

BATTALION EDITORIALS

With All Sincerity

In studying last editorials by previous editors we discover that it has been traditional for the outgoing editor to heap words of praise on the accomplishments of the past year and on the cooperation received during the year. Not wanting to upset tradition, our last editorial will heap praise.

However, at the moment we are embarking upon our next-to-last editorial, and we have no intention of heaping praise, nor do we have the intention of piling on criticism. We are, though, going to attempt to fire a flare or send out an SOS on behalf of Texas A&M University, an educational institution which is of strong body and frame; but sucked void of its strength by mal-functioning organs.

Contrary to most common arguments the illness of A&M is not the result of one external wound inflicted by "THEM"; but, is a cancerous internal illness eating away at the very guts (pardon, please) of A&M. This cancer is composed of thousands of little cells which must be referred to by all associated with A&M as "US."

Factionalism is the cancer that eats away at A&M. It is not so small a thing as Civilians vs. Corps, students vs. administration, for co-ed vs. against co-ed, etc.

The death-carrying factionalism stems from selfish group ambitions and is fed by the idea that anything "THEY" do is wrong. It would be tragic for all factions supporting A&M to agree down the line. This would soon make us stagnant and the school would die of its own odor. However, it is just as tragic that the factionalism has become so ingrained that it is always a foregone conclusion that the other faction cannot intend any good, regardless of the idea which might be projected.

What can be done about this deplorable situation? That's a hard thing to determine, because the human animal is involved.

A glorious start would be for everyone to take up the cape of dignity and swallow their foolish pride which will not permit any member of any faction to admit that he has been wrong. If but one time one faction will lend its support to another faction for the total good of A&M we will be much further down the road we so often talk about than we will ever get under present conditions.

Aggies are men with nerve, with backbone, with principles, it is said. It must be pointed out that men with nerve, men with backbone, men with principles do not think in packs like hungry wolves, or more fittingly in most of our cases, in herds like sheep.

These last remarks are not aimed only at Civilian that think Civilian because of his dress, or Cadet that think Cadet because of his uniform; but, it is intended for the professor who does not have the nerve to tell a superior that a new teaching practice might improve a department; it is intended for the person in the administration who will not walk into a better furnished office than his own to discuss something with which they do not agree; it is intended for those people who have or who would ask the editor of The Battalion to stand for a principle, but would decline the opportunity to declare themselves openly.

We of A&M have a choice. We can let our ideas and ideals embrace one another and then stand together or we can continue as little cancer cells and eat away at this mighty institution until it is completely void of the life stuff.

This editor says to you students, former students, faculty, staff and administration, after having read the foregoing, frown if you wish, anger if you must, but in the name of God and for the sake of A&M think. Think that the other side might have ideas with merit. Think how selfishly and dogmatically you and your faction have held on to your own narrow views. Think of the expense to A&M for your selfishness.

It Has Been Rewarding

As indicated above we are going to follow tradition. However, it is not as idle an effort as might be implied above. A&M has accomplished some things this year.

However, we must point out now that our accomplishments have been in the plant and not the intangible institution of A&M. Our accomplishments have been physical and not idealistic.

We have been generally pleased with the cooperation we have received on campus this year.

We could not leave this post without saying that it has indeed been an honor to serve as Editor, The Battalion 1963-64. It hasn't all been fun, but it has very well been interesting, educational and rewarding.

May we all see A&M prosper.

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CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"... And this year instead of having a Splash Day they're having a Splash Month! I'm not sure I can spare that much class time!"

— Sound Off —

Editor, The Battalion:
I've heard a word used on campus more lately than usual which implied other words that led to ideas and finally to this letter. The expression could mean a lot of things but I interpreted it in an educational sense.

Any kind of education is a beneficial procedure under some circumstances and it is a process which requires a teacher as well as a student whether the teacher be the student or someone else. We paid good money to come to this institution to get educated. We were introduced to many conflicting ideas as soon as we started learning. We were also presented with the various types of teachers that would mould and build out philosophies for now and the years to follow. As good Aggs, we soon learned to classify teachers as either good or bad. I learned but restricted my classification: A good prof was one who appreciated his job because the student was able to use him to develop himself to the limit of his desires. The bad prof was the one who appreciated his job for the single reason that the prof was able to see his own intelligence only when it was relative to his ignorant students.

The word I refer to is enlarge. The bad prof was and still is the one who goes out and looks for poor, helpless, devils to build into mighty men with much enlargement and broadened views. They do this to console themselves for their goodness and intelligence.

Attention Aggies

Candidates for Vanity Fair for the AggieLand '64 can be entered at the Office of Student Publications in the basement of the Y.M.C.A.

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Johnson Invites Opponents To See Intelligence Files

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Johnson opened the administration's intelligence files Thursday to Republicans who might be nominated to challenge him for the White House. And he said he wants to talk with them personally to help chart "the wise course" in foreign affairs.

"I do want all the men in the opposition party to know all the facts that dictate the decisions that involve national interests," the President told a news conference.

His offer of intelligence briefings for major Republican presidential contenders was quickly rejected by Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater.

Goldwater called it a "basically unwise, offhand political gesture" that could be used to muffle Republicans who want to challenge administration foreign policy.

Through a spokesman, Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine accepted the invitation and added she would be "delighted to confer with the President any time he calls, on anything."

At Johnson's behest, Secretary of State Dean Rusk sent invitations to six Republicans and a dissident Democrat to hear intelligence briefings from

him, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and Director John A. McCone of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Democrat is Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace who has campaigned against Johnson slates in a handful of presidential primary states. In Indianapolis, Wallace declined comment on the

offer. "I didn't know anything about it," he said.

The other Republicans are New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, former Vice President Richard M. Nixon, former Minnesota Gov. Harold E. Stassen and Gov. William W. Scranton of Pennsylvania.

Bulletin Board

Saturday
The Indian Student's Association will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Gay Room of the YMCA. C. M. Loyd, coordinator of the National Science Foundation at A&M will be guest speaker.

Monday
The A.Y.I. Wives Club will meet in the South Solorium of the YMCA at 7:30 p.m. Joyce Verney and Diane Formke will be hostesses.

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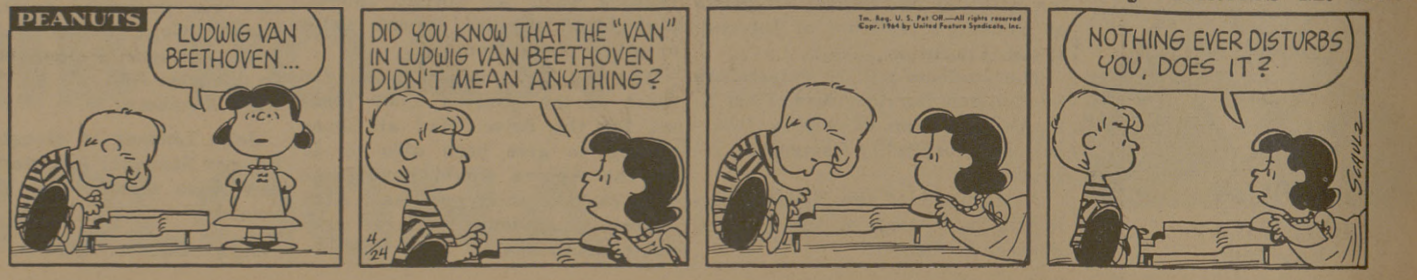
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By Charles M. Schulz