

A Look At Local Schools

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle

Growth Marks Consolidated System

By LARRY JERDEN
Battalion Associate Editor

A great deal is said and printed about public education during Texas' annual Public Schools Week, mostly in salute to teachers and administrators, who are then quickly forgotten by the majority of the public for another year.

This is not enough. What is needed for each parent and taxpayer to take a good, long periodic look at his local system, in an attempt to better

understand its merits, its problems and its goals for the future.

The original school district in this area was authorized by the State Legislature in 1909, but a tax-supported school didn't open its doors here before 1920. It was not until eight more years had passed that the A&M Independent School District was formed.

The public school system was originally legally connected to A&M College, but this was severed in 1939 when it obtained its own building off-campus.

In 1914 the gym, athletic field and Lincoln High School were added, and the present Junior High was completed in 1948. The first grade and cafeteria facilities were constructed in 1951, as were the shop and science lab at Lincoln School. Two years later the present high school and Lincoln Gym were added to the facilities, with the latest construction coming in 1960 with the high school addition, Lincoln addition and College Hills Elementary school.

Present physical facilities in-

clude: The 18-classroom College Hills school, a brick, semi-fire-proof structure; A total of 14 classrooms in the A&M Elementary, including brick and frame structures, a cafeteria used to serve other schools on the main campus; The Junior High consisting of a frame building with eight classrooms, a shop and music room, one brick veneer with seven classrooms and a library and a frame gym.

The high school plant includes a modern auditorium, new gym, one class building with eight rooms, one science building with three labs, home ec facilities and four classrooms, a library building with three classrooms, a library and a modern language lab, one vocational education building with classroom and shop, one football stadium with a 3,200 seating capacity, an administration building and a bus repair shop. The Lincoln school complex with frame and concrete blocking buildings burned and now houses only grades three through eight.

grades is 2,111. This includes 962 in grades one through five, 559 in six through eight and 590 in the upper four grades. The growth is reflected in the enlarging enrollment figures from 1948 projected through 1975. In 1948 there were 506 enrolled in the system, 1,554 attended in 1959, 2,033 in 1964, 2,744 projected for 1970 and 2,568 expected in 1975.

These figures, however, are considered ultra-conservative by most officials, and the present facilities will definitely need expanding before 1970.

In understanding what the school system is accomplishing at present, one needs to know what methods and teaching facilities are available, and something of the quality of the teachers.

"Our teaching staff," said Superintendent W. T. Riedel, "is definitely above average for this size school."

"Of 102 teachers at all levels, 45 hold master's degrees and the others have earned at least their bachelors," he noted.

Tomorrow: Present teaching aids and future plans.



"Look like fish Squirt? That is fish Squirt!"

At the Movies

with Lani Presswood

Everybody has a different idea of what is funny. If you can laugh readily at the sight of a dozen or so murders in a satiric comedy, then chances are you will enjoy *The 10th Victim*. I didn't.

Before taking the witness stand though, I need to make a small confession in the interest of fair play and justice for all.

While many were jumping up and down extolling the praises of the unadulteratedly brilliant and almost rapturously sophisticated "Dr. Strangelove," I was busy trying to repress a mild case of nausea.

And when I saw others rolling in the aisles over the book "Candy," I began to wonder if this was the same piece of writing which had managed to pretty thoroughly gross me out in spite of its incessant cleverness.

This then is my sordid past writing record on two Very Big Satires. Now, with this little digression out of the way I'll proceed to the case at hand.

"The 10th Victim" strikes me as a pretty awful motion picture, a lemon just as brightly yellow as the Italian sun under which it was made.

Its action occurs in the 21st century, and it seems that the reigning cool heads of that generation have come up with an idea which has made war as extinct as the dollar haircut.

Their master plan is called the Big Hunt, and it's designed to let man take out his natural aggressions in individual competition, thus making war unnecessary.

If you choose to take part in

the game you commit yourself to ten hunts, on five you play the hunter and on the other five you're the victim. Combatants are matched by a Geneva computer.

The hunter is told who his victim is but the victim is only notified of his active status (can you imagine getting a "greetings from your Big Hunt Club" card?)

and has to find out who's after him strictly on his own.

Once the victim learns who his hunter is it becomes his chore to bump his pursuer off. In other words, a member of this big game club engages in ten fight-to-the-death contests, winning a sizeable hunk of cash each time he comes out on top.

For surviving nine engagements and then knocking off his tenth victim, the lucky killer collects the big money (one million bills) and passes go for life.

Now it comes to pass that a coldly efficient lass (Ursula Andress) has undone her nine playmates and needs only a tenth frame strike to enter the high income tax bracket.

But her victim turns out to be Marcello Mastroianni, a fairly human Italian in a greatly dehumanized world, so a few complications naturally enter into the picture.

But enough of this. The plot is so miserably thin it's really not worth detailing any further.

Marcello is colorless in an even more colorless role, the English is written at the bottom of the screen instead of being dubbed in and actually the only good thing about the whole production is seeing Ursula romping around the scenery in various stages of epidermis-tight dress. And believe me, this is something to see.

In short, though, the picture aims for satire and aims for comedy but a few of our Italian filmmaking brethren need to take a refresher course in marksman-ship.



URSULA ANDRESS
... appearing in "The Tenth Victim."

THE BATTALION

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