

**BATTALION EDITORIALS**

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

**Things are Ripe**

Aggieland is lacking in quantity this year compared to figures of the past few years, but as for quality it's better than it has been for a long time.

Figures released yesterday by Vice President Earl Rudder indicate that despite early objections of many people, Grade Point Army may prove to be A&M's salvation.

Conditions have changed a lot from those facing freshmen last year, but the figures show they must have been for the good. More freshmen have returned for the spring semester.

Of the 1,853 Corps freshmen who enrolled in 1957, only 1,041 were back in the spring semester. This year 1,722 freshmen started out in the Corps and now there are 1,216 remaining.

That's improvement any way you look at it. A total of 506 freshmen didn't return for this semester. Last year 812 didn't return. Sure, a lot of the latter went civilian, which first-year students cannot do this year due to the compulsory Corps status. But did those 306 making up the difference all go non-reg?

With the groundwork laid last semester and with the added progress that's sure to come this semester, A&M will be in a better position than ever to start rebuilding quantity. This time it will be quantity with quality.

A lot of credit goes to the work leaders in the Corps and the administration have done to reduce unnecessary harassment that was thought in years past to be "good bull."

Another large slice of credit goes to faculty members. More than 140 volunteered last fall to serve as scholastic advisors to Corps units, doing their work in the dormitories.

They were advised to help the students, not coddle them. And the scholastic standards were not bent; faculty members just pitched in a little extra effort to give a lot of freshmen that extra boost they needed.

After reaching the half-way mark of what has been termed a "critical" year for A&M, indications are strong that a lot of people will have to "eat crow" and admit that Grade Point Army is the best thing to hit the campus in quite a few years.

But it's still going to take the unified effort of students, faculty and administration to make the new program work even better. We can make more marked progress. What we do now and in the next four months can mean a lot for A&M and for ourselves.

**Are You a Ripper?**

Today the nation is celebrating Abraham Lincoln's birthday anniversary, and when anyone thinks of Honest Abe, they think of the hardships he reportedly had getting an education when he was a youth.

If Lincoln could visit A&M today and tour the classrooms, he would no doubt be abashed. He might recall the simple school supplies he had to work with and cry tears into the indiscernible etchings made by students on the classroom desks.

Comparing yourself to Lincoln, you should realize that you are lucky to be getting an education. Why ruin it and that of other students by being a desk ripper?

If this sounds "high schoolish" to you, remember it is aimed at students who are conducting themselves as the worst type of high schoolers. There's no excuse for it. You certainly aren't "getting back" at some prof you don't like.

Carving on the ancient desks such as those found in Bagley Hall may not be too much of a crime, if you can find space to carve. But to mark up the new desks such as in Nagle Hall...

So look, sonny, cut it out (and this doesn't mean the wood)! It's true, probably no one will call you down if you scratch your initials or a rough facsimile of a female shape into a desk top. But doesn't your conscience bother you?

NEED HELP?

You're Out of Your Mind, Charlie Brown!

The new PEANUTS book by Charles M. Schulz, \$1.00 RINEHART



**THE BATTALION**

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JOE RUSER, Managing Editor; Fred Meurer, Editor

**CADET SLOUCH**

by Jim Earle Who's Here



"You don't know how easy you have it, Frog Swirk! Back in the fall of '58 was the Ole Army days!"

**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:  
 Referring to your "Who's Here" column in The Battalion Feb. 3, please add "Good Samaritan" to the titles which you list as belonging to Jerry Gleason.

Our car "went dead" at the intersection of Joe Routt and Throckmorton streets Monday evening. While trying to locate a telephone, my husband met a young man who offered to give us a push. The car still refused to start, and the push extended to a garage in College Station. I am sure that any true Aggie would have been as thoughtful,

but our special thanks to Jerry, who helped us out.

This is our first visit to your campus, and we are very much impressed with everything—in particular, the friendly "howdy."

Mrs. Harold E. Vaughn  
 Houston, Texas

**Wee Aggies**

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. Price D. Rose '58, D-4-Y College View, are the proud parents of a future Aggie.

James Duane, who weighed in at 10 pounds, 7 ounces, arrived Feb. 3 at 11:09 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bryan.

The Territory of Wyoming was organized in 1868 and it was admitted to the union in 1890.

EAT WELL

EAT REASONABLY

EAT HOTARD'S

**Berry Picks A&M Because of Baylor**

By JACK TEAGUE

Laban E. (Ed) Berry, 18-year-old electrical engineering major from Waco, said living so near the Baylor campus was ample reason for coming to Aggieland. A Squadron 4 fish, Ed said after he heard the first "Poor Aggies" chant many years ago, he knew he was destined to be an Aggie.

A graduate of Waco High School, Ed played basketball for three years and was a high-jumper in track one year. He

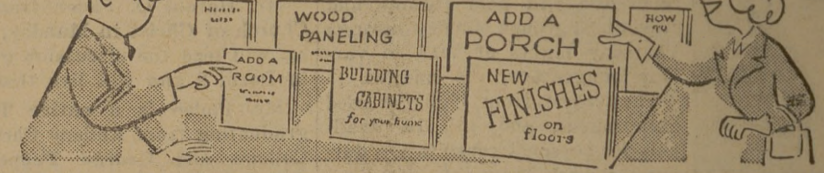
was in the Senior Chorus for two years which led him to be selected to the All-State chorus. Ed was also business manager of the school annual, Daisy Chain. At A&M, Ed has kept up his singing by joining the Singing Cadets.

Ed had another reason for coming to A&M other than his distaste for Baylor. After considering many other colleges, he decided that A&M offered the

best electrical engineering curriculum in the country. "And," he added, "I wanted to be a fightin' Aggie Cadet, too."

After graduating Ed plans to go into the Air Force for his tour of duty and then enter the field of electronics-communication. "I guess it could be called 'outer-space communication,'" he said. "A good example of this is our talking satellite."

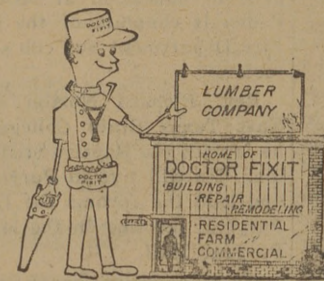
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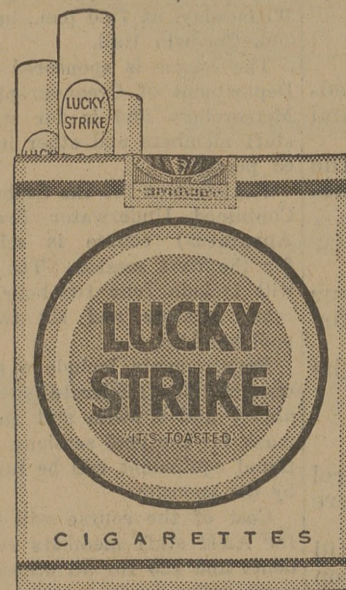
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**PEANUTS**

By Charles M. Schulz

