

New Semester Brings Optimism

The Battalion staff welcomes you back to campus. It's another year and a new semester. New years generally produce resolutions. Probationary students resolve to overcome their grade point deficiency. Distinguished students vow to be repeaters on the honor roll. Average students seek their best semester as they strive for the 2.25 bracket.

Freshmen want to get off to a good start. Seniors want to end on a happy note.

The Battalion also desires a good year. We are highly optimistic after receiving the Texas Press Association's general excellence award for the best small daily in the state. We want to not only uphold that rating, but also to improve on it.

You can help us give you a good newspaper — a newspaper which is informative, educational, influential and to an extent entertaining — by:

1. Writing letters to the editor about subjects which you are vitally concerned. Letters should be objective, not unduly antagonistic, legible and concise. Anonymous letters will not be published, but your name can be withheld upon request. However, the letter must be signed before we will withhold a name.

2. Inform staff members of campus events. Bulletin Board will publicize meetings of all campus organizations, and individual articles about special club activities may be run. When requesting coverage of an event, do not be demanding. Ask the managing editor to publicize the activity, but do not demand it. Give him plenty of advance notice so he can work it into the staff schedule.

With just this little cooperation, we believe we can give you a professional student newspaper about your campus and activities.

Federal Support Given Students

The higher education aid bill just passed by the House of Representatives promises important departures from the established pattern of financial support to college students.

Among its key provisions is the establishment of "educational opportunity grants." In effect, these would constitute the first federal scholarships for undergraduate study. Such grants, intended to support needy students of academic promise, could check the inexcusable waste of talent caused by poverty.

A contemplated program of federally guaranteed loans to college students through commercial banks and other loan institutions would relieve the financial pressure of college costs on middle-income families. This is clearly the administration's answer to Senator Ribicoff's controversial proposal to provide tax credits for college tuition. It is a sound answer because it permits postponing payments until the college graduate's own earning power allows him to make a contribution to his education. Unlike tax credits, it does not favor the wealthy by entitling them to greater deductions.

Perhaps equally important, federally guaranteed loans can effectively police commercial loan practices and eliminate the fringe of shady operators who have exploited the higher education boom by demanding usurious interest rates. Moreover, the move toward government-guaranteed loans—which would be no more costly to students or their parents than loans now made under the National Defense Education Act—might eventually replace that emergency loan measure. Such an arrangement would free the colleges of the onerous task of long-term collection, an especially serious problem for the smaller institutions.

On the whole, the proposed changes in student aid patterns promise the emergence of a permanent philosophy of assistance—one that has been too long delayed. A balanced philosophy, combined with efficient operation, is vital to removing economic barriers from the gates of higher education —The New York Times.

Federal Spending Priorities

Even though everyone may not applaud all of the administration's spending programs, the new trend in the administration toward setting priorities for spending deserves general support.

Recently President Johnson asked agency heads to list the lower priority 10 to 20 per cent of their budgets. On another occasion, the White House suggested that federal agencies that want to expand spending on some programs should show where savings could be made in others; in effect setting priorities.

The trend even extends to foreign aid. At the urging of the State Department, the Alliance for Progress (which benefits from U. S. funds) is requiring Latin American countries as a prerequisite for financial help, to set priorities for their internal spending programs.

Hopefully the trend toward priorities will produce savings in less essential federal programs. (It would be unfortunate if administration efforts in this direction should become window dressing to turn aside criticism of rising non-military spending.)

The next important step might be for Congress to set up a method for assigning priorities to its spending measures. One way to do this would be the establishment of a special, joint committee of the House and Senate which would consider spending in relation to estimated Treasury revenues, then suggest what programs should get support — The United States Chamber of Commerce.

THE BATTALION

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EDITOR GLENN DROMGOOLE

The Long, Hot Summer

By GLENN DROMGOOLE Battalion Editor

The long, hot summer that had been predicted actually was.

Race riots in Los Angeles, the war in Viet Nam, the mysterious murder of two Texas coeds, the India-Pakistan feud and the death of Adlai Stevenson intensified the heat.

For three months headlines of war and sorrow glared across the front pages all over the nation.

And it was hot. Vacationers sweated as much in June as they usually do in August and the heat didn't let up the entire summer.

Then just as fall fashions were being displayed early this month the long, hot summer marked up another tragedy: Hurricane Betsy. Ferocious winds and heavy rains chalked up large economic losses in Louisiana and Florida, and the death toll from the fury is still mounting daily.

Violence on the streets, looting and a general state of lawlessness raged in Los Angeles in early August and state troopers had to use force to quell the conflict. Californians were shocked that such racial action could occur in that state, and all over the nation persons feared similar activity in their locales.

Wars and rumors of wars claimed more space in newspapers and more time on radio and television. The Viet Nam conflict began to be termed a war even by top administration officials. India and Pakistan were at each other's throats. The United States watched, and still watches, the two Asian countries cautiously in fear of forced intervention by Yankee troops.

The nation lost a great American when Adlai Stevenson died in London. The United Nations ambassador had strived for peaceful relations among the world's nations, and the world was saddened at his death.

Sorrow also reigned at Texas A&M with the death of four Aggies. Senior Michael Raybourne died June 28 in Jacksonville, Fla., after a two weeks illness. Richard Conrad Dorn, graduate student, died July 26 in Corpus Christi from an automobile accident. Another wreck killed John William Day Jr., a freshman at Junction, Aug. 12 near the A&M adjunct. And a freak touch football accident caused the death of Jessie Forman, 23-year-old architecture student, July 21 on campus.

However, all was not bleak. Gemini 5 was a success although the rendezvous in space wasn't. The United States moved a step closer to the moon by keeping two men in space for eight days.

The 20th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima was observed, reminding the world's powers of the ability they possess to destroy each other. The anniversary also served as a reminder of a devastating world war that was brought to an end only by wiping out an entire city. It was observed solemnly, yet cheerfully.

Construction began on campus of a \$6 million cyclotron and a \$1.9 million space center, as Texas A&M moved toward academic superiority in the sciences.

And it is on that note that we mark an end to the long, hot summer and welcome the short, cool fall.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"... Well, yes—they DO get a little edgy toward the end of registration."

Housewife Misses Her Good Friend: The Newspaper

By KITTY ALLEN Reprinted From Publishers Auxiliary

After blinking through breakfast for a hurried husband and persuading finicky kids to at least peek at their eggs and juice, I pour a cup of tea and settle down to a few precious moments with my friend.

This time of silent conversation, whether sad, amusing, thoughtful or just restful, is a perfect start to the day ahead.

But now I have no friend, and I miss him.

It used to be so exciting to meet him on the porch (or under a bush) and bring him in from the cold, the heat, or soaking wet from the rain, but there he always was — the newspaper.

It's not just the morning minutes of relaxation and education that I miss, though. Reminders pop up all during the day which make me realize just how close we really were.

Of course, he brings the news. A skeleton of more important events is given periodically over both radio and TV, but you must listen when they are ready which isn't always between phone calls or when the kids are happily engaged.

But what about the little stories, divorces, personalities, gossip and human interest used mainly as fillers? Also the columnists, editorials and letters to the editor must be missed. All of these can't be put on the air. There just isn't time, but these are the things that balance the depression of Vietnam, strikes, crime and death that make the news.

I miss the society news of engagements, weddings, births and parties. The whole family is wondering about Winnie Winkle and Apartment 3-G, and wishes they could chuckle over Dennis the Menace or Blondie. Who is writing letters to the lovelorn these days?

Where are the Orioles now? Results in sports are not the only things worth reading, but the columnists' interpretation, the standings and news of minor sports are missed, too. And then there are the bridge hands, the horoscopes, crossword puzzles, medical questions and youth features. A friend called to find out burial plans for a mutual acquaintance but without my newspaper, I could not provide the

details. Yes, radio stations were broadcasting the information but once again at their convenience, not ours.

Classified ads mean much to many... the jobseeker, the automobile buyer, the auction follower, and those looking for people to fill the need.

Those of use who are avid radio or TV fans (we can't recite channel for channel, hour for hour what is on) are devilishly flicking stations in an effort to find a mystery, musical or news between commercials.

Ads may seem to be nuisances sometimes, but having none to read is worse. Department store phone and mail orders are low, foodstore patrons bewail the lack of extra stamp coupons and the lists of sale prices which mean so much to the comparison shopper.

Sundays have a real lull without the many sections to fuss over, especially the funnies. A whole hour at least must be allotted to something else, in all probability a nap.

Having no newspaper rather disturbs the dinner hour, too. Harried hubby comes home, is greeted with his cocktail and slippers, and flops in his easy chair to await the meal. But he does not relax. There is no newspaper for him to hide behind to escape the romping of the kids. And, too, what can he do after dinner while the dishes are being washed but offer to dry them!

And if he offers to take you out to a movie, how do you know what is playing?

Also sorely missed is the newsboy who, bi-weekly or monthly, manages to disturb my nap to collect his due and punch the little card.

Newspapers are a real friend and I miss them. I tried to sweat a fly with a magazine and it didn't work at all. I couldn't find anything to start the fire in the grill, either, and finally had to cook inside.

Perhaps the next time you are out of bags to line the garbage can and can't even find a newspaper, you'll know you are missing a friend, too.

The Beautiful Blue Danube is being put to work. Yugoslavia and Rumania are building a hydroelectric power station that will be the biggest in Europe outside Russia.

State Capitol Roundup

Special Session Not Necessary

By VERN SANFORD Texas Press Association

AUSTIN — Texas voters, by decisively defeating a proposed constitutional amendment to increase the number of State Senate seats from 31 to 39, removed one possible reason for a special legislative session this year.

Federal courts control two other legal issues which could require lawmakers to come back to the capitol for another 1965 pow-wow.

Since no senatorial districting act has been passed at the regular session, adoption of the amendment would have meant a virtually automatic special session call to decide how the eight additional Senate districts were to be divided.

Proponents of the defeated proposal promptly tagged its rejection a loss for rural areas.

Eight metropolitan counties accounted for enough votes to block it in the light-turnout, September 7, election. But some rural areas voted against it, too.

Thirteen incumbent Senators will be jammed together into six districts under court-ordered senatorial districting.

The amendment, if adopted, would have given all incumbents a chance to retain their jobs. Now, at least seven Senate veterans are certain to be eliminated at the polls next year.

Suits challenging Congressional and House Representatives redistricting by the 59th Legislature and the polling constitutionality of the attack still could require a special session.

Congressional redistricting case was heard by a special three-judge federal court at Houston last Thursday. Same court also conducted a pre-trial hearing on the legislative re-apportionment suit. A ruling that either act is unconstitutional conceivably could carry with it a mandate that lawmakers redo their work before the filing deadline for the 1966 elections.

Atty. Gen. Waggoner Carr, continuing his opposition to the federal government's suit to ban the poll tax, last week fired off letters to all congressmen asking them for evidence to support their findings (in 1965 Voting Rights Act) that the Texas levy violates constitutional rights.

Federal Education Aid Planned

State Board of Education has accepted administrative ground rules for participating in new U. S. elementary - secondary education act which will bring about \$60,000,000 in federal funds to public schools.

At the same time the board approved proposals to triple Texas' migrant school pilot program to reach 18,000 children in 40 districts. It also set up special programs for at least 3,000 adult migrants.

Children whose families follow the crops will get intensive, six-months schooling. Adults participating will receive basic education and training in fundamental homemaking and occupational skills.

Forty-five districts were warned of accreditation violations. Eagle Pass district was officially notified it will lose accreditation next July 1 unless substantial progress is made. Eagle Pass Supt. J. I. James assured board the district already is hastening to correct shortcomings.

State government started its new fiscal year on Sept. 1 solidly in black. Surplus was \$136,800,000, according to Comptroller

Robert S. Calvert. This is nearly \$40,000,000 more than previously estimated.

State revenue for the fiscal year was \$1,800,000,000 — \$150,000,000 more than the year before.

Water Suit Filed

Altus, Okla., filed a constitutional suit with the Texas state court to prohibit transportation of underground water to another state in federal court suit filed here.

City has approved \$2,000,000 in bonds to develop underground water supply on the Texas side of the Red River before the Legislature passed a law to ban pipelining water across the state boundary.

Law Enforcement Conference

More than 450 law enforcement officials representing all of Texas' 254 counties will be in Austin on Sept. 23-25 for the 15th Annual Attorney General Law Enforcement Conference.

District Attorney Bill Waters of Pampa, president of the District and County Attorneys Association of Texas, will open the meeting.

Principal speakers will be Louisiana's Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion and Texas' Atty. Gen. Waggoner Carr.

Changes set out in the new Code of Criminal Procedure and recent Supreme Court decisions will be focused on during the conference.

Attorney General Opinions

Attorney General Carr has ruled that:

• County commissioners can reallocate budgeted funds by correct budget amendment procedures.

• Justices of peace may be paid on either a fee or salary basis.

• State Board of Control may reject rental space bids not filed in the best interest of occupants.

• Shrimp regulation revisions for Carancahua Bay in Jackson County are in effect.

Short Snorts

Hospital administrators report a "frightening" shortage of nurses in Texas... State capital dome soon will be reopened to tourists... Top state water authorities addressed Texas Water Conservation Association municipal panel meeting here Monday...

Parks and Wildlife Department reports outlook for big game hunting this fall is good generally, excellent in North Central, East Central, Southeast and South Texas... First chapters of the Texas Plan to Combat Mental Retardation were written by the 100 citizens on the Governor's Committee on Mental Retardation over the weekend (Sept. 11 and 12)...

U. S. Sen. John Tower announced Farmers Home Administration loans to Brazoria, Caldwell, Delta, Galveston, Hays, Limestone and Montgomery Counties.

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