

BATTALION EDITORIALS

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

Pinky Needs Us

The grand-daddy of 'em all, P. L. (Pinky) Downs, is at home today at 301 East Dexter feeling a bit "under the weather."

Ol' Pinky is in need of some medicine but not the kind available at a pharmacy. He needs something special—something only the Aggies he loves so well can give him.

He needs to know that we've missed him while he was ill and we want him to get well as soon as possible. The campus just isn't the same without him.

It's part of being an Aggie to rally 'round one of the number when he needs us. . .

In Duncan, Boys Become Men

The Corps' continual cry of "We Need Discipline in the Messhall" has raised a question among the untutored—just what is this magic formula that transforms boys into men while they eat?

Fundamentally, it is a calculated experience designed to make mealtime thoroughly unpleasant for freshmen. The amount of training one receives from this "discipline" is in direct proportion to the degree of unpleasantness that accompanies the meal. In some cases, training has reached a new high this week.

It is in line with the basic concept on which a goodly part of A&M's traditions are based: Freshmen are pawns of the school—do to them what you will, call it "good bull" and tell them you're making them men—and a large percentage will be gullible enough to believe it. And gullible the freshmen are, else they would stop and question the treatment they get at the hands of upperclassmen.

They're not the only gullible ones, though. Sophomores, juniors and seniors, too, have been indoctrinated to the point that they too believe the thrice-daily ritual in Duncan is an essential part of Corps training.

They must be gullible to believe these things are actually making boys into men:

● **Front Two Inches**—Throughout the Corps freshmen are required to sit on the front half of their chair at a maximum and in isolated areas, the very front two inches. The arguments favoring this rather absurd-looking practice is that it serves as a constant reminder to the freshman that they're still the second-class citizens on the campus. And it's probably a good reminder. To demonstrate how effective this is, most of the freshmen seem to believe—and frankly admit—that it's more "comfortable" to sit that way.

● **"Cush" Questions**—Once the means for allowing a "fish" to earn a reward for knowing the history of A&M, the "cush" question has degenerated to a recitation of the most obscure of facts. The questions vary with the cush—choice desserts merit questions like "Who was the registrar in 1894?"—less sought-after sweets draw questions from the Cadence.

And, as if it were not enough to ask a foolish question during this "recitation" period, the more "old Army" sophomores may ask a dozen or more such questions to evaluate the freshmen's general knowledge.

● **Harrassment**—Hazing per se no longer exists in the messhall. Today the method is more streamlined but it is directed toward the same goal—make it tough on the "fish." If he goofs just a little, scream in his ear. If he goofs a lot, scream in his ear. If he doesn't goof at all (this is very unlikely judging from the many procedures he must keep in mind) well, scream at him anyway—he's still a freshman and a little screaming is good for him.

The weakness in this constant pressure—so-called tension—is that very soon one becomes numb to the remarks. After a few months most of the "fish" are able to tune them out—and merely wait patiently for the signal to return to a meal that has grown cold.

These things and other like them are the fundamentals of the magical formula designed to make boys into men while they eat.

If you don't think it works, look at the men in the Corps today. They got their basic training in being an Aggie in the messhall.

It was here they first learned the meaning of being an Aggie, by their definition: Take It—and Dish It Out.

But, unfortunately, this credo isn't what made A&M great. . .

(Next Week: What Makes A&M Great?)

THE BATTALION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Messhall Conditions Draw More Reader Comments

AAA Describes Their System

Editor,
The Battalion:
 In the Wednesday Battalion a statement was made concerning the change the AAA battalion had made in the dining hall. We feel that not enough was said to describe our new system. . .

Freshmen are asked only a single "cush" question. However, when a freshman needs correcting, he gets it, short and concise. He still comes to attention when spoken to by an underclassman and retains all other "privileges" (meal service, front half of chair, etc.) agreed upon earlier this year.

To make up for the campusology questions that would otherwise be asked at the table, we have decided to give a prearranged campusology quiz every other week—stating what will be covered on it beforehand.

We feel that this policy goes a long way toward easing tension in the dining hall and still keeps the freshmen "pooped up" on campusology.

Grady W. Barr '59
 Commanding Officer
 2nd Bn., 2nd Reg.

Remaining 'Fish' Have No Gripe

Editor,
The Battalion:

With all respects to Mr. Rudder and his efforts to maintain a large enrollment, we believe since the controversy seems to be about freshmen, we should have an opportunity to voice our opinion. . .

In the first place, we knew what to expect when we enrolled in September. This new tension reliever seems to have been introduced for the benefit of the freshmen who have left; for we remaining "fish" are voicing no gripe about existing conditions. Is this a military institution trying to develop army and air force officers by feeding us pabulum in the messhall?

Give us a suitable plan next year and we will endeavor to maintain the enrollment. We want a man's school—not a frat-house.

Milton Hoff '62
 (for B Engineer freshmen)

Military Schools Need Discipline

Editor,
The Battalion:

After reading your editorial on Feb. 24, I decided to sleep on it and write a letter that would not be under the influence of sudden and impulsive emotions.

It is inconceivable how one who has spent four years in the Corps cannot see and understand the reason for discipline in the messhall. Discipline goes much further than tradition. A&M is now an accredited military school. If you knew anything about other service schools you would recognize that discipline in their mess halls is just as strict (if not more so) than our own and it is not the result of time honored tradition. As a military school we have certain obligations and a family type atmosphere is not one of them.

To raise enrollment concessions were made about "whipping out," speaking and discipline on the campus. Now you wish to do away with discipline on the cam-

pus. The only possible next step is to do away with it in the dorms. Remember this school is a school that turns out men who are mentally tough. You don't make men out of boys by pampering them.

Your attack on tradition also shows your ignorance of what traditions stand for and what they mean. No nation, no branch of the service or no school has been first class without traditions. Tradition builds esprit de corps and by destroying them one destroys what A&M means and stands for. Hazing is not the principal reason for the drop in enrollment. It is merely the straw that broke the camel's back.

Give us decent living quarters, respectable looking uniforms, top flight lab equipment, etc., and put out the straight poop regarding A&M—and it will be worth while to stay here and pay the price of being an Aggie.

Anything easily accessible is of no value and it is most certainly true at A&M.

Robert S. Dunn '60

Changes Will Make A&M ROTC School

Editor,
The Battalion:

... Who wants conditions in the messhall changed? All this talk

Social Whirl

Monday

Aero Vives Club will meet at 7:45 p.m. at Kraft's downtown store.

Ag Economics and Rural Sociology Vives Club will hold a business meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Ag Engineering Vives Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Marjorie Person, 311 Highland.

Electrical Engineering Vives Club will hold their regular meeting at 8 p.m. in the Brooks Room of the YMCA.

Petroleum Engineering Vives Club will meet at 7:45 p.m. in Room 113 of the Petroleum Engineering Building. Eva Lynn Chapman will be the club's representative at the Cotton Ball.

Business Administration Vives Club will meet at 8 p.m. Monday in the Fashion Lounge of the YMCA. Dr. Dale Leipper, head of the Department of Oceanography and Meteorology, will speak on Russian education and show slides on Russia.

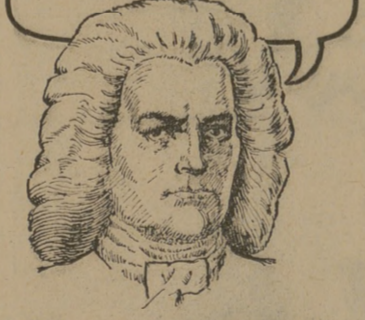
Tuesday

Mechanical Engineering Vives Club will meet at the Lady Fair Beauty Salon at 7:30 p.m.

KAISER IS PILOT IN ROOKIE LEAGUE

LEXINGTON, Neb. (AP) — The college baseball season is over for Jack Kaiser, coach of the St. John's Redmen of Brooklyn, but he's in for a long summer anyway. He is managing the Lexington Red Sox in the all-rookie Nebraska State League. Last season his team finished second.

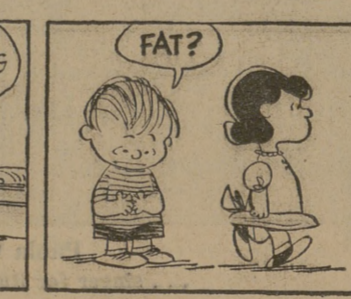
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By Charles M. Schulz