

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"What a relief! I thought I needed glasses, but all I needed was a haircut!"

Prospectus

President Rudder has welcomed the new freshmen, Corps and civilian leaders have added their welcomes, Coach Stallings has introduced the senior football players at All-University Night, and the grind is officially underway. Words of welcome, therefore, seem a bit superfluous in this first regular Battalion for 1968-69.

What we'd rather talk about is what sort of year the Batt has in store.

For one thing, we're starting out with pride. During June The Battalion was awarded first and second places in the Texas Press Association's annual Texas Newspaper Contests—first for our news photography and second in editorial writing. This wasn't a college competition judged by bored journalism professors, but a contest of daily newspapers in cities of 15,000 to 150,000 population—and that takes in a pretty respectable class of competition.

The Batt's city-daily status, by the way, brings up a major new feature for the coming year: a College Station news page, to be directed by a city editor and his assistants. We feel this isn't a radical departure from tradition (during the 50's this paper had a city editor earning one of the top salaries on the staff), nor a betrayal of student interests. This is, of course, a student newspaper, by and for, and therefore of students; but the many College Station residents who subscribe to The Battalion deserve some consideration, too. For years, journalism students have missed the opportunity to cover public affairs outside the public-affairs-reporting class, while "the official newspaper of Texas A&M and the City of College Station" was filling its pages with Associated Press features and lists of faculty publications. Hopefully, this year will be the start of a broader program.

Other changes in the Batt are worth mentioning here. First, the letters-to-the-editors column will be renamed "Listen Up," subtitled "The Batt Forum." It's not an idle change, but an effort to make the letters worth reading—and worth drawing replies. "Sound Off" has all too often been just that; students with personal gripes often haven't bothered even to start them through the channels that could remedy the situation. Our general policy on letters, therefore, will be to screen out unfair and pointless gripes, welcoming instead all comment on legitimate issues—including, very definitely, any criticisms from students who have made an effort to air their gripes constructively but have gotten no results from the appropriate channels.

A string of weekly columnists should liven up the Batt this year. "On Other Campuses," a roundup of happenings in the outside world, will return to the editorial page after a couple of years' absence as a regular feature. Mike Plake, last year's movie reviewer, will be back "At The Movies" once a week. Summer Editor John McCarroll will write a folksy humor column along the lines of "Tell You What I'd Do," which, as summer school exes will recall, combined the rapier wit of Gabby Hayes with the cool, off-handed satire of Gomer Pyle.

Incidentally, if these remarks leave something to be desired in the way of a hard-hitting, no-nonsense statement-of-policy editorial, it's because they weren't intended as such. At this point there just hasn't been much to hit hard at; there hasn't been much nonsense to abjure; there hasn't been any apparent, immediate need to spell out policy plans and thus commit ourselves to strategy and tactics against still-prospective adversaries. The fights we pick will be picked on a day-to-day basis.

It is probably outrageous, if not blasphemous, to draw an analogy between this year's Battalion and the Aggie football team, but the temptation is too strong. The Batt, like the Aggies, is just now recovering from a decline which began with the departure of a controversial mentor. Its showing in the competition mentioned above probably surprises many people who had gotten accustomed to the "image;" more important, it signifies the promise of better things to come. A good crop of new staff members is joining last year's regulars, with only four seniors lost through graduation, and a new spirit of confidence will go into this year's efforts.

In other words—to carry the analogy to its excruciating finish—the Batt is Back.

THE BATTALION

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the student writers only. The Battalion is a non tax-supported non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students at a university and community newspaper.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; Dr. David Bowers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Robert S. Titus, College of Veterinary Medicine; and Hal Taylor, College of Agriculture.

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.

MEMBER

The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

State Capital Roundup

By VERN SANFORD  
Texas Press Association  
AUSTIN—A new Texas land war is raging.

Land developers and Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Sadler are in disagreement over the recently-revived \$400 million state Veterans Land Program.

Mindful of the VLP scandals of the mid '50's, Sadler is adopting cautious, conservative policies to guide future state policies. Program permits qualified veterans to buy land on the low interest, long-term-pay plan.

Developers claim Sadler is tight-fisted and is jeopardizing the program by low-ceilinging land value appraisals and limiting sales to 10 per cent of large subdivisions.

Under Sadler's limits, developers with tracts of 1,000 acres can sell only 100 acres through the state bond-financed program. The Commissioner argues that the state should not spend all its constitutionally-authorized bond funds in a few areas.

CENTRAL TEXAS developers counter that land values already are soaring and that veterans held out of the market now eventually will pay higher rates.

Sadler says land already is selling at prices beyond reason in Travis, Kerr, Bastrop and Hidalgo Counties. Realtors say Sadler's 25 appraisers are putting price tags on property \$40 to \$100 an acre too low right now. They claim qualified veterans are lining up to buy land at prevailing prices and the program is a "flop."

"Trying to make a fast buck at state expense," reprimands Sadler, who staunchly maintains he is having none of that kind of business.

WATER PLAN—Texas' monumental water program—to move surplus water from the Mississippi River and Northeast Texas to the drier areas of South and West Texas—is not to be released until late October or early November.

But the Texas Water Development Board, which is working up the plan, let some details slip out when it approved its budget request to be submitted to the Legislature for the two-year period beginning September 1, 1969.

Board's budget requests a more than 50 per cent increase in appropriations for the agency so it can get the plan into operation before Texas faces economic disaster from a lack of water.

A time schedule for the project—estimated to cost around \$10 billion—will be presented to the Legislature, outlining what needs to be done in the next six years.

FIRST STEP is gathering the surplus Northeast Texas water for the Trans-Texas Canal, which will move water west to supply Dallas-Fort Worth, then on through the concrete-lined canal to the South Plains and other areas of West Texas and the Trans-Pecos, all the way to El Paso.

Street Lighting Easy To Install, CS Mayor Says

Citizens of College Station can have better street lighting for a small installation fee, reports Mayor D. A. "Andy" Anderson. "All it takes is the sum of \$45 and a request to the City Office," Anderson said, "but they (street lights) will not be installed indiscriminately."

Anderson pointed out that the fee is a small amount when shared by the citizens in a given area. The city puts up the utility pole, installs the light unit, provides the electricity and maintains the light thereafter.

"In new subdivisions, street lighting is provided by developers. It is in the older section of the city where lighting is particularly needed," the mayor continued.

Anderson urged all interested citizens to make their request to the City Office, 101 Church St. He said street light installation would be made on a first-come, first-served basis as city funds will permit.

Then by the end of 1971, negotiations must be completed to bring surplus water from the lower Mississippi, below New Orleans, across Southern Louisiana, then into either the Sabine River or up the Red River to the Sulphur and Cypress Rivers.

By the middle of 1974, federal, state and private sources need to agree on the construction of nuclear-energy power-generating plants to produce the electricity necessary to run the hundreds of pumps which will actually move the water.

South Texas will be served by a South Texas Canal, which will run from the lower Sabine River near Orange down the coast to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. This project will need to be approved by Congress by mid-1972.

State will probably have to pay 25-30 per cent of the cost of the project. This means that the \$400 million borrowing power the board now has will have to be expanded to at least \$2.5 billion. Legislature would have to approve this in January, with the people voting on it in 1970.

NEW LIQUOR PROBE — A House committee probing influence of vending machine operators on tavern keepers will hold hearings in Austin, Fort Worth, Houston and probably two smaller cities.

Dallas Attorney David Witts was named chief counsel and investigator of the committee by the five-member panel headed by Rep. R. H. Cory of Victoria, in conference with Texas Liquor Control Board Acting Administrator O. N. Humphreys Jr.

Panel, armed with sworn statements from tavern operators, will look into rumors of Mafia and crime syndicate activity. Only witness heard to date said he knew of no such outside influences in his area. But he testified vending machine operators should be prohibited from lending money to taverns and drinking clubs.

APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED—Donald R. Fishel is new chief of Texas Liquor Control Board enforcement division. Sherman McBeath of Wichita Falls will replace Fishel as assistant enforcement chief, and Leonard J. Lozano of Poteet will be LCB supervisor of investigations.

Gov. John Connally named Bryan Beck Jr. of Beaumont and H. J. (Bubba) Shands Jr. of Lufkin to Lamar State College of Technology board of regents. He re-appointed Pat Peyton Jr. and Otho Plummer of Beaumont to new terms on same board.

William A. Wroe, Austin banker, has been appointed treasurer of the Republican Party of Texas.

Dr. Richard Tozer of Dallas is executive director of the Texas Nixon for President finance committee.

LOUDER SENATE—Newsmen and spectators in the Texas Senate have been complaining for years that they can't hear what the Senators are saying to each other on the floor, making it

rather difficult to follow debate.

A San Antonio firm is solving that problem, at the request of a special Senate committee created by the June special session.

Company plans to install a powerful amplifier and 55 speakers around the chamber—specially attuned so that deep-throated Senators and high-pitched ones, too, will be heard by all in the chamber.

Each Senator will have an individual desk microphone, and a central panel at the president's desk will allow the Senators to be turned off and on by the Senate secretary.

Cost of the system will be from \$20,000 to \$25,000.

ATTORNEY General Speaks—A write-in vote for President and Vice President is valid and must be counted, regardless of whether the political party of the candidate "written in" has qualified to have names printed on the ballot, Atty. Gen. Crawford Martin held. Martin said if the Secretary of State has not been notified as to identity of the slate of presidential electors for write-in candidates, inquiry may be made by him as to the electors' names.

In other recent opinions, Martin concluded that:

● A county judge performing duties of county school superintendent (where office of superintendent is abolished) is not entitled to office and travel pay or salary of an assistant in addition to his \$2,650 annual compensation for extra duty.

● Palo Duro Canyon State Park revenues collected since last November 28 must be deposited in state parks fund with state treasurer.

● Texas State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers can pay temporary employee to help handle its examination papers.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY—Rep. Vernon Stewart of Wichita Falls, chairman of the House Committee on Juvenile Crime, offers a new approach to juvenile-crime problems.

Stewart wants to pay Texas' 254 counties to "keep their young people out of trouble." This would involve a state program of paying the counties \$2,000 a year for each juvenile they keep out of the state reformatories.

Proposal is based on the fact that not only is the state planning to spend \$10 million in the next three or four years on building new Texas Youth Council facilities, but will also spend \$2,000 per year per "student" to keep them in the "schools."

Stewart said his plan "would save the state taxpayers the cost of the buildings to house them and the county taxpayers the cost of the losses they create by delinquency."

Four Married-Student Units To Be Added Near Hensel

Texas A&M officials have announced plans to build four new apartment units in the College View-Hensel area for occupancy in the fall of 1969.

President Earl Rudder said the new facilities for married students will contain 48 air-conditioned one-bedroom apartments and cost approximately \$800,000. The units will be identical to the non-air-conditioned Hensel Apartments constructed by the university in 1960.

Rudder emphasized construction of the four units in no way alters the university's plea for additional privately financed off-campus housing.

"We simply recognize the converted barracks-type College View Apartments will have to be replaced in a relatively few years," the president noted, "and the university simply doesn't have the money to replace the whole complex at one time."

On this basis, Rudder said the A&M board of directors felt the institution should start a phased incremental program to replace the College View units.

"This position was further validated by the projection of the university's growth," he added, "which indicates an additional 1,000 housing units must be constructed in the Bryan-College Station area between now and September, 1969."

"Of this 1,000 requirement, the university will provide 48 units," Rudder continued. "The community must provide the other 952."

He said this projection for additional housing will be refined further after this fall's enrollment is determined.

The university now has 70 apartments for married students, of which 252 are the newer units in Hensel.

400 To Attend Faculty Dance

An estimated 400 persons are expected for this year's faculty staff dinner-dance, scheduled jointly with the President's Reception at the Memorial Student Center Sept. 26.

Festivities start at 7:30 p.m. in the ballroom with President and Mrs. Earl Rudder greeting new faculty and staff members in a receiving line. Dinner and dancing follow.

Invitations are being mailed to faculty and staff members who joined Texas A&M the past year. Invitations must be exchanged at the MSC's mail desk for complimentary tickets no later than 1 p.m., Sept. 24.

Music will be provided by the Aggieband Combo. Dress is informal.



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PEANUTS  
By Charles M. Schulz

PEANUTS  
I THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY TONGUE...  
WHEN I TRY TO SAY "BLAHLALALAAA" IT SAYS "BRZAAARZAZAA" INSTEAD...  
DO YOU THINK SOMETHING COULD BE WRONG WITH MY TONGUE?  
I THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YOUR WHOLE HEAD!

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I'M LONELY.  
I FEEL THAT NO ONE REALLY CARES ABOUT ME  
HOW CAN I CURE THIS LONELINESS?  
GET SOME FRIENDS! FIVE CENTS, PLEASE..