Commission on Higher Education and Governor Daniel have recommended increased appropriations for state-supported colleges and universities. Both also recommended Arlington State College be made a senior college.

Who's Here

Blast Almost Ended Future For Aggie From Texas City

By JACK TEAGUE

Jon DeLaune, 21-year-old electrical engineering major from Texas City, really appreciates the fact that he's an Aggie. In fact, he really appreciates the fact that he's alive to be an Aggie.

The Texas City disaster in 1947 nearly ended the outlook for Jon's future. He just happened to be sharpening a pencil in the right place at the right time.

A graduate of Texas City High School, Jon was on the tennis team, and won the outstanding band award in his senior year. He was also president of the Texas City Radio Club, a group of ham operators who used their equipment to keep in contact with many parts of the world.

Jon has kept up his interest in radio amateur operations here at Aggieland. He has set up his two-way radio equipment in his room in Dorm 5 and carries on constant conversations with persons throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada and Labrador. Last year he contacted an explorer on a scientific expedition three miles from the North Pole.

Jon's main reason for coming to Aggieland was that it offered the best electrical engineering training in Texas. He has since developed another love, though—the Air Force.

Jon spent his freshman and sophomore days in Squadron 21, which has long since "bitten the dust". Last year Squadron 21

became Squadron 4 and Jon is now one of its flight commanders. He is also a member of the MSC Radio Committee, American Institute of Electrical Engineering, Institute of Radio Engineers and the Galveston County Hometown Club. He is also a Ross Volunteer.

A Category I (pilot training) ROTC student, Jon plans to fly for the Air Force for five years

upon graduation. He just completed his student flying program yesterday when he soloed with 12 hours instruction time. After the Air Force, Jon plans to return to school to study for a master's degree and then enter into industry in the electronics field.

Besides his interest in radio operations, Jon is also a self-taught radio-TV repairman.

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