

The Battalion



Volume 61

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1966

Number 280

grab bag

By Glenn Dromgoole

A friend of mine struggled in last Friday from his afternoon classes, and muttered something like, "Somebody ought to figure out a way to get rid of these . . . Friday afternoon classes."

"They just take something out of the weekend," he went on. "By the time they're over and you have to rest up Friday night, sleep late Saturday and take in a movie Saturday night, the weekend is pretty well gone."

"I think you ought to editorialize for longer weekends," he advised.

So, the same minds that calculated A&M to be a 385-point favorite over TU in the Thanksgiving Day football rivalry this year set to work on the problem.

Most of the Friday afternoon classes, we concluded, are conducted at 8 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 1 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 2 p.m. Friday. By holding hour and a half sessions from 8-9:30 a.m. and 9:30-11 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, these Friday p.m. classes would be eliminated.

What would happen to the 10 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 3 p.m. Monday classes? Well, they would have to be reset for 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Friday afternoon labs could be moved to vacant Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday slots.

With that problem out of the way, we turned our thoughts toward elimination of all Friday classes.

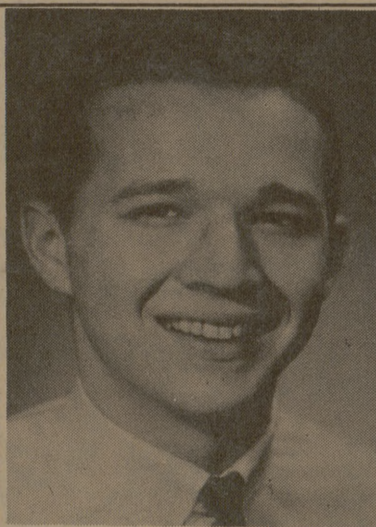
This objective could be best decided, we reckoned, by hour and a half classes every day. Absorb the lunch hour with classes, extend the school day to 5:30 p.m. and Fridays could be added to the weekend.

Okay, so we have a three-day weekend. Why quit now?

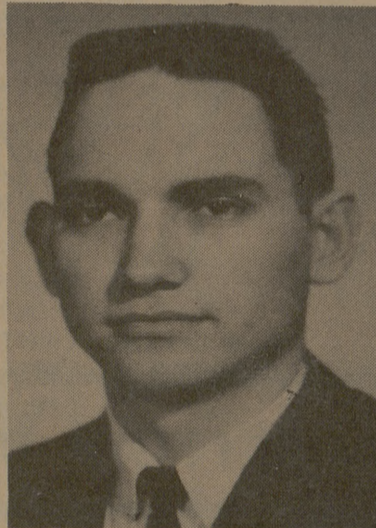
Three hour classes on Tuesday, and a few night classes here and there, and we could begin our weekends on Wednesday night. But why do we need Wednesdays? Since we've already got three hour classes, why not extend this to Mondays, and by Tuesday afternoon or night the weekend would begin.

Then by the same shrewd manipulation, we reduced class scheduling to a fine art. By starting at 7 a.m. on Monday and attending class (without a break) until 10 p.m., a student taking 15 hours and no lab could finish his week in one day.

So there's your long weekend, my friend.



CRAIG BUCK



ROBERT KASOWSKI

Students Awarded Grants

Buck, Kasowski Win Fellowships

Two Texas A&M students are winners of Woodrow Wilson fellowships.

They are Craig Buck, a senior government major from Tyler, and Robert V. Kasowski, a graduate physics student from Houston.

William S. Moore, a senior economics major from Houston, won honorable mention. He has been offered a 12-month renewable fellowship to A&M.

Woodrow Wilson Fellows receive an academic year of graduate education, including tuition and fees, plus a living stipend of \$2,000. The awards are made to potential college teachers.

Buck, a straight "A" student, is the son of Mrs. Jennie G. Buck, of Tyler. He hopes to study political science at the University of Florida or international relations at Stanford or Columbia.

The 22-year old award winner is a campus leader as well as a Distinguished Student. He served as chairman of the 11th Student Conference on National Affairs in December, is parliamentarian of the Student Senate and is active in the Young Democrats Club off campus.

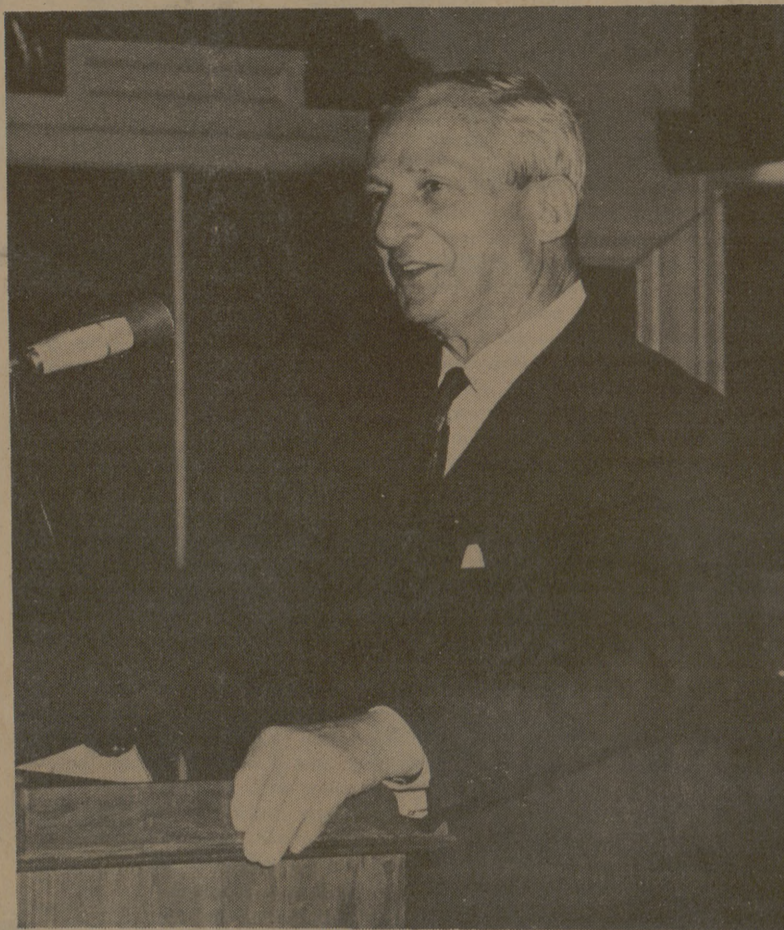
Buck worked last summer as an intern in Congressman Olin Teague's office in Washington. He is a graduate of Carthage High School.

Kasowski, in his first year of graduate study in physics, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Kasowski of Houston. He was graduated with honors from A&M in January with a bachelor of science degree in physics.

The 22-year old student hopes to pursue studies in physics at California Institute of Technology or the University of Chicago. Eventually, he aspires to teach physics at the university level in Texas.

Kasowski is currently studying with aid of a University Fellowship. As an undergraduate he won Opportunity Award and Western Electric scholarships. He was president of the A&M chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma, a national physics honor society, and a member of Phi Kappa Phi, a scholastic fraternity.

A Houston high school graduate, he plans to work this summer as a flight analyst for NASA.



NEVINS MAKES A POINT . . . famed historian addresses profs.

Author Praises Literary Output Of Historians

By TOMMY DeFRANK Battalion Managing Editor

Contemporary historians are producing as much quality work today as in any period of American literature.

But renowned historian Allan Nevins believes the verdict is still out on the lasting literary ranking of present-day historians Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Barbara Tuchman, Bruce Catton and Samuel Eliot Morison.

Nevins reminisced about old friends and past experiences during his lengthy career at the College of Liberal Arts faculty in the Chemistry Lecture Room Wednesday afternoon.

"There is as much good history being written today as in any period," he said. "The volume has been enormously expanded and the best of it is excellent in quality."

Nevins noted, however, that most modern historians have not published sufficiently to be accurately measured on an all-time yardstick. "Schlesinger is steadily gaining and is very promising indeed," he ventured, "and his Kennedy book is much better than (Theodore) Sorenson's (the late President's special counsel)."

But Nevins took issue with Schlesinger's completed volumes in his projected series on Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal.

"They are very partisan and offer only one side of the facts," he pointed out. "We'll just have to see how he gets on with the rest."

"They're certain to be very impressive," he added. He praised Mrs. Tuchman's World War I and pre-war chronicles, "The Guns of August" and the more recent "The Proud Tower."

"These two are brilliant," he continued, "but we must wait awhile to see how she fares in later works." Bruce Catton's Civil War efforts also drew heavy praise, but Nevins said Catton is confined to military history alone.

"He is an excellent military historian but unfortunately nothing more," he lamented. "But his works are absolutely first-rate."

Often called the dean of living historians, Nevins bestowed that tag on his good friend Morison, who recently published "The Oxford History of the American People."

"Sam is the greatest living historian without question," he said, "and will rank as one of the greatest. I have a great deal of admiration for his works." Nevins, whose prolific output (30 volumes) has won a passel of awards, including two Pulitzer Prizes for biography, said historians face a tremendous problem in rehashing history into a

lively, readable product.

"It is important to give the work a central idea, a point often overlooked by today's writers," he said. "The writer must also make the people in it come alive as much as possible."

He also told an anecdote about old colleague Walter Lippmann's lunch with President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge.

Coolidge, whom Nevins said looked upon editorial writer Lippmann "with jaundiced eyes" because of the writer's frequent jobs, sat silently through most of the lunch.

Finally Lippmann chose to break the silence and struck up a conversation with Mrs. Coolidge about the dinnerware.

She replied that the plates were gifts from President Rutherford Hayes' wife while the spouses of Presidents Grant and Roosevelt had also contributed to the service.

Finally Coolidge could stand it no longer and cryptically remarked, "We didn't have to buy a thing when we moved in. There was plenty of crockery already here."

Popular Banjo Duo Headline Louisiana Hayride March 19

If you've ever watched The Beverly Hillbillies on television, no doubt you've heard a banjo played the way it was meant to be played.

It's the hard-driving, three fingered style of a pair of recording veterans behind the current banjo boom sweeping the nation.

They are Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs and the duo will be on campus March 19 for the second annual Louisiana Hayride.

Accompanied by the Foggy Mountain Boys, Flatt and Scruggs highlight a star-studded show which includes the sounds of Little Jimmy Dickens, Nat Stuckey, Debbie Day, Archie Campbell and Wilma Burgess.

Playing a type of folk music known as the "sound of Americana," Flatt and Scruggs have entertained audiences from Beverly Hills to Carnegie Hall, utilizing concert halls, colleges, state fairs, amusement parks, radio and television.

Flatt, a native of Tennessee, grew up singing for local gatherings and community affairs and has performed traditional ballads and folk songs for as long as he can remember.

Scruggs began entertaining as a young Carolina banjoist in 1945. It was his style that

Nevins Says Mass Media In Poor Shape

By ROBERT SOLOVEY Battalion Staff Writer

The present situation of mass media is deplorable but not hopeless, historian-journalist Allan Nevins said Wednesday night in the fifth in a series of University Lectures.

Often called the dean of American historians, Nevins questioned whether the mass media was really serving democracy.

"We are in the age of mass media, the majority of the people are dominated by it, and so it is important that it serves the arts and the economy," he remarked.

A former editorial writer for the old New York World, Nevins referred to the United States as a "nation of newspapers" whose support had come from the increased leisure time of our age and the growth of education and thirst for knowledge.

He reviewed three of the major media: television, radio and newspapers.

"There has been a continuous attack on television, whose quality has deteriorated in the past ten years. Television is today void of controversy or scholarship because it is afraid that it may offend or bore somebody," he said.

"Radio has been accepted with silent content and the newspapers have been under criticism and censure for years," he continued.

He said that newspapers have come under fire because the news they present is sometimes as misleading as it is informative. It has been said that they are too ignorant to present the quality of news needed by a well-educated democracy.

He posed two important questions: Is television controlled by advertisers, big business, opinion and the press, and is the press controlled by special interest groups?

"Mass media ought to be battlers for truth. More competition can do the most to promote freedom of the mass media," he said.

He added that each media should be open to all who wish to enter and competition should take place not between big names in each field but between the various fields themselves.

He outlined three fundamental conditions governing mass media:

—All must fill an enormous amount of space or time. Especially in television and the press there is an unfortunate but unchangeable and rigid time deadline for news or program presentation. —There is a shortage of talent.

—The popular vote eventually controls.

Nevins claimed most television is tailored to meet "prime time," or evening audiences, and other hours of the day afford little notice or reward. This has caused frustration among writers and what he termed a vulgarization of programming.

"Television is failing our society. It is plagued by two, much-believed myths: that the consumer is getting television free because it is being paid for by advertisers who give out of the goodness of their heart, and that the consumer gets what he wants and gets what is good for him."

He added that in reality programming is merely paid for by increasing consumer prices for the products advertised, and that the consumer really gets what the advertisers want to present; names, programs that appeal to children, the ignorant and the indifferent.

"The three big networks are far from competing in artistic and educational programming," he noted.

He agreed the good programming presented could be termed "the cultural ghetto of Sunday afternoon."

He listed three necessary improvements: stronger Federal Communications Commission regulation of commercials; more money devoted to educational programs, and a government-owned station, as in Britain, a "third program" devoted to artistic values.

"Radio is inferior and barren of the content required to be of service," he said.

"Newspapers remain powerful and have a great deal of economic vigor, but they are still not a match for the complications of our age," he continued.

"It was a government mistake to let newspapers own radio or television stations with which they can voice bigoted and one-sided opinions over the air."

Engineer Meeting To Draw 700 High School Students

Seven hundred high school students will be at Texas A&M Friday for the Junior Engineering Technical Society state conference.

An array of speakers is headed by Maj. Gen. Alvin R. Luedecke, USAF (Ret.), deputy director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology.

Luedecke will discuss "Engineering Education and Its Relation to Management," and narrate a film of the last 1,000 miles

of the Ranger spacecraft's approach to the moon.

His talk to JETS students is set for 3:15 p. m. in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom.

Registration for the conference begins at 7 a.m. in Guion Hall.

A general assembly at 9:30 a.m. will include greetings by A&M President Earl Rudder and Engineering Dean Fred J. Benson. A report will follow from the Texas Advisory Committee for JETS by Chairman John S. Bell, Houston area manager of Humble Oil and Refining Company.

G. W. McCullough, engineering vice president for Phillips Petroleum Company, will highlight the session with a talk on "The Graduating Engineer Today — Some Opportunities and Responsibilities."

Competitive tests for high school students will be offered in six divisions. The top three students in each division will receive awards.

A. H. Meyer, assistant state coordinator for JETS, and Joe Piccolo, senior resident engineer for the Texas Highway Department, Navasota, will speak during a clinic for sponsors and advisors at 11 a.m.

Dr. C. H. Samson Jr., Department of Civil Engineering head, will speak at 1:15 p.m. about "Engineering Concepts and High School Science."

He will be followed by Dr. C. D. Holland, Department of Chemical Engineering head, whose topic is "Engineering Concepts and High School Mathematics."

John Groomes, JETS board of directors president, will discuss "Engineering Guidance for Schools" at 4 p.m. in the MSC Ballroom.



ALVIN LUEDECKE



G. W. McCULLOUGH

Gerlach Orchestra To Play For Junior Ball March 19

The annual Junior Ball featuring the Ed Gerlach Orchestra is scheduled March 19 in Sbsa Hall.

Banquet time will be 6:30 p.m. with the dance following at 8:30.

Selection of the Junior Sweetheart will highlight the occasion. Students wishing to make entries must deliver pictures to the Student Programs Office by Saturday.

Tickets are on sale in the Student Program Office or from junior class officers for \$2 per person to the banquet, \$4 per couple for the ball or \$7.50 if bought together. Ticket sales end Wednesday.

Gerlach, a former cadet at A&M, organized his own band in

the Air Force and became musical director in the Hal MacIntyre Band upon his discharge. He later served as director and arranger of the Tex Beneke Band.

Known in Houston as "The Name Band of the Southwest," Gerlach's orchestra consists of musicians who are former members of such groups as the Glenn Miller, Tex Beneke, Stan Kenton, Tommy Dorsey, Buddy Morrow and Claude Thornhill bands.

In a recent contest sponsored by the American Federation of Musicians, the Gerlach Band was selected the top band of the Southwest.