

— Sound Off —

Corpus Opposes

Editor,
The Battalion:
At the most recent meeting of the Corpus Christi A&M Club (composed of 368 dues-paying members), the proposed name change for the College was discussed. For the reasons stated below, any name change was emphatically and unanimously opposed by our membership.

At the meeting it was noted that much resentment exists among former students who feel that this matter has not been given sufficient publicity to permit the citizens of this State and former students to express their views and have them considered. Also, special mention should be given to the fact that there was no official representation from the former students on the committee selected to study the proposed name change.

It is our understanding that this proposal has been made to facilitate the procurement of grants and to aid in obtaining and keeping faculty members. We therefore contacted persons familiar with the policies and procedures followed in the allocation of these funds and we have been advised that while school background, curriculum, facilities, quality of the students and other factors are weighed, the name of the school is unimportant.

It does not appear illogical to assume that a teacher considers the same factors, in addition to salary, in deciding where he teaches. The College will probably be better off without a faculty member who does otherwise.

It might be prudent to here note that there are many schools in the country with the highest academic and research standards and reputation who do not bear the title, "University."

Assuming that there is some merit to the name change suggestion, the disadvantages are many. The name "Texas A&M College" is known and respected throughout the world. "Texas A&M" men have dedicated a most a century of effort to build the reputation this name has earned. Their efforts should not be destroyed with one stroke of the pen. "Texas A&M," more than any other school, is founded upon tradition. The names "Texas A&M" and "Aggies" are the greatest part of this tradition. Many corporations and business establishments seek Texas A&M graduates, not only because of their academic qualifications, but because they are "Aggies"—a term which denotes leadership, ability to mix with people in all walks of life, loyalty and enthusiasm.

We are convinced that any advantage, real or imaginary, that would be derived from this action, would be overshadowed by the loss of our school name and all the cherished things for which it stands. Far better reasons should be presented for making the Aggie ring obsolete. If the problems earlier mentioned do exist, those charged with the responsibility of correction might do well to look for the remedy elsewhere.

Corpus Christi A&M Club
W. C. (Bill) Lonquist, '48,
President

Is is shocking...'

Editor,
The Battalion:
The letter by Don Cook needs more open discussion since two important points were brought out. First, a cadet expressed his opinion about the controversial film, "Operation Abolition," and a week later was asked by an Air Science instructor to report and explain how he had formed his opinions. Second, the student stated that academic freedom is limited on this campus.

Don Cook indicated that he

was questioned not because he spoke out of turn at a drill but because he had formed the wrong opinion. If a student must pass the scrutiny test about controversial issues to be a loyal officer, this means his thinking must also be restricted since spoken opinion is precluded by thought.

Perhaps I am wrong in assuming that an officer should be a leader, that is, a thinker about all matters which face him in his work and life. It is shocking that on a college campus any instructor feels he has the right to question a student about his background, club activities and political beliefs.

What are the correct answers to these questions? If we are going to muzzle students and in effect brainwash them then we ought to drop a paragraph out of the 1960-61 catalogue (page 70).

"Every student has rights which are to be respected. They include the right of respect for personal feelings, the right of freedom from indignity of any type, the right of freedom from control by any person except as may be in accord with the published rules and regulations of the College, and the right to make

the best use of his time and his talents toward the objective which brought him to this institution. No officer or student, regardless of position or rank, shall violate these rights. No custom or regulation in conflict will be allowed to prevail."

The question of academic freedom is one which especially concerns the faculty. The first article in the Bill of Rights guarantees the exercise of free speech yet there is not enough discussion on this campus about controversial matters which involve all of us.

The individual faculty member must answer to his own conscience if he does not exercise his constitutional rights. It is easy to blame others for our own hesitancy and lack of courage, but I am convinced that the faculty members themselves must share the responsibility for loss of academic freedom on any campus.

Whether our school goes by the name of college or university, it is an institution of higher learning and its teachers must devote themselves to the truth.

Frederick H. Kasten,
Department of Biology



TO DAVE LORMS
"... don't panic, men, but have you noticed that we have bread pudding after we have a bread fight!"

Read Battalion Classifieds De

INTERPRETING

Our Military Defense — Where Do We Stand?

By J. M. ROBERTS

Associated Press News Analyst
The people of the United States have been told so many things about the state of their military defense that they don't know what to believe.

They have been told that this is the world's greatest power, that it is a second-rate nation, and a lot of stuff in between.

"Missile gap" is a phrase which had almost come to be accepted as an established fact. President Eisenhower always said it wasn't exactly true, despite the Soviet Union's lead in rocket motors. Candidate Kennedy and President Kennedy stuck to the gloomier side.

But now the Pentagon is more inclined to agree with Eisenhower. Kennedy's own Pentagon team says there's no gap now.

The suggestion is that while the Reds have gone forward with their experiments, production has been a different matter.

There has been a long standing indication, based primarily on the number and variety of space shots, that the United States has a fundamentally broader program, embracing a greater number of space capabilities for precision production.

The recent successful testing

of a solid-fuel missile was an important step forward for the United States in the purely military uses of rockets. The arrival of the Minuteman may mark the real beginning of U. S. production for operational purposes, although there is already quite a stockpile of earlier models.

The new Pentagon study suggests that Russia, too, still has started no intensive production program. This lends weight to estimates, based on the November Communist manifesto and recent Kremlin statements that the Soviet Union really intends to fight the cold war first holding military power in reserve in case she cannot win the world without fighting.

Under such circumstances, it would be to Russia's benefit not to expend too much of her industrial capacity on military production now. Yet by her very flexibility—her knowledge that she will not be attacked by the democracies while herself holding the initiative for war—she forces the United States to continue.

Premier Khrushchev's promise to aid civil wars in the promotion of nationalism is one of the pressures. Kennedy is meeting that one through enlargement and reorganization of airborne power.

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THE BATTALION

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BILL HICKLIN EDITOR

PEANUTS

DO THEY ALWAYS BRING THE COWS IN FROM THE PASTURE AT NIGHT?

OF COURSE YOU BLOCKHEAD! IF THEY LEAVE THEM OUT OVER NIGHT, THEY GET PASTEURIZED!!

I NEVER REALIZED THAT

I GUESS I'D MAKE A LOUSY FARMER!

By Charles M. Schulz