



"No, it's not really hot unless you wear clothes underneath!"

Guest Editorial

Lower Voting Age

With the Texas Legislature's perennial conservatism, it seems rather surprising to note that a bill moving the voting age to 19 years is showing favorable reception in Austin.

And rightly so, for some of the state's and nation's most informed and governmentally interested minds are found below the 21-year age bracket. Today's 19-year-old is better educated in the lessons and mechanics of contemporary government than his father was at that age, and in many cases, as he is now.

By the time he is 19, an individual has had to take at least one year of American history, a year of world history, some kind of civics course, and some Texas history. If he continues his education in college, he will have had two semesters of American government in which the Constitution and the many facets of local, state and national government are studied.

Along with his education, the 19-year-old of today is also much better-informed and more news-conscious than his parents, due to better means of mass communication. He is more involved in the news itself in the present society, and thus is more apt to pay attention to the affairs affecting him.

We hope Texas will take the needed step and be one of the forerunners in lowering the voting age. From the looks of things, the country and this state in this day and time could use the active minds of 19- and 20-year-olds.

—The College Star, Southwest Texas State College

The Ugly Queen Searches For An Honest Mirror

"Magic mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?" "Yonder maid who tends the well; she's the fairest in the dell."

"And with that, the wicked queen cursed the mirror mightily and stormed out of the chamber."

The latest version of this scene from the Snow White fairy tale concerns another mirror, the press, being "cursed mightily" by those whom it reflects, the American news audience.

According to George Gallup, never before in polling history have the news media been held in such low esteem across the nation. Typical of criticism being leveled at the press is a letter from a "high-ranking U. S. Army officer" printed as an editorial in a February issue of U. S. News & World Report.

THE OFFICER congratulated the magazine for printing an article on the "good things about the United States" saying that he had found "new strength amidst the spate of lurid publications and sensational media of

all kinds in which we too frequently find ourselves."

He charged that "unfortunate reporting" has let the country down in a serious way in the battle against Communist propaganda. "... Communists quote the U. S. press abundantly as their authority. They throw the words of our own media back at us, sometimes without the necessity of further editing."

CERTAINLY, "good" news does have a place in the news media, but the officer seems to have confused the role of a reporter with that of a propagandist, to indoctrinate. A reporter seeks to inform; a propagandist, to indoctrinate. The reporter, responsible for forwarding and protecting the public interest, gathers both forms of information — the "good" news, that which upholds, and the "bad" news, that which deplores. The propagandist, responsible only for forwarding his own viewpoint, selects only that information that will support that purpose.

Should the press, then, take on a propagandist tint and reflect American society as it

would like to be seen, to combat Communist indoctrination? Decidedly not, for even if such a 1984ish discoloring were to take place, it would accomplish little. Taking only "good" news out of context, the Communists could make it appear "bad." The same has been done to the Bible for centuries.

COMBAT COMMUNIST propaganda with its own weapons — government publications and broadcasting. But don't make the press an arm of the government to do it.

This, and other criticisms of the mirror will continue to grow as the queen becomes angrier with her own ugliness. Wes Gallagher, general manager of the Associated Press, warns that "The news media are going to be criticized and distrusted as long as readers and listeners differ in viewpoint, and this will be forever. Its intensity will rise and fall in proportion to the frustrations felt by the public in trying to cope with its problems."

And "bad" news must continue to be reported as long as these problems go unsolved.

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT

Gavel Club will meet at 7 p.m. in room 4 of the YMCA. Discussion topic will be "International Awareness."

Computer Science Wives Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Robert A. Scarborough, 1106 Marsteller. Officers will be elected and a White Elephant sale will be held. Anyone needing transportation may call Mrs. Gene Fried at 846-2350.

Chemistry Wives Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the party room of the Monaco II Apartments, 316 Redmond Drive, for a program on wigs.

Houston Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 321 of the Physics Building. End-of-school party will be discussed.

Tonight On KBTX

- 6:30 The Queen and I
- 7:00 That Girl
- 7:30 Bewitched
- 8:00 Thursday Night Movie — "The Chapman Report"
- 10:00 News, Weather and Sports
- 10:30 A View from Space
- 11:30 Alfred Hitchcock

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 as a university and community newspaper.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced, and must be no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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

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BOB EVANS '56

Vice - President

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On Behalf of the Director's, Officers and Staff Extends Best Wishes to the FISH DRILL TEAM in the National ROTC Drill Championships at Washington D. C.

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PEANUTS

IT JUST KILLS ME WHEN SNOOPY GOES OFF ON THESE TRIPS.

HE HAS NO RIGHT TO WORRY YOU LIKE THIS, CHARLIE BROWN! HE'S YOUR DOG, AND HE SHOULD STAY HOME WHERE HE BELONGS!

BUT HE WANTS TO FIND HIS MOTHER.. THAT STUPID BEAGLE SHOULDN'T BE OUT ALONE! HE'LL BUMP INTO A TREE OR SOMETHING...

BONK!!