

**BATTALION EDITORIALS**

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

**Life - or Death**

Today Texas A&M is involved in the greatest struggle in its history. More important by far than the talk of coeducation—more vital than the prospect of good athletic teams, this problem is virtually a life and death struggle for survival.

To put it simply, without substantial increases in state monies, A&M cannot provide the high caliber of education it has provided in the past.

Low appropriations for state schools exists throughout the United States but it is more acute in Texas. For example, in recent survey of the average salaries paid in 96 state-supported schools, Texas' state institutions ranked far below the average. Our top school ranked 19th; the next ranked 36th and 14 out of the 18 state schools in Texas below 40th.

During the past two years the 18 state schools have lost 306 faculty members by resignation—203 of these are known to have left for higher salaries. This constant turnover and resulting downgrading in staff, has done serious harm to all the schools—A&M has been as hard hit as the rest. We must have money enough to compete with other schools and industry in the market for personnel or we will not get top men.

Although Texas is the second state in the nation in total number of state supported schools it ranks seventh among the states in total dollar support of higher education. It is also in the lower half in percentage of per capita income going to colleges and to support per individual student.

On the other side of the balance sheet, there has been a 12 per cent increase in the past 10 years in state appropriation for higher education. However, this increase is less than the rate of increase of state expenditures as a whole.

The problem sounds big, doesn't it? Well, it IS big but the men of Aggieland have never before given up in the face of adversity—no matter how long or hard the fight may be.

And there are some ways YOU can help A&M—and the other state schools in Texas—regain the position of educational leadership that once was theirs. . .

(Tomorrow: Telling the Story of Texas A&M)

**Who's Here**

**Biondi's Greatest Thrill Is Being a Yell Leader**

By JACK TEAGUE

Richard M. Biondi, 20-year-old junior yell leader from Dallas, thinks being elected yell leader of the 12th Man was probably the greatest thrill of his life, but it sure has caused some hectic moments.

Richard cited one example that happened at the Cougar High-Aggie game last fall. He and the other yell leaders were trying to fight their way through bands, flags, Cub Scout packs and other parade units to the dressing room door to lead the Aggie team onto the field. They heard a yell from the 12th Man and realized it was too late—the team had beaten them out.

Bonfire activity is not all hard work, either, as several A Vet fish proved to Richard. They decided it would be fitting for this particular junior yell leader to be relieved of his clothing in the cutting area. After a hard struggle, Richard found himself dressed in his Class A birthday suit.

A business administration major, Richard graduated from South Oak Cliff High School in Dallas. He played on the golf team there, and it was at his coach's suggestion that he came to A&M. A former student, the coach presented Aggieland as a challenge to Richard—and Richard accepted.

Richard entered A&M as a D Field Artillery "fish." "Dog" Battery bit the dust at the end of his first year, though, so he went to B Field. This year Richard is operations sergeant of the 2nd Regimental Staff. He is also treasurer of the Dallas Hometown Club, a member of the Business Society and, as mentioned before, a junior yell leader.

After graduation, Richard plans to spend two years with the field artillery if he isn't able to get flight training. "My eyes," he said, "you know." After this little tour, Richard wants to go into business for himself.

**Dr. Wilson Says**

**World Affairs Stress Education Importance**

(Ed. Note: The following is an address by Dr. Logan Wilson, president of the University of Texas, concerning the competitive position of Texas' 18 state-supported colleges and universities and what it means to you.)

"Everybody realizes that our leadership and perhaps even our national survival are being challenged. More of our citizens must be brought to realize that the preservation of our state and nation depends no less upon the strength of our educational system than upon the strength of our military establishment and that in these uncertain times our capacity for self-government, and particularly for strong state government, is being put to the test as never before in history.

"My purpose in this writing is not to present the case for the University of Texas primarily, but for the state-supported system of higher education of which our university forms a capstone and integral part. The fate of that system for the next decade or so will be vitally affected by some decisions to be made within the next few months. I want to review briefly some basic challenges to be met.

**Challenge to Our Nation**

"In this highly competitive world, there is a growing realization that our American educational institutions are not as strong as they ought to be. Prior to Sputnik, unfortunately, not too much attention was paid to the oft-repeated story of low teachers' salaries, crowded classrooms, inferior libraries and laboratories, easy academic standards, and so on. Since then, fortunately, we have been doing some stock-taking.

"What are some of the findings? Here are a few startling ones.

"On the average, professors in this country are paid at a rate about two-and-a-half times that of manual laborers; in Russia the corresponding rate is 16 to 1 or, to take a look at student-teacher ratios, we find the following: Moscow University, 6.6 to 1; Harvard 3.3 to 1; Illinois, 5.4 to 1; California 7.7 to 1; the University of Texas, 16 to 1.

"We can afford to spend more on education but to do so we must assign a higher priority to the importance of teaching and research as crucial enterprises. We must be willing to make some sacrifices and to forego some present comforts for our future security and prosperity.

"As someone has said, Americans know the difference between good and bad roads—they must come to know the difference between good and bad education and determine to settle only for the good. Mere talk will not get the job done.

"Our educational problems will

be solved only by a hard-headed insistence upon investment in improved quality. All of our citizens must take a real interest in educational standards and accomplishments and must be willing to pay higher taxes to support our state schools and make heavier contributions to support our private institutions.

**Challenge to Our State**

"Even though the world-wide challenge is to our nation, response to it—if we are to keep our present local and state controls—must be from localities and states. We now have the chance to show whether we can and will assume state obligations to match our talk about state rights. But we must respond promptly, decisively and in full measure.

"To begin, we should recognize the importance of having in Texas a system of higher education in which each institution offers opportunities and programs of quality similar to and competitive with those of better comparable institutions throughout the nation. Sensing fully the importance of highly trained manpower to the state's industrial, commercial, political and cultural development, we must come to regard financial support of education as an investment in our own future.

"In my judgement, we need to be more realistic and less parochial about where Texas stands today. A few basic facts in this regard are telling:

- Texas stands 7th in total personal income, and 7th in total dollar support of higher education;

- Texas is 2nd in the number of accredited institutions;

- Texas is in the lower half of states in support provided per student;

- Texas is in the lower half of all states in the percentage of per capita income going to higher education;

- Although state dollars appropriated for higher education have increased sharply in the last ten years, the increase has not been out of line with the total increase of state expenditures;

"In short, we get a grade of "C" for effort. Despite several increases approved by the Governor and the 55th Legislature, these conditions still exist. Is this what we want and need for the youth of our state?"

"To put another question, can Texas afford to do better? Here it should be noted that in the last year for which figures are available, 36 states had higher per capita state-local taxes than Texas. Moreover, 37 states had higher taxes in relation to personal

**LETTERS**

Editor,

The Battalion:

... I want to tell you how much we enjoy reading your paper and keeping up with the news at the college. Not meaning to take any credit from last year's editor, but we have remarked how much more enjoyable the reading matter is this year as compared to last year's issues and how much more informative it is on activities within the campus.

It is a real credit to you and your staff.

Mrs. Raymond G. Post  
Baton Rouge, La.  
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Editor,

The Battalion:

The VMI Corps of Cadets sends its heartiest congratulations on your designation as a Military College.

After having associated with Aggies this summer at ROTC camps and seen their abilities and performance at first hand, there is no doubt that the honor you have received is well deserved.

Keep up the splendid job which you have been doing and we will look forward to meeting and serving again with Texas Aggies in the future.

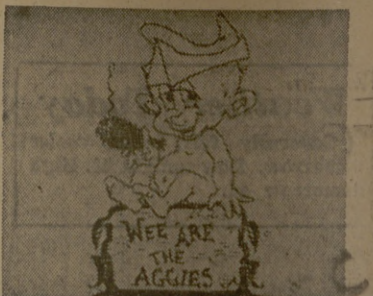
Cdt. 2nd Lt. Henry E. Thomas  
Editor, VMI CADET

**Aggieland Makeup**

**Pictures Scheduled**

Aggieland '59 make-up pictures for Civilian sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students may be taken before Saturday, Rod Stepp, editor, said yesterday.

Stepp said that no exceptions will be made.



We Aggies like to read about Wee Aggies. When a wee one arrives, call VI 6-4910 and ask for the Wee Aggie Editor.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Elwell, '60, of C-6-D College View, are the proud parents of a baby boy.

David Nelson arrived at 4:42 a.m., Jan. 20, at St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan.

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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Barton, '59, of C-10-X College View, are the proud parents of a future Aggie Sweetheart.

Conni Micheal arrived at 5:24 a.m., Jan. 22, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bryan.

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A future All-American basketball star was born Tuesday to Mr. and Mrs. Neil D. Swisher, '59.

The boy weighed in at nine pounds in a Kilgore hospital.

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A future Corps Commander was born Tuesday to Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Day, '61, C-8-D College View.

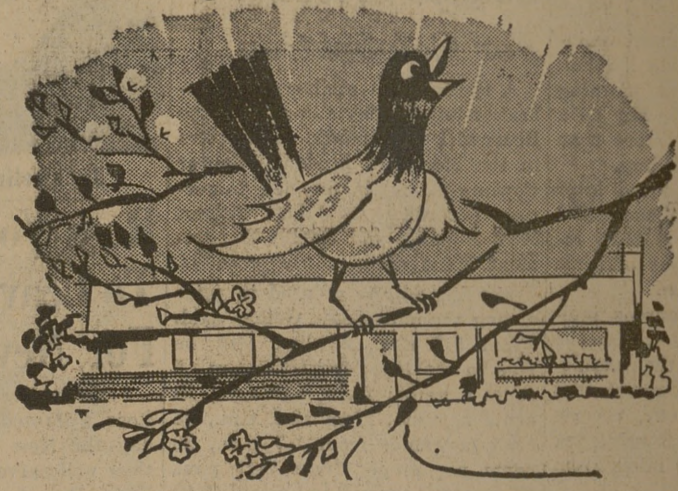
Michael, 6 pounds, 7 ounces, was born at 4:30 a.m. in Bryan Hospital.

**Social Whirl**

7:30

Animal Husbandry Wives Club will meet tonight in the South Solarium of the YMCA.

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**SKYWAY DRIVE IN THEATRE**  
THRU SATURDAY  
Van Hefflin in "GUNMAN'S WALK"  
Plus Gordon Scott in "TARZAN'S FIGHT FOR LIFE"

**CAMPUS**  
TODAY THRU WED.  
RALLY ROUND THE FLAG BOYS!  
PAUL NEWMAN  
JOANNE WOODWARD  
JOAN COLLINS  
JACK CARSON

**BASKET BALL**

**In Person HARLEM GLOBE TROTTERS**

**A&M MENS SHOP**  
103 MAIN — NORTH GATE  
AGGIE OWNED

**Gulton Hall THEATRE**  
THURSDAY and FRIDAY  
In CinemaScope and Color ...  
"TEN THOUSAND BEDROOMS"  
Dean Martin — Eva Bartok  
in Cinemascope and Color

**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 under the supervision of the director of Student Publications at Texas A&M College.

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THURSDAY  
Feb. 12 - 7:30  
White Coliseum  
Doubleheader  
Hollywood  
Queens  
vs.  
Aggie All Stars  
\$2.50 \$2.00 \$1.25  
Student  
Activities

A&M Fine Arts Festival  
The MSC RECITAL SERIES presents ...  
**PHILLIPE ENTREMONT**  
8:00 TONIGHT • MSC BALLROOM  
Friday:  
The MSC Recital Series presents HOLLYWOOD STRING QUARTET

By Charles M. Schulz

**PEANUTS**

CHARACTER... HUH!

SHE SAYS I'VE JUST GOT A FACE FACE, BUT YOU'VE GOT CHARACTER!

YOU'VE GOT A BIG NOSE, THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE GOT! A BIG NOSE AND LONG STUPID EARS!

SIGH BUT THAT'S A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN A FACE FACE...