

BATTALION EDITORIALS

Handling Of 'Resignation' Puts College In Squeeze

The college suffered probably its worst public relations setback of the current year last weekend as a result of Athletic Director Hank Foldberg's poor handling of the "resignation" of head basketball mentor Bob Rogers.

Foldberg received Rogers' "resignation" Thursday morning but would not release the news until Friday afternoon. Needless to say, this alienated newsmen, especially sportswriters, across the state. In addition, the incident was an additional black mark for Foldberg with the Texas sports-writing fraternity.

In only a year on the job, Foldberg has already issued a statement that interviews with all football players must be cleared by him, and on several occasions last fall the head football coach closed Aggie dressing room doors to sportswriters after games. This latest incident may only serve to make Aggie athletic relations with the press even more strained.

In addition to depriving the public of its right to know, Foldberg's latest action also accomplished the following:

- 1. News of Rogers' "resignation" had leaked out and at least one Houston newspaper had already printed the story.
2. Newsmen seeking details of the rumor were unable to get details from a central source.
3. The sports publicity director says he was one of the last persons to find out details of the news.

Throughout all the confusion that prevailed last Friday afternoon, no reason has yet been given for the unnecessary delay. As much as we would like to hear a reason, such a statement will probably not be forthcoming. Even if such a statement were to be released, critical newsmen would probably not buy it.

Unfortunately, the entire college stands to suffer for the handling of this incident, and we really have little or no excuse.

Safeguard Is Needed

A bill that we hope will prevent future occurrences such as the present controversy over the dismissal of a professor at Sam Houston State Teachers College seems to have strong backing in the state legislature.

This is a bill by Rep. Maud Isaacs of El Paso to guarantee the political rights of teachers in state-supported colleges and universities. The bill, which is now in subcommittee for study, has already been co-signed by House members from every district in the state where state-supported colleges are located.

One witness in support of the bill, University of Texas law professor Corwin W. Johnson, said the bill "would safeguard the exercise of a teacher's right to engage in political activities." He added that this would not mean that a teacher could use the classroom for political purposes.

Even though incidents involving teachers' political rights are rare and most colleges seem quite fair about the issue, we would agree that the state could use such a law. Nothing is more embarrassing than an incident such as the Sam Houston case, where no law can be referred to for an answer.

The state has already suffered because of the Sam Houston incident. The least we can do is see that it doesn't happen again.

Bulletin Board

Institute of Aerospace Sciences will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 229 of the Chemistry Building. M. M. Alexander of General Dynamics in Fort Worth will speak.

Physical Education Wives Club will meet at 8 p.m. at Hanson's Meat Market.

American Society of Mechanical Engineers will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Rooms 3-B and 3-C of the MSC.

BESIDES MEXICAN FOOD ZARAPE RESTAURANT

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THE BATTALION

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"... Somehow I feel I was a failure during Career Day! I showed those high school boys displays, demonstrations and departments, but they seemed more interested in learning about Babo bombs, water-fighting and mess hall slang!"

Sound Off

Editor, The Battalion: I read with interest your March 8 story on Maritime Academy funds.

This is a time for students and friends of the TMA and A&M to actively support this program. Although the House did not include the academy in its appropriations measure, we should keep the following in mind:

1. There is every reason to believe the Senate finance committee will include the A&M appropriation for the academy;

2. There is a possibility that the House will consider a second small omnibus appropriations bill within a few weeks which will include Gov. Connally's recommendations and funds for the academy;

3. The final appropriation measure passed this session by both the House and Senate will probably be increased by more than \$40 million (ample funds to include \$222,000 for the state's two-year share of the academy's operation);

4. The conference committee of both houses — as it did last session — will do the right thing by both A&M and the academy.

The administration of A&M has shown outstanding leadership in both the new fields of nuclear energy and the Maritime Academy as it relates to our state's maritime commerce. The academy is a worthwhile part of A&M and is deserving of our continued and best efforts.

Peter P. LaValle Galveston County Judge

Professors' Group Backs Fired Prof

An organization of college and university professors believes Dr. Rupert C. Koeninger was dismissed from the faculty at Sam Houston State last year without a showing of adequate cause.

An investigating committee of the American Association of University Professors reached this conclusion in a report published Friday in the spring issue of the AAUP Bulletin.

According to the two-member committee, Koeninger "appears to have done no more than simply exercise his rights as a citizen."

Future Dates

TODAY Texas Agricultural Extension Service conference (through Wednesday)

WEDNESDAY Baseball, varsity vs. Sul Ross Reunion, Class of 1918 Begin filing for general elections

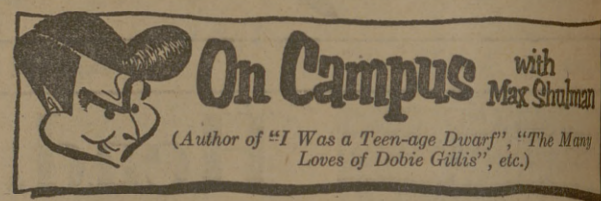
THURSDAY Student Senate Highway geology symposium (through Friday)

FRIDAY Reunion, Class of 1933 (through Saturday)

SATURDAY Junior prom and banquet Baseball, varsity vs. Baylor

political grounds of the nature discussed in this report, such dismissal constitutes a clear violation of academic freedom," the report said. The report said SHSTC President Dr. Harmon Lowman Koeninger that his services would be terminated because some members of the Board of Regents opposed certain political activities in which he had engaged.

Read Battalion Classifieds



AMONG MY KINFOLK

My favorite cousin, Mandolin Glebe, a sweet, unspoiled country boy, has just started college. Today I got a letter from him which I will reprint here because I know Mandolin's problems are so much like your own. Mandolin writes: Dear Mandolin (he thinks my name is Mandolin too), I see by the college paper that you are writing a column for Marlboro Cigarettes. I think Marlboros are jim-dandy cigarettes with real nice tobacco and a ginger-peachy filter, and I want to tell you why I don't smoke them. It all started the very first day I arrived at college. I was walking across the campus, swinging my paper valise and singing traditional airs like Blue Tail Fly and Death and Transfiguration, when all of a sudden I ran into this here collegiate-looking fellow with a monogram on his breast pocket. He asked me was I a freshman. I said yes. He asked me did I want to be a BMOC and the envy of all the in crowd. I said yes. He said the only way to make these keen things happen was to join a fraternity. Fortunately he happened to have a pledge card with him, so he pricked my thumb and I signed. He didn't tell me the name of the fraternity or where it is located, but I suppose I'll find out when I go active.



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