

ARMY'S NEW RIFLE

The army has a new rifle, the Garand semi-automatic, with which an infantryman can fire eight shots without touching the bolt. The new rifle gives one soldier the firing power of five men with the older type Springfield rifle.

News of the rifle has been widely circulated throughout the country for the last year or more. It cheered people who knew too well that army power was greatly reduced. They believed, or perhaps only hoped, that the new rifle might compensate for the shrinkage in numbers of trained personnel.

It is disappointing then to learn that only 10,000 of the new rifles are available and it will be months or perhaps years before mass production of the arms will be possible. Altogether 2345 gauges, 1766 fixtures, 1385 special tools, 79 punches and dies are required to make the weapon.

This situation is only one of many in the defense situation of the country. It becomes most important when considered in the light of President Roosevelt's statement to Congress that "next time we cannot guarantee a long period free from attack in which we could prepare."

-EXCHANGE

THE STUDENT FORUM

TO THE BATTALION:

It seems that at last someone has seen fit to express a sentiment which behooves men of college age. We are referring to the timely protests of Messrs. Reagan, Neale, Thomas, Golson, Rogers, and Owens, in which they suggest that the Battalion abstain from their childish banter with the Daily Texan.

All of us have received very explicit instructions as freshmen as to what our attitude toward Texas University should be, and a friendly rivalry is a good thing. However, it is only logic that, taken as a whole, the student body of T. U. is equal in many respects to our own. Both institutions have their "black sheep" which detract from an outsider's estimation of the whole school. Personally, we think Clarence LaRoche's description of the Aggie-Longhorn basketball game was the "tops" in good sportsmanship. It leaves us wondering if our own "Jeep" Oates would have done so well, although he is without a doubt as the sportsman as LaRoche. It is very probable, therefore, that both he and Doss are only trying to satisfy what they believe to be the true desires of the majority of the Aggies.

Let us hope that they are mistaken, and will endeavor to raise our editorial page above the level of a high school semi-monthly.

R. K. Andrews, '41, and 22 others.

TO THE BATTALION:

Recently I have conducted a poll among twenty seniors, selected at random, on their knowledge of a current conflict. Although the result may be as worthless and as unreliable as that of the political poll taken by the Literary Digest in 1936—and I hope this is true—it is indeed disturbing and reveals a deplorable condition.

The subject was the Spanish Civil War (or, better, Rebellion), which, and to relate, seems to be in its last stages and, if it is terminated in favor of the Rebels, will chain the country in the blackest pit of fascism. Of the twenty seniors—most of whom I did not previously know—three avowed that the subject was absolutely alien to their minds. Sixteen exhibited a poor-to-fair knowledge of the situation, while one was unusually well-informed and would fill the qualifications of an educated person insofar as this affair was concerned. One senior, wearing his boots as proudly as Field-Marshal Goering and who, some way, had heard of the Sino-Nipponese struggle, said emphatically, "Why, they ain't no war in Spain. You've got the Spanish-American War mixed up with the Chinese War."

If the poll had been taken among grammar school students of the lower grades, the results would not be so depressing. However, how any literate person, much less a college senior, could manifest such abysmal ignorance of such a war is indeed almost incredible. While hundreds of thousands of workers, intellectuals, and students have opposed, with laudable courage but with a paucity of modern weapons, The terrible march of aggressive fascism, the enemies of the people have had unlimited supplies of artillery, planes, tanks, machine guns, and many thousands of troops of the regular Italian and German armies. Dr. Ludlum, in his column last week and in previous issues of the Battalion, has given a clear, brief, and accurate account of the conflicting forces and ideologies of the internecine and obviously unequal struggle. While such people as Einstein, Dorothy Parker,

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Lloyd George, and many other thinkers—including the unknown as well as the famous—have pleaded for fair treatment of the established and legally-elected Spanish government and against the farcical non-intervention (?) plan, many of us have not become interested in the matter. Apathy may be just as destructive of democracy as is actual antagonism when democracy is fighting for its life. Some day, when the people dare disturb the "sacred rights" of the ruling class, the same struggle may occur here, in all its ferocity and, possibly, with the same conclusion.

Such a lack of interest on the part of the students has given some substantiation of the arguments of critics who say derisively that this institution is a training school instead of a school of higher education. They say that the school attracts those young men who wish only to become economically secure instead of contributing, as leaders, to the fight for social and economic justice.

Future leaders? Phooey!
Future automatons in a fascist economy.
CHARLES MONROE JOHNSON.

February 14, 1939.

Mr. E. L. Doss,
Editor, The Battalion,
A. & M. College,
College Station, Texas.

Dear Doss,

I take this opportunity to express thanks to you for Clarence LaRoche and myself for the swell time you, Jeep Oates, and the entire Aggie student body showed us last Saturday night. We really enjoyed it.

If you see fit, please pass our thanks on to the rest of the Aggies.
The "tea-sipping" incident was one of the most clever that I have seen in a long time. We congratulate you and Oates for the idea, and thank the band for the dedication "Tea for Two."

This may sound somewhat conceited, but it is the truth: the several "wars" which the Texan and Battalion have carried on this year have done more to revive the athletic spirit here—particularly in regard to A. & M.—than anything which has happened in many years. More and more students and faculty members are calling me daily to tell me this and congratulate both papers for the spirit which they seem to be developing. You may take this as a personal compliment from Texas fans.

I would not desire any spirit other than this to develop. The students here are enjoying it—and as far as I could tell Saturday night, the majority of the Aggies are doing the same. Of course, there must be some students on both campuses who cannot see any "spirit of fun" in the "fight," but I know those with a sense of humor must see that there is behind our "bitter struggle" only a spirit of friendly school spirit and rivalry.

Again, may I tell you that I think you have a swell bunch of guys attending A. & M., and we like them a lot.

Sincerely,
PAT DANIELS,
Daily Texan Editor,
U. of T., Austin.

Failure in classroom studies and financial difficulties are the two principal reasons for students dropping out of Ohio colleges before the completion of their four-year programs, a study reported at the University of Cincinnati reveals.

The two-year cooperative survey reveals that five other factors which contribute to college attendance "mortality" among Ohio students are these in the approximate order of their decreasing frequency:
Lack of interest in continuing their college work, illness disciplinary action on the part of the colleges, a need for the students' presence at home, and death in the students' families.

On National Affairs

FRANCO — SPAIN'S FUTURE
BY DR. R. P. LUDLUM

General Francisco Franco is leader of the Spanish revolt and of the rebel government by accident. Another man was scheduled to be the leader of the government, and yet another man was to have been the military leader of the revolt. But the first man was assassinated, and the second was killed in an airplane accident. Franco took over because he was an able man in a good strategic position. He has led the revolt ever since it was a few days old, and no doubt he will head the government to be established, now that the revolt is successful.

Franco himself is a soldier, of a family whose male members have been soldiers for generations. He is a creature of his caste, of his background. He has all the narrowness and political ignorance too often associated with the professional soldier. He believes he is doing what is best for Spain, but the wishes of Spain itself do not count with him in determining what is best for her. He once said he had supported the Republic as long as the Republic represented the national will. He was asked whether the elections, then just past, which had gone contrary to his beliefs, did not nevertheless represent the national will. No, said he, "Elections never do."

What will be Spain's future under a government headed by this ruthless soldier? Prophecy is a risky undertaking, and the forecasts that follow are therefore tentative. It is safe to say, however, that Spain will be no more than a satellite of Italy and Germany in the sphere of foreign relations. Mussolini and Hitler consistently have supported Franco and helped him to win the war. He certainly will pay the debt by accepting his orders from them. This constitutes a dire danger to France and Britain.

Internally, Spain will be a fascist country. Franco believes in all the individual slogans of Fascism and all their implications, although he may deny any attachment to Fascism as a whole. He will stamp out every vestige of liberalism he can reach, executing all the liberals necessary to the process. The prominent Loyalist leaders who are not able to reach the unhappy safety of exile will be shot, and the rank-and-file Loyalist adherents will be shot or otherwise suppressed, as each case seems to Franco to require.

Otherwise, the course of events in Spain will follow the familiar Fascist pattern. It is tragic enough to think of. And it is well to remember that the United States contributed to Franco's victory, Congress having acceded to President Roosevelt's special request that it enact an embargo upon shipments to Spain.

PREVIEWS and REVIEWS

BY RAY TREADWELL

Palace, Saturday night preview, Sunday, and Monday: "They Made Me a Criminal," a Warner Brothers picture directed by Busby Berkeley, music by Max Steiner, from a novel by Bertram Millhauser and Beulah Marie Dix.

Cast of characters:
Johnnie John Garfield
The Dead End Kids
Detective Phelan Claude Rains
Goldie Ann Sheridan
Grandma May Robson
Peggy Gloria Dickson
This picture strikes the medium worked for so long by all of the major studios in trying to produce a crime picture that has a good romance but no sentiment in any phase of the story. John Garfield, Warner's newest find, proves that he is no flash-in-the-pan actor by his brilliant performance as a lightweight prizefighter who is framed on a murder charge, betrayed by

his girl (Ann Sheridan), and forced to flee to a Western fruit ranch run by two women (May Robson and Gloria Dickson) and inhabited by the "Dead End Kids."

The plot is essentially the same as that portrayed by numerous other criminal dramas but the thing that lifts the picture from a re-run to a best picture of the month is the vivid acting of John Garfield, who is the only thing one can see in the picture and is good enough in this role to lift most any antique out of the dumps.

Claude Rains turns in one of his best performances in the supporting role of the detective who sacrifices a career to give Johnnie another chance, but other than these two nothing else is passable in the picture even though it includes the "Dead End Kids" and Ann Sheridan, both falling far short of expectations.

KNOW YOUR COLLEGE

BY H. G. TALBOT

You may think you are a man-about-the-campus and know everybody, but have you met Mr. Coati-mundi, and Mr. Cryptotis? Foreign students? No, merely a couple of fellows, who, with many others, may be found in the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Research Museum in the A. H. Pavilion.

The Texas Cooperative Wildlife Research Museum is a comparatively new organization, but it shows promise of soon developing into the largest museum of its kind in the state. Although only two years old, the museum has a collection of 769 mammals, and 1679 birds catalogued, with numerous other specimens remaining to be reworked and numbered. Also uncatalogued is a large collection of reptiles and fish.

Although but an infant, the museum has many items in the collection that are very unusual. Dr. W. B. Davis, of the Wild Game Department, and Curator of the Museum, has identified and described a new species of the pocket gopher. Because he first found this species in Brazos County, he has named it "Geomys Breviceps Brazensis". The museum has the only collection of this species. It also has the largest collection in the world of the Atwater prairie chicken. This game bird is becoming very rare, and is protected in Texas except for a very short season.

Other rare specimens include the hide of a Mexican Coati-mundi. It is the third Coati-mundi on record as killed in Texas. It was confiscated from a Mexican by a game warden, who took it to be that of an otter, which is protected all over the United States. The museum has a very fine hide of the River Otter, which was taken in East Texas. There is also a specimen of the Rosetta Spoonbill, an almost extinct species.

Many specimens are found in very unusual ways. The Cryptotis Shrew, formerly thought to be found only in the northern states, was discovered in Texas by examining the regurgitations of owls. The owls were found to be feeding extensively on these animals, and collectors immediately trapped several for the museum.

The museum gets its specimens

from many varied sources. The Wildlife Research Department has three regularly employed field biologists, whose job is to make surveys of the wildlife in the counties of Texas. They supply many specimens. The regional game managers of the Oyster, Game and Fish Commission, contribute many items also. The graduate students of the Wild Game Department are required to contribute several specimens each of mammals and birds. The museum also trades specimens with other museums, universities, and private collectors.

The specimens are taken in charge at the museum on arrival by R. L. Peterson, who is the assistant curator in charge of mammals, and B. E. Ludeman, assistant curator in charge of birds. They are disinfected, cleaned and stuffed with cotton. Then they are identified and catalogued, and placed in cases along with their skulls. No preservatives are used, but the specimens are frequently fumigated with carbon disulfide.

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PALACE

LAST DAY - SAT.

"The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"

PREVIEW - 11 P. M. SAT.



JOHN GARFIELD
ANN SHERIDAN
THE DEAD END KIDS
THEY MADE ME A CRIMINAL
CLAUDE RAINS - ANN SHERIDAN
MAY ROBSON - GLORIA DICKSON
Shown Sun. - Mon.

NEW DIXIE

SUN. - MON. - TUES.

COLLEGIATE REVIEW

It's a long trek either afoot or by water from Ohio to New York state, but apparently it wasn't too long for a colony of sea scorpions several hundred million years old.

The University of Cincinnati museum reports finding parts of at least five of these ancient crustaceans and fragments of many shed skins of others in a rock layer in Ohio's geologically interesting Adams county.

What whets the interest of Cincinnati geologists in this discovery is that it belongs to a species new to science, and to a genus hitherto unknown in Ohio, or, for that matter, not clearly known in this continent outside of a small area in New York.

Shure, the Irish are a'comin' back into the football picture at the University of Detroit.

On the present freshman squad are more than two dozen boys of Irish extraction and a good percentage of them look like future varsity material.

There are Brennans and O'Connors, and McLaughlins, and Goo-fiches, and Burkes, and Callahans, and Cooleys, and Gleasons, and Shannahans, and Moores, and all the rest of the names that have brought fame to the sons of the "Auld Sod."

For years the Irish dominated the Titan squad but of late years there have been few of them.

At least 47 colleges throughout the country have made plans for providing scholarships and living expenses for the coming academic term to European refugee students. It has been announced here by the newly-formed Intercollegiate Committee to Aid Student Refugees, a non-sectarian organization to extend and coordinate refugee work on the campuses.

In most instances college administrations have waived tuition fees while student-faculty committees have raised funds for room and board and living expenses.

The Intercollegiate seeks to bring to this country only students of great ability whose achievements and personality put them on a level with Rhodes scholars. Selections are therefore based on exceptional academic records, well rounded interest in non-academic subjects, together with testimonials of excellent character.

The committee has called an intercollegiate conference to be held in Cleveland, February 17 and 18.

The Drake University student newspaper is having a lot of fun with its new "Foundation for Absent-minded Professors." Qualifications for membership are something like this one pulled by Drake professor: He lectured for one hour to his senior domestic relations class on "evidence," a junior class subject!

"As young democrats in the world's greatest republic, you have a two-fold task, as I interpret conditions. You have to fit together the broken pieces of our shattered civilization; and you have to bring to bear on every phase of civilized life the influence of learning and scholarship." University of Alabama's Dr. George Lang charts a course of responsibility for today's collegians.

"Youth must make up its mind to participate in public life, to purify and dignify public office and public administration. It cannot afford to be cynical and aloof in this puncture of our civilization. Too much depends on intelligent cooperation and good will." Pres. C. A. Dykstra, University of Wisconsin, urges youth to take its part in public life.

"Any university which wishes to do its share for the public welfare must have a strong faculty of education with the same degree of professional feeling as exists in other professional faculties." Harvard University's Pres. J. B. Conant urges a "concerted attack" on the problems and procedures of public education.

In addition to bringing out all of the learning ingenuity of crammed collegians, examination time seems to whet the brains of fact-finding students who should be spending more time on their studies.

For example, an over-ambitious University of Texas student has figured out that Longhorn students (10,103 of them) used 20,000 pencils to write approximately 13,000,000 words a day during the recent 10-day mid-term examination period. They studied 130,000 books for 200,000 hours in preparation for 45,000 examinations.

What's Showing

Assembly Hall, Friday 6:30, "Spawn of the North," with Henry Fonda, George Raft, and Dorothy Lamour.

Assembly Hall, Saturday, 12:45 p. m., "Say It In French," with Ray Milland and Olympe Bradna.

Assembly Hall, Saturday night, 6:30-8:30, "Garden of the Moon," with Pat O'Brien, John Payne, Margaret Lindsay, and Jimmie Fidler.

Palace, Friday and Saturday, "Huckleberry Finn," starring Mickey Rooney and Walter Connolly.

Palace, Saturday night preview, Sunday and Monday, "They Made Me a Criminal," with John Garfield, Ann Sheridan, May Robson, Gloria Dickson, Claude Rains, and the "Dead End Kids."

City planning is now offered Connecticut College students in a special course called "divic art."

To graduate from Hiram College, a student must take two years of athletics, pass skill tests in many sports.

Denny Chimes, towering marker on the University of Alabama, campus, peals off tunes every fifteen minutes.

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