

BATTALION EDITORIALS

Death Won't Be Resting As Students Take Holiday

A&M students will begin a much-anticipated vacation Thursday, but death will not be resting. In fact, death has been on vacation for the entire school year, at least as far as Aggies are concerned.

Thursday, and throughout the two-week Christmas holiday, death will indeed be present. Predictions by the Texas Department of Public Safety indicate 92 Texans will lose their lives during the holiday period. Many more will die across the nation, where 37,600 persons lost their lives during 1961.

Death will also show no favorites—we all should realize that. Aggies already have been fortunate in that no student has been killed in an auto accident during the present school year. This is not the case during most years—last year, for example, four A&M students had been killed in traffic accidents prior to the Christmas holidays.

This small statistic brings to light another very vital point. Persons in the college-age group seem to be a particular favorite of death. National statistics show that 18.4 per cent of the nation's drivers are under 25 years of age, yet 28.7 per cent of all fatal accidents involve persons in this same age group.

For this statistic there can be no excuse. College-age persons are more physically and mentally alert than other drivers. The fault must rest with some form of carelessness—neglect, speeding, drinking or a thousand and one other "little" things that can add up to something big.

College-age drivers are all too familiar with this "something big." We know of a few students who have not seen a classmate or close friend killed in a traffic mishap.

Even with all these odds looking us in the face, Aggies are being accorded every opportunity for safety during this holiday. Most students will be en route home Thursday and Friday, not over the weekend when traffic will hit its heaviest peak. Also students will not have to report back for classes until Jan. 3, not Jan. 2 when traffic again will be at its heaviest.

Endless rules could be listed for traffic safety, but we feel the situation is best summed up by the following phrase from the safety code of a nationwide bus company:

"Our drivers think like professionals. They know accidents can happen, and they respect the machine at their control."



Death Hides Real Meaning

Doubtless, many of the scenes and stories in this issue of The Battalion will be shocking to some of our readers. We wish that this would not be so, but the facts are clear and simple—many of the scenes that will be enacted on our nation's highways during the Christmas holiday period will be far more shocking.

This seems to be one of the odd quirks of reality—people choose to kill themselves en masse on the nation's highways during a time for celebrating. In far too many cases, holiday fatalities spell ruin to well-planned excursions or much-anticipated reunions.

The Battalion hopes its readers will exercise care over the holidays, but still keep in mind the real message of Christmas. Despite the fact that the holidays have become so commercialized, Americans and the world are pausing to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Perhaps it would be best if the world celebrated Christmas as in the far-removed "good 'ole days." Surely there was less sorrow then and, quite likely, more real sincerity. Irregardless, the holiday is set up to note the birth of a saviour who came to lead the world from sin.

How each student wishes to note the occasion is his own business. We only hope that Aggies and all citizens will pause to realize that there is far more to Christmas than giving and receiving.

And a safer, more sane holiday will insure opportunity to reap the rewards of this greatest of all holidays.



Safety Effort Merits Motorists' Caution

The problems of forcefully coordinating a state-wide safety drive are staggering, but we still view in awe the effectiveness of Texas' present-day holiday safety campaigns.

While many states regularly exceed the grimmest of death predictions, Texas for the past few years has been consistently coming out with an enviable record.

Last Christmas, for example, 88 traffic deaths were predicted. The actual final death total was 80—still quite high, but nevertheless under the prediction.

The efforts of Governor Price Daniel and the Texas Department of Public Safety toward safer holiday driving have been monumental. The least motorists can do is exert half as much as effort and Texas would record its safety holiday yet.

THE BATTALION

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... at least it's worth a try!"

Professional Drivers Cut Auto Injury Rate

Professional drivers have been called responsible for a slight decrease in the U. S. auto personal injury rate for 1961.

In 1961 37,600 Americans died and 3,057,000 were injured on our nation's highways, representing a one per cent drop over the figures of a year ago.

Even though the over-all figures dropped and professional drivers were involved in fewer accidents, passenger cars were involved in slightly more personal injury accidents in 1961 than in 1960.

About 80 per cent of all registered vehicles are classified as passenger cars, but these autos are involved in more than 80 per cent of all personal injury accidents.

On the surface this seems about normal, with commercial vehicles accounting for about 20 per cent of these accidents. However, what really should make us think is

523 Were Killed Last Christmas

Christmas 1961 gave death to 523 persons and disabling injuries to more than 24,000 persons.

Cost to the nation was approximately \$130 million. On a comparable, non-holiday weekend 342 were killed and 16,000 disabled. The cost was \$85 million.

Bulletin Board

Wee Aggeland Kindergarten will meet at 5 p.m. Wednesday in the MSC Ballroom. A program, "Toy Shop Window," will be presented.

Dallas Hometown Club will meet at 8:30 p.m. Dec. 28 in the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Dallas.

Editor, The Battalion: After reading your many letters on the spirit and seeing the gap between civilians and the Corps increase, I composed this epic poem to express the meaning of our spirit. Many overlook the fact that numerous Aggies have given their lives for our country and impressed the world over by their actions.

We all should uphold our spirit, at least for the great men who created it.

Tribute to the Spirit Reconstruction of the South in full swing; Morrill Act; carpetbaggers; colored sing; Bryan; banks of the Brazos; A&M College.

The birth of a spirit; 1876; knowledge.

Aggeland, home of the fighting Texas Aggies.

Men who built and carry a spirit... Aggies.

Cuba, the Spanish-American War and here are they, Abrest Roosevelt's Rough Riders in early May.

Wounded and weary ever ready are they, On the hills of San Juan the Spanish they meet

The Aggies charge; the Spanish retreat.

The battle long, the victory sweet.

PEANUTS

MISS OTHMAR IS RETIRING FROM TEACHING...

SHE SAID IT'S ABOUT TIME SHE STARTED TO RAISE A FAMILY OF HER OWN...

I ASKED HER IF SHE CONSIDERED THIS A STEP FORWARD OR A STEP BACKWARD, BUT JUST THEN THE BELL RANG AND I NEVER GOT AN ANSWER

IT WOULD MAKE A GOOD TOPIC FOR A PANEL DISCUSSION

12-19

THE BATTLE LONG, THE VICTORY SWEET.

Russia Draws U.S. Eye Despite Chinese Priority

By J. M. ROBERTS

Associated Press News Analyst President Kennedy, in his summary of affairs Monday night, gave Red China priority over the Soviet Union as a threat to world peace.

But he did not downgrade the danger from the two countries in their combined objective of spreading Communist domination to the rest of the world.

And he did not forget that the experienced hunter is both alert and cautious in approaching a bear which has been shot, no matter how dead it may appear.

Red China talks of force to conquer the world, but doesn't have it. The Soviet Union talks of peaceful competition, but has the force.

The Manchester Guardian said Tuesday discussing the Skybolt missile, that the British government is "continuing to pursue a fictitious independence" when interdependence with the United States "ought to be our aim, and interdependence does not require Britain to keep with a separate nuclear force." Dean Acheson and other Americans have not put it that bluntly.

For 15 years the general pattern has been for the West to react against pushing from the East. Is the United States now beginning to take the initiative

in a little nudging on her own? She has just reminded Moscow that the legal status of Berlin remains the same as in 1948.

She has just sponsored transfer of the long-standing Hungarian question in the United Nations to the Secretary-General from the hands of a special representative who has, by the nature of the matter, been handcuffed. A visit by U Thant to the Eastern European satellite area is being discussed. Instead of letting the issue of Soviet colonialism and brutality drop, this may open it up again.

At any rate it is a time when pushing the Soviet government, already of balance both at home and abroad, might produce dividends.

High Birth Rate Becomes Factor In Auto Accidents

The high birth rate of the late 1940's is a powerful factor that enters into the grim picture of death and injury on our highways and must be considered in an analysis of the expected toll for the next few years.

This point was made in a study of what happened during the preceding year on our highways every year since 1931, with the exception of the war years.

There is no question that it is the age group with the worst driving record and that it is in this age group that we can look for our largest number of new drivers in the 1960's. Unless the group can discipline itself to drive more safely, it can be expected to be responsible for an ever-increasing share of the highway casualties.

The other extreme in the age group, those drivers over 65 whose numbers can also be expected to increase rapidly, do much better during 1961. These drivers were involved in 7.2 per cent of the fatal accidents as compared to 6.5 per cent a year ago. They make up about 6.5 per cent of all licensed drivers.

It constitutes a two-pronged problem that must be solved if our slaughter on the highway is to diminish.

Weather conditions should never surprise a driver. Everybody can see a wet pavement ahead, and no wet paving provides nearly as good traction as a dry one.

One could complain: "There are too many things to do, defensively, in driving a car."

There are two answers: learning to drive defensively will save you possible death, possible injury, much time and considerable money. The second answer is: just drive any old way, and you will undoubtedly see plenty of trouble.

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The Kaiser Steel Corp. has taken another step on a fundamental labor-management problem: the effort to establish some standard for equitable division of industrial profits between those who invest their money and those who invest labor and skill. Workers are to share the profits of automation while those who are displaced are retrained for re-entry into the resultant expansion.

The U. N. General Assembly voted 101-0 with four abstentions against setting a fixed time for the worldwide end of colonialism. The abstainers were all colonial or former colonial powers. Major grief is building up a certain security among some of the new independents.

Christmas Message

President Earl Rudder Wednesday wished for the entire A&M family a "bright Christmas of the true tradition of its meaning."

"As you join loved ones at home, Mrs. Rudder and I sincerely hope that your Christmas will be most meaningful and that you enjoy the richest blessings of the season," he said.

"Let us hope that peace on earth and good will to men will become our creed not only at Christmas, but throughout the New Year."

— Sound Off —

Europe, the Kaiser comes to power, One by one proud countries afire, All Europe engulfed by the growing fire.

Americans; victory on the Rhine, Germans fall, the Pershing on the line, Gave praise to the Aggies of this time.

World War II; Pearl Harbor; overnight. Twenty thousand Aggies show their might, Rome, Midway, Normandy, Guam, they fight.

Many die; many fall; but the rest come through, Their victories many, their defeats few, Which for the Aggies was nothing new.

Medal of Honor and purple heart, Bestowed on the Aggies for their part.

Korean War and wars yet to start, Aggies; spirit; courage; victories to be. Now young Aggies, do you see, You are this spirit, so let it be.

Non-regs; Corps; unite one Carry this spirit; praise it with all your might, Bonfire; yell practice, Silver Taps on a cold night.

Elephant Walk; Muster; 12th Man, all a part Beat TU; old Sully; the War Hymn; keep them in your heart, Yell practice; 52 trees; the end; all a part.

Stars Davis, '63

for the briefcase after about 45 minutes in the fountain room of the MSC, it was missing.

All notes on my research project are lost.

I am hereby appealing to the person who took my briefcase with the hope that he will return the case, books and papers to me. If I don't get them back I cannot continue with the research project.

Please return the material to the Department of Biochemistry and Nutrition.

Carlos Noriega

Editor, The Battalion: Please permit me to express by appreciation to you and The Battalion's staff for the excellent publicity you have given this year's Christmas Seal drive. Much of the success of the drive depends upon the publicity given it, and both Mrs. Miller and I

are indeed grateful for the work of The Battalion in connection with our campaign.

We are also indebted to Mr. James Lindsey and Mrs. Cecilia Prihoda for furnishing us with the names of the students for our mailing list. We appreciate very much their getting the names to us so promptly.

We especially want to thank the student body for its wonderful, warm response to our campaign letter. It is always gratifying to see young people assuming the responsibilities of good citizenship, and the splendid example set by the Aggies in the drive should be an inspiration to all of us.

May each of you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs. W. E. McCune, Chairman, 1962 Christmas Seal Campaign

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By Charles M. Schell

