

BATTALION EDITORIALS

Academic Downs Finish Line Nears

We're in the home stretch and low GPR's, being pressed by fast coming final exams, are leaving tiring Christmas Holidays in the dust rising from the Academic Downs.

For many students the week of Jan. 20, promises a photo finish. There are probably more close races on the Academic Downs' track than anywhere else in the nation. It seems that there are always a few of the competitors that save all their drive for this all too brief home stretch.

After a brief conference in the basement of the YMCA Building members of The Battalion staff succeeded in convincing themselves that most courses can still be salvaged if just a little extra effort is applied.

We encourage all students, but especially those who are completing their first semester on campus, to consider all courses worth working for. We've all gone to far to pull up on the horses this late in the race. We'll have to ride this to the finish anyway, so we might as well take all the prize money we can, payable in grade points.

There was one conclusion that was reached in The Battalion staff conference. There is only one way to pull the low grades out of the mud—study like hell.

No one will deny that the two weeks of fun, folly, flirting, and etc. have not served any constructive purpose toward shaping an individual up for a hard drive toward the finish line that is beginning to gleam in front of all of us.

If The Battalion staff can pick up any hints, clues, or worthy suggestions to make everyone's bid for an "A", or just passing, we'll pass them on.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"It's sure nice to have a break in routine—you won't believe this, but I didn't shave or get a haircut during the holidays!"

Goldwater Opens Campaign With Shot At Pres. Johnson

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Sen. Barry Goldwater opened his drive for the White House with an assertion Monday night that the Kennedy program is a liability for President Johnson but the chief executive is stuck with it.

"These inherited proposals he must not, cannot reject—or even materially revise," the Arizona Republican said in the first speech of his campaign for the GOP presidential nomination.

In a speech prepared for a party fund-raising dinner, the conservative leader said "a mind fed by communism" produced the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas last Nov. 22.

"And in that role I shall and do oppose him with all the strength I can muster, with all the support I can gather," he said. "For his party is wrong, and he is its leader."

Goldwater said Johnson must defend his inheritance of Kennedy programs and proposals. "These cannot be listed among President Johnson's assets," he said. "They are his liabilities."

Goldwater, whose rating among potential GOP nominees has dipped since the assassination, said "to those who seek political advantage from the assassination, I say run on your own records, do not seek to sow the seeds of doubt and division where honest debate should grow."

The Arizona senator, who will

challenge New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller in the New Hampshire primary March 10, said "our opponent is the Democratic regime now in power. I do not believe in intraparty blood-letting."

Goldwater has refused to meet Rockefeller in debate.

Goldwater said Johnson tells insiders at the White House that he is a Franklin D. Roosevelt New Dealer, but "he tries to sell the public on the idea that he is a conservative."

He is not, Goldwater said, "but he knows, and we know, that there is a conservative mood in America. He seeks to exploit it. We represent it."

Goldwater said a Republican "Me too" philosophy cannot be reconciled with the conservative mood of America.

"Democrats cannot be beaten by a Me too in reverse—a Republican posture that attempts to oust the liberals," Goldwater said. "They can be beaten only by the genuine articles—by conservative programs and conservative candidates," he said.

"Why should Americans vote for an echo?" Goldwater asked.

He accused the Johnson administration of trading on poverty and fear for political advantage; and on measuring welfare in votes.

WRIGHT

or

WRONG

by John Wright

We live today amid "trends." According to Howard K. Smith, nationally known news commentator, the "trend" is journalistic lingo for any news event lasting for 48 hours or more.

We have survived the many trends of 1963, and I suppose we shall all survive the biggest trend of 1964—the national election.

The coming campaigns promise to provide the American electorate with the most entertaining of election year spectacles yet.

Already the two announced Republican candidates have started the irrevocable round of name calling a little early in the campaign it seems to me, since things don't usually live up until the primaries are well underway. In any event, swords have been drawn so let's have at it.

Speaking last night at a GOP fund-raising dinner in Grand Rapids, Mich., Republican Sen. Barry Goldwater said, "To those who seek political advantage from the assassination, I say run on your own record, do not seek to sow the seeds of doubt and division where honest debate should grow."

Now if Sen. Goldwater wishes to discourage the seeds of doubt and division, and encourage honest debate, why is he so reluctant to meet New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, another Republican, in public debate?

According to the Senator's recent statements, he claims that a public TV debate would only serve to agitate the GOP split. Said Goldwater, "our opponent is the Democratic regime now in power. I do not believe in intraparty blood-letting."

Sen. Goldwater knows full well that intra-party "blood-letting," as he terms it, is already well underway with his himself providing a goodly portion of the commotion. I wonder what he thinks is to gain, from his standpoint, by avoiding a nation-wide TV debate.

By now every American of voting age is aware of the terrific impact of the now famous Nixon-Kennedy TV debate on the 1960 elections. TV is now a fully accepted instrument of opinion. Surely Sen. Goldwater, an astute politician, realizes that sooner or later a TV debate is inevitable between himself and Gov. Rockefeller, and most assuredly, if he receives the Presidential nomination, between himself and the Democratic nominee.

If Sen. Goldwater genuinely desires to run on his own record, and further his conservative cause, he should debate.

A public aware of Nixon's pitfall might well be interested in seeing how Sen. Goldwater holds up in public debate with a man whom he terms "an echo" of Democratic policy.

FEW FACTS OR FIGURES

Dean Visits Soviet Maritime Academy While On European Field Study Trip

Editor's Note—This is a report of three educational associations, was fortunate enough to visit and report on a maritime school in Russia.

Graff said it was a rare opportunity for him to visit the Russian academy in Leningrad. There he visited one of three academies in the Soviet Union which permit a maximum enrollment of 2,000. The dean of the academy gave Graff two copies of the annual journal and a Russian mathematics book to bring back to the Texas Maritime Academy library. He was also given a picture card of the academy's training ship, a 6,000-ton vessel, which is always at sea. It is a combination cargo and training ship. As it comes back from commercial trips, it takes on a load of cadets and goes out again, giving them very practical experience.

Graff said the academy at Leningrad definitely distinguishes itself as a university while the Scandinavian countries offer a secondary level vocational type

of marine training. In 1944 the three naval training locations in Leningrad were incorporated to reform this academy, thus allowing for their operation in three locations. The other two academies are at Odessa and Vladivostok. Graff said the academies offer nine months of school and three months at sea. Students usually enter at age 17 for a 5½-year course and spend the last two years at sea. Some few students are accepted above freshman level based on previous training at the secondary level. They must take examinations for licenses just as our students do, he commented.

Schooling is entirely free without cost to the student, and courses such as mathematics, mechanics, physics, chemistry and strength of materials are offered. The faculty consists of 650 personnel, Graff said. Students are in class or studying six hours a day for six days a week and three hours each evening except Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Selection of students to the academy is primarily based on a

matriculation examination at the end of the secondary school, Graff said. Students who have had vocational college training or who have spent several years at sea may enroll in the academy at a little higher level.

Throughout his visit of the Russian maritime academy, Graff was accompanied by the dean of the school, head of one of its departments, a lecturer and an interpreter. He said they were all very courteous and enthusiastic in presenting their views of the institution and in making the visit a profitable and enjoyable one.

How does such an institution compare with the maritime academies in our own country, especially the Texas Maritime Academy with which we should be somewhat familiar? Certainly we don't have enough facts and figures to make a sound comparison but we do have some knowledge concerning the subject. That's what should be considered as the primary aspect.

By BILL BRADEN
Special Writer

In the present age of world turmoil and international problems, it tends to be a custom of the American people to compare their own industries and institutions with those found in many of the foreign countries. Whether this is always beneficial or not is often difficult to determine. However, it is often important that the progress of our institutions as well as those of other countries being brought into the light.

W. J. Graff, A&M dean of instruction, one of the 92 persons making a 21-day field study of Europe under the sponsorship

of three educational associations, was fortunate enough to visit and report on a maritime school in Russia.

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CIVILIAN YEARBOOK PORTRAIT SCHEDULE

Civilian Students will have their portrait made for the "AggieLand '64" according to the following schedule. Portraits will be made at the AggieLand Studio, between 8 AM and 5 PM on the days scheduled. TIES AND COATS SHOULD BE WORN.

NOTE: JANUARY GRADUATES should have their portrait made before leaving school, disregarding any conflict in schedule dates.

CIVILIAN SENIORS AND GRADUATE STUDENTS
January 9-10 A-D (surname)
13-14 E-J
15-16 K-P
20-21 Q-T
22-23 U-Z

CIVILIAN SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS
February 4-5 A-E
6-7 F-K
11-12 L-R
13-14 S-Z

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THE BATTALION

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PARDNER

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PEANUTS

IF YOU ONLY KNEW HOW NAUSEATED I GET EVERY TIME I SEE YOU HOLDING THAT STUPID BLANKET!

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A PILL?

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A PILL FOR RELIEF OF NAUSEA CAUSED BY SIGHT OF LITTLE BROTHER CLUTCHING BLANKET?

YOU'RE NOT A GOOD BROTHER AT ALL!

YOU'RE NOT A GOOD BROTHER BECAUSE YOU DON'T WORK AT IT!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE A GOOD BROTHER, YOU'VE GOT TO WORK AT IT AND WORK AT IT!

WHERE'S THE PRACTICE TEE?

By Charles M. Schulz