

BATTALION EDITORIALS

Mid-Semester Grades: A Comedy Of Errors

Mid-semester grades were unveiled this week, and to those fellow students who crashed and burned while competing in the race for academic excellence, we offer our condolences.

The acid test is about to begin. How to tell your parents in the most ambiguous and unintelligible terms possible why you flunked—before they have time to receive your grades.

Long experience has indicated the average student's chances of lifting the damning evidence from the bowels of the U. S. mails are practically nil. Big Brother sees to it that they are mailed out during the week.

Therefore we offer these few suggestions, so that you might write ahead and soften the blow:

1. I was hazed and didn't have time to study. (This one is a classic and rarely fails to bring a favorable response. Not recommended for seniors.)

2. My profs don't like me. (Superb for minority groups.)

3. The guy next door plays the bongos until 2 a.m. (Insomniacs disregard this one. Also unfit for nocturnal musicians.)

4. Nobody understands my problems. (Grow a beard if you plan to use this one.)

5. My alarm doesn't work and I have difficulty making 8 o'clock classes. (Unsuitable for Corps freshmen and sophomores.)

6. I can't find my classes. (Use this in extreme cases only.)

7. The profs didn't honor my distinguished student card. (Not to be used by students on academic probation.)

8. Grades don't really mean anything anyway. It's what you get out of college that counts. (Tremendous if you can put it over.)

Of course there are many other suggestions you might try—and if you have to search a long time you can use that as an excuse when final grades come out.

Millions For Excellence — Not Pencil Sharpeners

Better sharpen your pocket-knives boys, 'cause you're gonna need 'em if the campus pencil-sharpener situation gets any worse.

Back in the old days (three or four years ago), it took only a simple twist of a handle to produce a fine lead pencil point. But today, in the era of progress, we must revert to whittlin' or chewin' to get even the faintest trace of lead.

For a university looking to the future and striving for academic excellence, this is a perplexing—yet needless—problem.

We spend millions of dollars on research, yet can't afford—or don't afford—several \$1.98 pencil sharpeners.

The situation is indeed tragic. Take the Academic Building, for instance, the center of our basic educational pursuits. Very few classrooms, if any, contain a pencil sharpener. And this example could be repeated in practically every building on campus.

Even the smallest, most backward high school in the state provides pencil sharpeners in almost every room. Certainly, a university such as Texas A&M can supply this necessity.

If it is a problem of negligence, then someone should place some sharp points under some human posteriors.

It is quite obvious, however, that they couldn't be pencil points. G.A.D.

Job Calls

THURSDAY
Uncle Ben's — agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, industrial engineering, industrial technology.
The Austin Company — architecture, civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering.
Royal-Globe Insurance Companies — accounting, business administration, chemical engineering, economics, English.
A. M. Lockett & Company Ltd. — mechanical engineering.
Austin Independent School District — biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, industrial education, education, psychology, physical education.

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THE BATTALION
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Members of the Student Publications Board are James L. Lindsey, chairman; Robert Knight, College of Arts and Sciences; J. G. McGuire, College of Engineering; Dr. Page Morgan, College of Agriculture; and Dr. R. S. Titus, College of Veterinary Medicine.
The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M is published in College Station, Texas daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.
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MEMBER: The Associated Press Texas Press Assn.
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Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year, \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 2% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 4, YMCA Building, College Station, Texas.
News contributions may be made by telephoning VI 6-6618 or VI 6-4910 or at the editorial office, Room 4, YMCA Building. For advertising or delivery call VI 6-6415.
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CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"My grade is due to a lack of communications! I haven't been able to convince him that I know more than I do!"

Hanoi Bombing Speculated After Embassy Destruction

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — The terrorist bombing of the U. S. Embassy, which killed 17 persons and wounded at least 151, stirred speculation Wednesday that the United States may strike in reprisal at Hanoi, the capital of Communist North Viet Nam.

Deputy Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson, himself slashed by flying glass, bitterly condemned this "example of the Viet Cong's readiness to resort to atrocities against civilians."

One of two American dead was a girl secretary of the embassy, Barbara A. Robbins, 21, of Denver, Colo.

The other was a U. S. Navy petty officer, whose identity was officially withheld for the present.

Fifteen Vietnamese were killed. President Johnson studied the bombing with Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara in Washington, but the White House was silent about the possibility of a strong retaliatory move.

"After our recent raids North, what else can we do for an encore?" asked the wife of a U. S. Embassy worker.

Vietnamese soldiers and government officials shared that opinion, telling Americans in effect: "Now you have no choice, you have to bomb Hanoi."

There was a gloomy reaction in London, where Prime Minis-

ter Harold Wilson's government has been trying to find a basis for negotiation. Authorities there said the explosion shattered British hopes of arranging early talks to end the war and seemed to make massive American retaliation inevitable.

Ho Chi Minh's governmental stronghold has never been touched in raids so far by U. S. and South Vietnamese planes above the 17th Parallel.

A 39-plane task force staged the 14th raid Tuesday, but it was a previously planned operation to knock out a military airbase near Dong Hoi, 260 miles south of Hanoi. Pilots said the targets were 90 per cent destroyed.

Tuesday's embassy explosion was set off in a sedan that a terrorist parked and abandoned in front of the five-story embassy building.

About 150 embassy workers and visitors were in the embassy in Washington, but the White House was silent about the possibility of a strong retaliatory move.

Forty-five or more Americans and at least 104 Vietnamese and non-American foreigners were injured by the explosion and the rain of broken glass and other debris from the building.

Seven of the Americans — some seriously injured and others with tricky wounds requir-

Guion Fallout Theater Makes Debut In Rain

Over the rivers and through the mud we go. But not to Granny's this time. To the Fallout Theater's initial performance in the basement of Guion Hall. And was it worth it? Un- equivocally, yes.

On this campus the boards are anything but worn, but the idea of a little theater is really new. The catacomb's cast is of course amateur. They're sometimes hard to see. The seats are hard and it was terrific.

In limiting the audience to less than 150 persons, everyone is brought into the play. Some can get a little too involved if the scene becomes somewhat atheletic.

Last night with three swift one act strokes Fallout established itself, with the help of George Bernard Shaw's "Glimpse of Reality," Hall and Middlemass's, "The Valiant," and Edward Albee's, "The Sandbox." For four bits you were taken to fifteenth century Italy, twentieth century Connecticut State Prison, and somewhere, no time. Its not much to pay for such a trip and the stewardesses aren't bad either.

Students from a class in "Techniques of Directing" taught by Aggie Player producer C. K. Esten were originally responsible for the idea for Fallout.

Its success is an outstanding example of the product resulting from the combination of sincere interest and energy.

During April there will be five nights of one act productions. Its purpose, as written by those students that created it, is for experimentation and practice in all the facets of drama and its production even to extending an invitation to anyone for original work.

The Fallout Theater-Workshop is unquestionably a tremendous

addition to the A&M activity scene. It and those concerned with its creation and maintenance deserve all the encouragement, support and praise that can be given.

The next night is April 2 Parts of "Becket," "Picnic," and "Caesar and Cleopatra" will be presented. If you think now that you might like to try the Fallout you had better come early. Its a good bet that there are about 150 first nighters that will be back again ahead of you.

LBJ's War On Poverty Finds The Going Rough

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson's proclaimed "war on poverty" has become entangled in local political thickets in some states and promises to kick up a fuss in Congress.

Already four bipartisan two-man investigating teams from the House Education and Labor Committee are studying administration of the program in a number of states. The investigation is just getting under way.

One major bone of contention is federal grants to the states for technical aid in helping local communities get community action programs going.

The Office of Economic Opportunity, which runs the campaign to combat poverty, has only indirect authority over the state agencies, and they in turn have only advisory authority in their relations with local communities. Once a community gets its plans ready it deals di-

rectly with the federal government.

Earlier this year, Rep. John H. Dent, D-Pa., said that Gov. William W. Scranton was appointing defeated Republican politicians to Pennsylvania's anti-poverty jobs.

Dent said this apparently wasn't illegal, but he questioned the propriety of it.

In Louisiana, Sen. Russell B. Long and Rep. Hale Boggs, assistant Senate and House Democratic leaders, found seven of the eight regional officers and other top officials named by Gov. John J. McKeithen were members of a rival Democratic political faction.

Plant Contest

The first Statewide Invitational Plant Identification Contest will be held May 15 in the Plant Sciences Building.

Teams that will be invited are the first place teams of the state's Future Farmer areas and 4-H districts, and the top two teams of each of the state's open contests.

The contest is sponsored by A&M's Range and Forestry Club.

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Collegiate Future Farmers of America will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Chemistry Building.

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Tickets on sale at Student Programs Office, M.S.C. and at door.

By Charles M. Schulz
A series of comic strips featuring Charlie Brown and Snoopy.

Arm

The Department has announced scholarship programs for September 1965. Scholarships are available for students with financial need and a minimum 2.0 grade point average.

The program is available to 247 colleges throughout the United States over 10 years for the Army. Students are being added for the first time for the first year of the ROTC program.

Authorized Public ROTC vitalization four-year scholarship awarded to 400 four-year scholarship students.

Four-year scholarship awarded to 400 students entering college time. Two-year scholarship awarded to students completing the four-year program.

The Army will award \$50 a month.

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