

In The Beginning.... A Statement

(Editor's note: To properly evaluate the day-to-day contents of this publication, it is important that the reader know what principles govern the editorial policy of The Battalion. The following is an editorial published last May 22, the first edition for the 1969-70 Battalion staff, which set forth three tenets which were to serve as goals as well as the standards for this newspaper. Looking at them again after four months, there seems to be little more that needs to be said now, other than that we pledge ourselves anew to these tenets.

For all its delicate parts and intricate plans, the high-flying Apollo rocket would never have gotten off the ground if it hadn't been for its launching pad. Had the pad failed to support the tremendous weight of the rocket or failed to withstand the terrific heat from its engines, the launch would have not resulted in a "great leap for mankind," but a holocaust of horror.

The 1969-70 Battalion staff, with hopes for this school year nearly as high as Apollo's destination, also recognizes the need for a launch pad strong enough to withstand the weight of pressure by special interest groups and endure the heat of criticism by all. For whatever course The Battalion will take this year will depend largely upon the strength or weakness of this foundation.

The Battalion platform, then rests on these three pillars:

The Battalion pledges to seek the truth. The truth will be approached along two avenues. In its new columns, this newspaper will strive to keep the public informed of significant events, reporting the facts as fairly and completely as knowledge and experience permit. The Battalion will strive to present impartially both sides to every important question, and let the public decide which holds the greater portion of truth.

On the editorial page, The Battalion will accept the responsibility for analysis and criticism of public affairs. Editorials will be

The Battalion pledges to maintain its independence. A&M President Earl Rudder last May at the Student Publications banquet urged the Battalion staff to "strive to report and print the truth." He also asked that the newspaper give no special preferential treatment to any group, be they student, faculty or administrative. The staff concurs with the president's sentiments, believing that allegiance to any interest group for any reason jeopardizes the public's right to know the full story.

Independence implies no censorship, and this is true. It is also true that a staff member of University Information reads student-written copy every day before it goes to press. His job is only to make sure that the news The Battalion reports is not libelous and that it is within the bounds of good taste.

The Battalion pledges to provide leadership. Milton said: "To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men." The Battalion will endeavor to express a decided opinion on public questions, being careful to distinguish between clear thought and useless noise. The direction this newspaper's leadership will take will be guided primarily by the desire to improve the lot of the citizen of the university community.

When the climate on today's campuses is such that communication too often breaks down to confrontation, when protest too often brings police and when demonstration too often becomes demolition, The Battalion can not and must not do less than speak out with conviction, and often.

based on facts and effort will be made to weigh the facts fairly. The Battalion's aim always will be to help the average citizen to a better understanding of current issues.

This does not imply, however, that The Battalion expects to hold a monopoly on wisdom. Rather, believing truth is best found through debate and the free competition of ideas, The Battalion encourages comments from readers of every point of view.

John Platzer

Of Columns and Yearbooks

Once again school begins and once again I find myself sitting behind a typewriter with really nothing to say and all the space in the world to say it in.

If you think this is a very negative beginning for the first column of the year you're right. It is really surprising, however, how many big ideas look totally inadequate once they are on paper.

Maybe that is why most newspapermen are basically frustrated politicians. Many times they are called upon to do the same job as politicians but it always seems to be for far less pay. Politicians have one other big advantage in that if they speak loud enough and long enough no one may ever notice that they didn't say anything.

By now you are probably wondering exactly what this column

is and what it will be about in the future. I wonder about that myself.

It will be an informal column and will deal with anything and everything depending upon the mood of this author when it is written. At times it will be comical, at times serious and at other times corny. Perfection would be for it never to be too corny to be interesting nor too serious for it to be entertaining.

The arrival of The Aggie lands is the first true sign that the fall semester is underway and that everyone is in for another hectic year. Despite all the confusion and panic, however, I nominate the first week as consistently the best of the entire school year.

The reason can be stated in one word: optimism. According to

Webster, (that's Pete Webster who flies a crop duster for a living for those of you who have always wondered about it) optimism is the doctrine that everything is for the best.

Just think of the pluses the first week has.

The Aggie football team is undefeated.

No one has yet to fail an exam. Few students have any cuts.

Profs are not yet tired of lecturing.

Students are not yet tired of listening.

People still believe this will be their semester to shine.

How many of these things will still be around next week? Not many, I predict, but one thing that will be back next week is this column.

Chess Tourney Here Sept. 27-28

Leading chess players from throughout Texas will be here Sept. 27 and 28 for the Brazos Open Chess Tournament.

Eric Bone, former state champion of Baytown, and Dr. Dusan Djuric, class A player and A&M meteorology professor, will be among 50 players in the U. S. Chess Federation-rated tourney, announced David Line, tournament director.

The A&M junior of Monahans said membership in the USCF and Texas Chess Association are required for participation in the five-round Swiss tourney.

The contest is sponsored by the Memorial Student Center chess committee, chaired by Rudy de la Garza of Brownsville. He said the competition will be conducted in Rooms 2B-D of the MSC. Registration will be at 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, with play to start at 9:15 a.m.

Line said an entry fee of \$10 per player will be charged. Entrants under 21-years-of-age will be charged \$7. A \$100 first prize is guaranteed and other prizes will be arranged as entry fees permit.

MSC Snack Bar Has New Look

Between-meal snacks and coffee-breaks in the Memorial Student Center snack bar will be more colorful this fall.

Four students and the MSC graphic arts supervisor, Mrs. Elizabeth Chapman, brightened up the interior of the food facility with pop art in the style of Peter Max. He was featured recently by a national magazine.

Florescent paint went onto serving line dividers, four-by-eight foot entrance posters and a 30-foot long mural with a zodiac motif in psychedelic fashion. "Black" lights are used in one corner.

Designs and painting are the work of Mrs. Chapman, seniors Grover Vos of Corpus Christi and G. T. Hill of Bryan, soph Lynn Allen of Groves and a summer student, Rick Landmann.

"It was the students' idea but the food service department is interested in comments for planning purposes," Dollar said.

Patron enjoyment is the only motive, the originators indicate. They used a minimum amount of red since it stimulates eating, according to psychologists.

Paintings, Sculpture On Display In MSC

Contemporary art including paintings and sculpture by Houston artists will be on display in the Memorial Student Center through Sept. 30, announced Tom Ellis of the MSC Contemporary Arts Committee.

Fifteen surrealist paintings and caricatures in oil, ink, acrylics and mixed media and four pieces of sculpture are by Guy Johnson, Gerald Purdy, Jim Kearns and Bob Fowler.

Their work is handled by David Gallery of Houston. Ellis said the items may be purchased with sales handled

through the MSC social director's office.

Duncan, Sbis Hall Serving Hours Told

Serving hours for Duncan and Sbis dining halls have been announced by the Department of Food Services.

For Duncan, breakfast will be served at 7 a.m. Monday-Saturday and at 8 a.m. on Sunday. Lunch will be at 11:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 1:15 p.m. Monday-Friday, 12 noon on Saturday, and 12:45 p.m. on Sunday. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

At Sbis, breakfast will be from 7-8 a.m. Monday-Saturday and 8-9 a.m. on Sunday. Lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Dinner will be from 4:30-6:15 p.m. Monday-Friday and 4:30-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Intramural Athletics Officers to Meet

Corps and civilian athletic officers will meet Wednesday afternoon to organize intramural sports, announced Director of Intramurals Ray Fletcher.

Competition entries are due Sept. 24. The intramural sports program will start Sept. 29. Fletcher requests the athletic officer of each unit, dorm or organization attend the Wednesday meeting. Corps unit athletic officers will meet at 5 p.m. and civilians will meet at 5:30.

Managers and officials are also needed in order for the intramural program to function, Fletcher said. Interested students should contact the intramural office in DeWare Fieldhouse.

Class A and C activities, which include upperclass Corps and civilian students, will begin with flag football, bowling, handball and golf.

Class B sports for Corps freshmen will include basketball, ping-pong and horseshoes.

Adult Fitness Program Organizes Wednesday

Persons interested in their physical well-being reorganize Wednesday for an adult fitness program.

Dr. John M. Chevrette of the Health and Physical Education Department said the 12:15 p.m. organizational meeting will be in the White Coliseum lobby.

He conducts the noon "run for lunch" program. The department also keeps "score" for joggers and runners in the 100 Mile Club and the recently initiated 50 Mile Swim Club.

All three activities are voluntary and free, though the noon program and swim club utilize university facilities.

"Basic purpose of the noon program is to provide opportunity for people who wish to improve their level of fitness to participate," Chevrette said. "Hopefully, more and more people in our university and community will become aware of this tremendous need and make a decision to do something about it."

Campus Briefs

Bulletin Board TONIGHT

The American Veterinary Medical Association Student Auxiliary will meet for a Pot Luck Supper at 6 p.m. tonight at the A&M Methodist Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY

The A&M Soccer Club will organize at 6:30 p.m. in room 3B in the MSC. New officers and a team captain will be elected and the 1969 game schedule will be announced. A practice schedule will be formulated at this meeting, so all students interested in playing soccer with A&M this fall are invited to attend.

THURSDAY

The Brazos Valley Society of Medical Technologists will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Vet Public Health Lounge. Medical technicians, lab technicians and other lab personnel are invited.

For more information call: Mrs. Carmen Galey at 823-8775.

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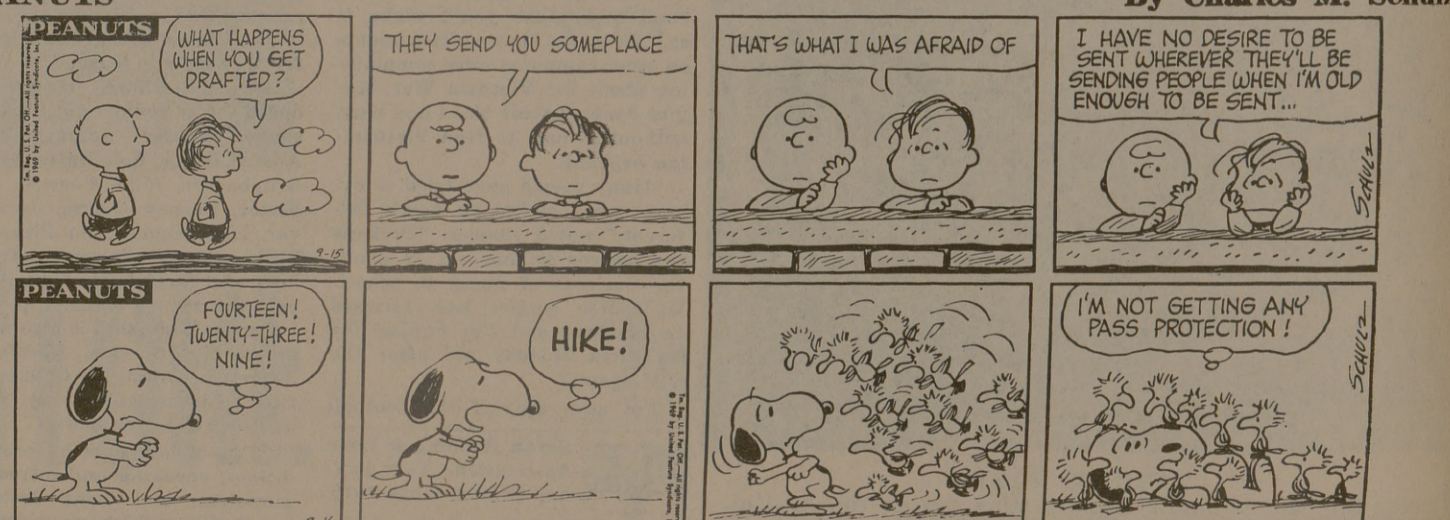
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PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET DRAFTED?
THEY SEND YOU SOMEPLACE
THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE SENT WHEREVER THEY'LL BE SENDING PEOPLE WHEN I'M OLD ENOUGH TO BE SENT...
FOURTEEN! TWENTY-THREE! NINE!
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