

WE BURN IN SHAME

Every now and then some colossal busts are made in The Battalion, just as they are in every other newspaper. The busts are very rarely due to incorrect reporting of fact, often due to our necessarily hasty proof-reading.

In our last Friday issue, however, we set a new record. From two sources—one from students, one from a faculty member—we have learned that no fewer than 17 errors found their way into print.

Before we allow our readers to believe anything too bad about us, we hasten to explain that the chief reason was that since the Christmas holidays we have been working short-handed.

Never again, we hope, will a similar issue get out.

A. & M.'S PART

As the oldest state-supported college in Texas, A. & M. will play her roll in the inauguration of the "Hillbilly" Governor, W. Lee O'Daniel in Austin Jan. 17. The A. & M. Band, totaling over 200 members and the best known band in the south, will be on hand to serve its part as a new governor is inducted into office. With the Band will be the white-clad members of the Ross Volunteers Company of A. & M., who will form the guard of honor for Governor-elect O'Daniel.

This is not the first time that the two organizations have been so honored. Being widely known throughout the state for many years, the Band has played at several inaugurations of Texas governors, but for the members of the present Band, it will be a new experience and accomplishment.

The Ross Volunteer Company formed the guard of honor at the first inauguration of Governor James V. Allred in 1935.

As recognition comes again to these two campus organizations, they are busily completing plans to play their parts in the inauguration ceremonies.

DEMOCRACY

While we are talking about defending American democracy against the rest of the totalitarian states, it would be a fine thing for us to spend a little time pondering over the federal court's ruling in regard to Mayor Hague's rule in Jersey City.

The court's ruling itself is familiar enough. So, unfortunately, is Mayor Hague's habit of bouncing out of town all speakers, organizers, or leaders whose ideas don't happen to look American to him. But the relationship between the sort of thing which the court banned and the overseas variety of dictatorship is something that cannot too often be examined.

We make a great mistake if we assume that it takes uniformed storm troops, egomaniac spellbinders, and an involved, hysterical ideology to make a dictatorship. A rising dictatorship acquires those things along the way, of course, but it starts with something much simpler.

That something is little more than the idea that society can best protect itself by granting a hearing only to those people or organizations who say what the great majority wants to hear. Sometimes the idea sounds pretty reasonable. Every society wants to protect itself; cracking down on dissenters and trouble makers often looks like the best way.

But all the rest follows from that. Shut up the unimportant soap-boxer, and the next step is to shut up the man who really voices a grievance that deserves to be listened to. Shut him up, and the next step is to silence everyone who disagrees with the ruling majority. And when you have done that, the ruling majority may cease to be a majority without ceasing to rule—and you have a dictatorship.

The thing to remember is, democracy dies at the bottom, not at the top. Pressure from the outside is not one-tenth as dangerous as decay from within. A navy and an air fleet, if they are strong enough will take care of the muscle men from overseas; nothing on earth will save democracy at home except a clear realization of the vital importance of preserving the freedom of even the least important members of society.

THE BATTALION

Entered as second class matter at the post office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress on March 3, 1879.

Subscription rates, \$2.00 per year
Advertising rates upon request.

Office in Room 122, Administration Building.
Telephone College 8. Office open from 11 a. m. until 4 p. m. daily.

Represented for national advertising by National Advertising Service, Inc., 420 Madison Ave., New York City.

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That is why this business of Mayor Hague and the U. S. Court is worth a second glance.

As an individual, Hague is unimportant—just one more of the all-too-familiar municipal bosses of American political history. What matters is the fact that the kind of rule he has stood for is a blow at the very roots of our American system. Now that the court has spoken, we may at least hope that that rule will be substantially modified—although the mayor does not seem to be in any hurry about it.

But unless we clearly realize the danger, the court ruling will not do much good. In the long run, our democracy won't be saved by court rulings any more than by battleships and airplanes. Only an alert, active awareness on our part of what the essence of democracy is can be a reliable safeguard.

—SHAMROCK TEXAN

REARMAMENT PLAN

As President Roosevelt was asking in his message to Congress for a larger and greater defense for this country, he was forming plans which are to be put in effect if his wishes are granted. President Roosevelt's plans are to build a defense great enough to protect the entire Western Hemisphere.

Along with this program is the plan to train pilots in the different universities and colleges throughout the nation. The youth of these schools will build up a force in the background which will strengthen our national defense to a much higher degree.

But whether students of this nation's colleges and universities approve of such a plan remains as yet to be seen. Possibly what little they might have to say concerning the proposition would have little bearing on the plans, but it is through their actions that the plan will go forward to be made a success.

It has been learned that the Students Opinion Surveys will seek to make a coast to coast survey of college students on the subject of whether or not they favor the experiment of training civilian aviators in the American colleges. Whatever is the outcome of this question, it should be one interesting to bear watching.

Dr. T. F. Mayo's Column

The New Republic (my favorite sheet) has recently collected from a number of distinguished men, lists of the books which, in their respective opinions, have "contributed something new to American thinking—in other words, the books which changed our minds."

It may interest you Aggies to look at the list of eleven titles compiled by the New Republic on the basis of all the lists which were sent to it. All these books, I believe, are in our College Library. Beginning with this week's issue, I understand that the New Republic will publish a discussion of one of these books each week.

Here is the list; the brief comments in parentheses are mine:

1. Spengler's "The Decline of the West"

(Vast and learned interpretation of world history by a great and gloomy German scholar who believes that civilizations live and die in rhythmical cycles, and that Western Civilization has now reached the stage which precedes dissolution.)

2. Freud's "The Interpretation of Dreams"

(One of the key books of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic school of psychology, which is based on the idea (among others) that we are conscious of only a small part of our own thoughts, desires, and emotions.)

3. Charles Beard's "An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution"

(This column has already discussed Beard's economic interpretation of history. This book applies such an interpretation to the most important and sacred of all American documents, and presents each section of the Constitution as the product, not of the various groups of Americans who combined to frame it.)

4. John Dewey's work in general, with special attention to "Studies in Logical Theory"

(Sorry, but I haven't read this book of John Dewey's. I have a feeling, however, that for "the man on the street"—on my own street, at any rate,—"Human Nature and Conduct" would be both an easier and a better book to read for Dewey's thought.)

5. Boas' "The Mind of Primitive Man"

(This is a grand book, easily accessible to anybody. It undertakes to prove, I remember, (among other things,) that the "superior race" idea is rot, if you mean superior in blood. According to Boas, some races have simply lived in more advantageous and more stimulating environments than others.)

6. Parrington's "Main Currents in American Thought"

(Though I have read only two volumes of this work, I agree that it is a fine history of ideas in this country. The parts about John Marshall and the original sanctification of the Supreme Court; about Daniel Webster and John Calhoun; and about Emerson struck me as particularly good. It is not at all hard to read, either, if you really want to know about the matters of which it treats.)

7. Richards' "The Principles of Literary Criticism"

(Pretty tough going, if you ask me. But it has had a lot of influence on teachers of English literature, and is probably destined to have still more.)

8. Turner's "The Frontier in American History"

(A good book for any American to read, and good reading, too. Now that the frontier has disappeared from American History, we are beginning to realize that we have turned a corner, and that our old free and easy "rugged individualism" in economic matters was perhaps workable only while the frontier was still out there waiting to take up the slack.)

9. "The Education of Henry Adams"

(The autobiography of perhaps the most civilized man that this country has yet produced. Note that it was his whole life to which he applied the name of "education"?)

10. Sumner's "Folkways" (a classical study of primitive customs which throws much light on our own.)

11. Veblen's "Theory of Business Enterprise" (Haven't read it. For engineers, I recommend Veblen's "Engineers and the Price System".)

HOW TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA



COLLEGIATE REVIEW

Perhaps their new slogan is the student who studies until the wee hours of the morn, then drops off to sleep and misses that "studied-for" quiz. But imagine the disappointment of this class in Grinnell University. A prof has assigned a quiz. When the class meets, he asks if everyone has studied. When he gets an affirmative reply, he states that he guesses there is no need of giving one. So he doesn't. What a life.

What's Showing

Palace, Tuesday and Wednesday, "The Girl Downstairs", with Franka Gael and Franchot Tone.

Assembly Hall, Tuesday and Wednesday, "Hold That Co-Ed", with John Barrymore, George Murphy, Marjorie Weaver, Joan Davis and Jack Haley (Reviewed today).

Palace, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, "You Can't Take It With You", with Lionel Barrymore, Mischa Auer.



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Campus Barber Shop
"In the Y"

PREVIEWS and REVIEWS

Assembly Hall Tuesday and Wednesday, "Hold That Co-Ed." Directed by George Marshall. Screen Play by Karl Tunberg. Original Story by Karl Tunberg and Don Ettlinger. Music and Lyrics by Gordon and Revel. Lew Pollack and Lew Brown. Darryl F. Zanuck in charge of production.

Cast of Characters
Governor..... John Barrymore
Rusty..... George Murphy
Marjorie..... Marjorie Weaver
Lizzie Olsen..... Joan Davis
Wilbur..... Jack Haley
Breckenridge..... George Barbier
Edie..... Ruth Terry
Dean Fletcher..... Donald Meeks
Dink..... Johnny Downs
Slapsy..... Paul Hurst
Mike..... Guinn Williams

Just what the writer of "Hold That Co-Ed" had in mind while he was writing the story is hard to tell, but out of this story there emerges some of the most hilarious scenes ever shown. They are somewhat silly and without base but after once entering the spirit of the picture, you will forget the silliness and laugh, too.

As the Governor of a State, John Barrymore does more than give that honored position the "work". He is good and this shows him to be the versatile actor on the screen. His antics steal the show in such a way that the audience is fully aware that he is doing it. Jack Haley and Joan Davis do their bit in creating a laughable disturbance and keep their place in the comedy world.

It may possibly be interesting to the veterans of A. & M. to know that this picture had the help of a former A. & M. student, his name is Gene Bryant, remember? He is acting as the assistant to George

The picture "You Can't Take It With You" will bear attention, it is a truly great show.

WASHINGTON STATE College students earn \$249,940 during the nine-month college year.



JOHN BARRYMORE
GEORGE MURPHY
MARJORIE WEAVER
JOAN DAVIS - JACK HALEY
Tues. & Wed.
Jan. 10th & 11th

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