

# THE BATTALION

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## School or Mob Spirit?

Although we feel that the final (though late!) approval of the Austin invitation, by the Corps, was made through the impressionability of the student body, and not through a realization of the advisability of the move, we are glad to voice our commendation!

It should have been this realization of the benefit that would have been afforded our school, however, that caused the decision in favor of the trip, and not the surging of feeling that comes when some spirited person (our neighbor) shouts: "Let's GO!"

That these spirited persons prompted the admittance of a mistake is true, and that this admittance was noble is also true, but the fault in our nature that necessitates such a procedure is deplorable. If the good is too obscure for our cognizance, and if we can only be made to support the good through loyalty to our leaders, then we are instinctive instead of thoughtful—all feeling and no reason.

The essence of all religion, the beginning of all idealism, and the foundation of all nobleness exists in the cultivation of an altruistic personality—but WE HAVE NO PERSONALITY.

Last week we flowed in an insipid stream toward a fork in the channel. One fork lead in error over an abysmal fall the other - - -

We could have been travelling the other in serenity, but we are not—we're going over the fall, because the dam was erected too late—and the smashing on the rocks below is our deserved punishment.



Are Aggies Cultured?  
Yes, I think they are.

And yet the word "culture" has been so badly confused, especially by the dear ladies (bless their hearts!) that I'm afraid the Aggies won't take this as a compliment.

I'm afraid they'll think either: (1) that they are being called tea-sippers, or (2) that they are being sarcastically laughed at. As

it happens, you are being neither insulted nor made fun of—this time.

Culture is always being confused with Polish. They don't mean the same thing. In fact, no two words, carefully and clearly defined, ever do mean the same thing. The dictionary doesn't help much. It can do no more than tell us how the words are used. And this present usage is just what we are objecting to, as confused and untidy. So you are hereby offered a home-made definition of Culture, which has at least the virtue of not spilling over into the territory covered by the "Polish."

Culture is an informed interest in anything for its own sake.

An Aggie is cultured who is hip on the subject of radio ("interest"); whose interest has led him to learn a lot about radio ("informed interest"); and whose interest in radio is not due entirely to the hoped for profit ("for its own sake").

And the field of one's culture may be anything: horses; tap-dancing; jazz music; dramatics; bridges (or bridge); football; economics; military activity; psychology; aviation; rope twirling; the music of Beethoven; comparative religion; Russian communism; streamline cars. I have simply listed at random a few of the fields in which I have found Aggies with a genuine and sometimes an extremely rich culture.

Evidently, then, the question to ask yourself is not "am I cultured?" The answer to this question is, in almost every case: "you certainly are."

A more useful question might be: "How wide, how deep, how permanently satisfying is my culture?" Will a taste for radio, for example, no matter how genuine, how highly informed, or how independent of possible profit it may be, be enough to make your life interesting? Will it lead you by degrees into understanding your neighbor, and therefore into tolerating him with intelligent sympathy? Will it help directly to make you a sensible member of society? Don't let anybody tell you that the Aggies are not cultured. In eighteen years, I have rarely found an Aggie who lacked an informed interest in something for its own sake. That culture has nearly always been genuine and, like all genuine culture, unaffected, and unpretentious, and genuineness of interest is the rarest quality among people who pride themselves on their "culture." So, personally, in spite of its tendency to narrowness, I prefer the genuine culture which I find among the Aggies, to the more dressy article which appears too often among people who cultivate the "cultural" arts and graces.

If, then, your culture is genuine but narrow—how about cheering up by reading a book once in a while?

## SCHOOL SCOOPS

According to Jose Padin, commissioner of education at the University of Puerto Rico, President Roosevelt is not the first New Dealer. In an address to the university students, Padin told them that 2500 years ago Confucius attracted together a group of younger students who acted as his first "Brain Trust." History merely repeats itself.

A number of Temple university students will be employed as radio salesmen by the Philco Radio Agency in Philadelphia, Pa. After hearing a few of their "sales talks" the prospective customer will probably prefer the radio.

The fact that women still dislike to have their ages made known is revealed in the records of S C W graduate school. These graduate students resort to various tricks to avoid divulging their ages. File clerks of the matriculation cards report that, while some of them merely leave the space blank, others draw a line in the space, others jokingly insert a question mark, and still another group insist on filling in with "21 plus." The oldest known student registered in the post graduate courses is "over 50."



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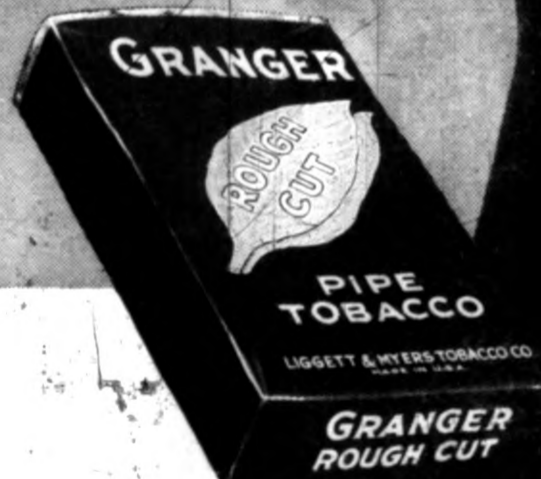
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