

# BATTALION EDITORIALS

## Of All Things...

What manner of nonsense is this? Student run-off elections yesterday produced an unprecedented incident when two candidates tied in votes for an office. Since this was a run-off election, another means other than an election is necessary to determine the candidate who will assume the office.

So a decision was made, presumably by the Election Commission that—of all things—a flip of the coin would determine which candidate would be declared the victor.

There is no conceivable reason for employing such a method for selecting a candidate that was supposed to have been put in office by the student body. Even though the vote was again a poor indication of student government on the Texas A&M campus, the students that voted deserve a better decision than that. The two candidates, even more so, deserve more than the casual flip of a coin that will fall haphazardly to the floor.

College Regulations, in setting up the framework for student government, does not provide for the event of a tie in campus elections. But if the lack of this provision is going to result in methods such as this for determining who will fill an office, perhaps the College Regulations should contain a specific clause to protect the rights of the student body and the student candidates.

When rare incidents such as this occur across the United States, much more decisive and stable means are used to determine who should assume office after being involved in a tie. For example, if the election of the President of the United States should result in a tie, the House of Representatives would be called upon to break the deadlock.

A similar situation such as that could be set up on the Texas A&M campus with very little effort. What would be wrong with having a clause inserted into the College Regulations, designating the Student Senate, the governing body representing the entire student body, to determine who should fill the position? The Memorial Student Center Council could also serve well in this capacity; it would be even more appropriate in this instance since the tie yesterday was for a position on the MSC Council.

At any rate, the flip of a coin is quite ridiculous.

### CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"... now that's what I call a bullet pass!"

### THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL

- Chicken Fried Steak
- Hamburger Steak
- Veal Cutlet
- With
- Salad, French Fries, Rolls, Butter, Coffee or Tea

75c

## Triangle Restaurant

3606 S. College Ave.

TA 2-1352

## THE BATTALION

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Members of the Student Publications Board are L. A. Duesell, director of Student Publications, chairman; Allen Schrader, School of Arts and Sciences; Willard I. Truetzner, School of Engineering; Otto R. Kunze, School of Agriculture; and Dr. E. D. McMurry, School of Veterinary Medicine.

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The *Battalion*, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Entered as second-class MEMBER: The Associated Press Texas Press Assn. Represented nationally by National Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

News contributions may be made by telephoning VI 6-6618 or VI 6-4910 or at the editorial office, Room 4, YMCA. For advertising or delivery call VI 6-6415.

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year, \$6.50 per full year. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: *The Battalion*, Room 4, YMCA, College Station, Texas.

BILL HICKLIN EDITOR

### INTERPRETING

## Thailand Dim On Laos Talks

By TONY ESCODA

The Associated Press BANGKOK, Thailand—Thailand is making a dim view of big power efforts to negotiate a settlement of the Laos crisis.

The general feeling in this pro-Western capital—as reflected in official comments and newspaper editorials—is one of fear mingled with impatience and a dash of gloom.

The major fear is that the diplomatic maneuverings in Washington, London and Moscow may end in the partitioning of Laos and leave the Communists with a firm foothold in that jungle kingdom next door to Thailand.

Despite the protestations of Western Allies like Britain that no Korea-style split is involved in the peace proposals, the Thais find it hard to believe a Laos cease-fire would not result in at least a de facto division of the country.

Communist rebels hold the key areas in central and northern

Laos and Thais remark that the Reds are not known for giving up ground.

Even if partition were avoided somehow, there is apprehension here about any broad-based government as a solution to the Laotian political tangle.

Thai Prime Minister Marshal Sarit Thanarat has warned, "A coalition government—with Communists in it—will lead to a takeover by the Communists."

The official Thai view is that this country is apt to be left wide open to the threat of Communist aggression from across the long border shared with Laos.

If Thailand has its way, an ultimatum would be served to the Soviet Union demanding that it halt its arms airlift to the Laotian rebels.

Thais are quick to note that the Soviet arms buildup in central Laos has not stopped and the rebels continue to gain even as the talk is going on between the Western capitals and Moscow.

## The Sensations Of Outer Space

By The Associated Press MOSCOW—When you go orbiting around the earth, says Yuri A. Gagarin, you float above your chair in the space ship. The sun blazes "tens of times brighter than here on earth."

The earth's sunny face is separated from the black void by a band of delicate blue color.

On the descent into the earth's atmosphere "one's legs and arms feel as before during weightlessness," and "I am no longer hovering over the chair."

The 27-year-old pilot gave this account to the Soviet news agency Tass somewhere in the Soviet interior Thursday as Premier Khrushchev prepared a tremendous welcome for him Friday in this excited capital. Salutes in the astronaut's honor will roar out all over the Soviet Union.

No Western correspondent has seen Gagarin.

Tass did not say how he stood up under the stresses of acceleration at blastoff. Dogs shot into space were flattened to the floor and showed great alarm.

Gagarin said he came smoothly through the next two stages—the strange sensation of weightlessness and the return of gravity on the descent, Tass reported.

In fact, he said he found it easier to do everything when the tug of gravitation ceased on the orbit that took him around the earth in 89 minutes, Tass said.

"This is quite natural," he told Tass. "One's legs, arms, weigh nothing. Objects float in the cabin. Neither did I myself sit in the chair as I did before that, but hung in midair. While in the state of weightlessness, I ate and drank and everything occurred just as it does here on earth."

"I even worked in that condition, wrote, jotting down by observations. My handwriting did not change although the hand does not weigh anything. Only I had to hold the notebook. Otherwise, it would float away. I maintained communications over different channels and tapped the telegraph key."

The state of weightlessness arises when the outward thrust of a speeding space vehicle strikes a balance with the earth's gravitational pull. That balance of forces also keeps the vehicle in orbit.

Gagarin, an air force man, never before had been more than 10 miles above the earth, Tass said, but then in a five-ton space ship he was whizzing around the earth at 17,000 miles an hour in an orbit that carried him 188 miles away from the earth.

"I did not see the moon," Tass quoted him. "The sun in outer space is tens of times brighter than here on earth. The stars are visible very well. They are bright and distinct. The entire picture of the firmament is much more contrasty than when seen from the earth."

### Social Calendar

The following clubs and organizations will meet on campus:

**Tonight**  
The Freshman Engineering Society will meet in the Chemistry Building at 7:30 p.m. Dr. R. L. Whiting, head of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, will speak and a film on the petroleum industry will be shown. All freshmen in any field of engineering are urged to attend.

**April 17**  
The Aero Wives Club will meet in the Cabinet Room of the YMCA at 7:45 p.m. All members are urged to be present as this is a very important meeting.

**April 18**  
The Vet Library will hold open house in observance of National Library Week from 4-6 p.m. The faculty wives of the vet staff will serve as hostesses and the public is cordially invited to attend.

### The BUCCANEER Dairy Treat

1400 S. College

Daily—10:30 a. m. - 10:30 p. m. Fri. & Sat. Open Til 11 p. m.

Try Our Specialty—SMOKE BURGER (Hamburger With Special Smoke Sauce)

Other Favorites

- HAMBURGERS
- CHEESEBURGERS
- HOT DOGS
- CHILI DOGS
- ROOT BEER
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- MALTS
- SHAKES

### Attention Careful Drivers!

4 out of 5

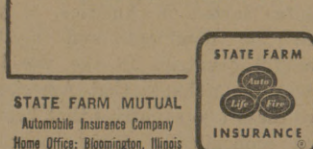
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## Sound Off

### 'Orwellian ring'

Editor, The Battalion:

So, "In this name (Texas A&M University), 'A&M' stands alone, and does not mean 'Agricultural and Mechanical.' In this sense, 'A&M' is a name by itself and would be used much the same as 'Rice' is used in Rice University or 'Baylor' is used in Baylor University." (THE BATTALION, April 11, 1961.)

This explanation has a fine Orwellian ring, hasn't it (War is Peace! Freedom is Slavery! A&M means Nothing! Ignorance is Strength!). And it seems a rather gratuitous insult to those two stalwarts, William Marsh Rice and Judge R. E. B. Baylor, to say that "Rice" and "Baylor" also mean nothing.

For the benefit of those people in other parts who may not understand the Alice-in-Wonderland logic that prevails here (Humpty Dumpty: "When I use a word it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less."), I respectfully offer the suggestion that, when the change is made official, the letterhead on the school stationary be printed to read a la TIME's treatment of Harry S. Truman, "Texas A&M (for nothing) University."

R. W. Barzak, Department of English

considerably more

Editor, The Battalion:

I would like to take issue with the professor who stated in a letter to The Battalion that A&M must stand for Agricultural and Mechanical or nothing at all. I believe he has overlooked a third possible meaning. Why can't A&M simply stand for the wealth of tradition behind this tradi-

tion and for all Aggies, present and future?  
When A&M is mentioned, which comes to your mind first—Agricultural and Mechanical College or "Fighting Texas Aggies?" In my opinion, the name Texas A&M University will be meaningful and will do justice to the heritage and future of the institution.

The names Baylor and Rice do stand for something—two excellent institutions of higher learning. I do not believe that the two gentlemen who bore those names would object to the loss of their individuality, if, indeed, it has been lost, as a result of the failure to associate the names of the respective universities with the gentlemen's names. The name Texas A&M also stands for something and that something is considerably more than Agricultural and Mechanical.

In conclusion, if there is any danger of our becoming a laughing stock to the rest of the academic world, I believe it is due to our refusal to make our opinions known. If you have an opinion on this matter, voice it to someone other than your roommate.

Jerry B. Lincecum, '63

### DANCE

S.P.J.S.T. HALL

Snook, Texas

Saturday, April 15

Music By

Jr. and The Hi Fives

## Ecuadoriana de aviación

TARIFAS COMBINADAS		DE HOUSTON, TEXAS a:	
	IDA	IDA Y VUELTA	EXCURSION
CALI, Colombia	151.77	285.54	245.04 45 DIAS
QUITO, Ecuador	161.77	303.54	—
GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador	171.77	321.54	—
TALARA, Peru	186.77	348.54	—
LIMA, Peru	195.37	348.54	346.30 45 DIAS
LA PAZ, Bolivia	245.37	438.54	411.30 45 DIAS
SANTIAGO, Chile	271.77	501.54	—
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina	261.77	483.54	—

Y CONEXIONES A OTRAS CIUDADES—Aviones Douglas DC-6-30 KGM Equipaje

CEA Airlines \* Quiero viajar a: \_\_\_\_\_  
507 M&M Building El dia \_\_\_\_\_ de \_\_\_\_\_  
Houston, Texas Envienme informes sobre itinerarios, precios y el envio de todo mi equipaje.  
TEL: CA 8-2603  
Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_ Direccion \_\_\_\_\_

## Cafe Tropicale

SATURDAY NIGHT - 8-12

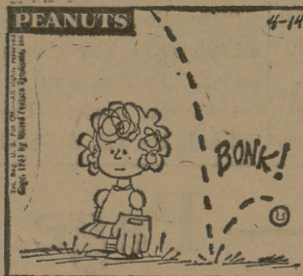
Featuring TRIO COLUMBIA (present at ITS)

Admission: \$1.25 Per Couple

## M. S. C.

Lower Level

### PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz

Preview Saturday Night Also Sunday

"SUNRISE AT CAMPOBELLO"

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