

LIBRARY HOURS

While there are many factors about the college library which can be improved only with the allocation of more funds to it, there is one factor which can be improved without the need of more than a rearrangement of working hours of its employees—the hours which the library maintains.

It seems somewhat backward to us for a college of around 6,000 students to have a library which is not available at all hours of all days in the week.

The library hours are now 8 a. m. until 10 p. m. daily with these exceptions: Saturdays 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p. m. and 7 to 10 p. m.

Now that Saturday arrangement, it seems to us, is not the best possible. While many—even most—of the students of the college use Saturday night for recreation, it cannot be denied by anyone who is acquainted with student life that a great portion of the students use that time as a study period. It would be to the best interests of this group to have the library facilities available on Saturday just as on any other day.

We further suggest that the library's remaining open only until 10 p. m. is a bad feature. Surely it would not be asking too much to expect the facilities to be available until 10:30 or 10:45. The period from call to quarters until library closing time is only 2.5 hours at present. A revision would make 3 or 3.25 hours available at night.

Our suggestion, briefly, is this: That the library remain open from 8 a. m. until 10:45 p. m. every day in the week, including Saturday and Sunday.

We feel sure that A. & M. students will benefit a great deal from such a change and that these hours are only what can be expected of a library in a fast-growing institution.

A. & M. If so, so what? What we want, and what we asked for, is some plan, no matter what, that would better the situation. And we'd like to hear one from the writer of last Tuesday's reply to our letter.

The highwaying stations, as we said before, might be established by the A. & M. ex-students or by other organizations. Our intent was (and is) a highwaying station at the east entrance to college, and one in Bryan, at the most strategic points.

What we probably need first and most, however, is greater enforcement by the Senior Class of the customs we have had in past years in regard to highwaying. Again we ask that something be done to improve the highwaying situation.

Bill Murray, '40
D. B. (Woody) Varner, '40
Cy Newman, '40

NATIONAL DEFENSE

(Editor's note: As the period from Lincoln's birthday to Washington's birthday is national defense week, the following article has been written and submitted by Sidney L. Loveless, 2nd lieutenant, cavalry reserve, giving the history and the significance of national defense week.)

By SIDNEY L. LOVELESS

The period of time from Lincoln's Birthday to Washington's Birthday is National Defense Week. It was founded and is sponsored by the Reserve Officers Association. It is dedicated to the preservation of peace rather than to war.

This country rocked along until the World War with no program of National Defense. Fortunately for us that war was fought on foreign battle fields, which gave us an opportunity to prepare while friendly countries were holding the adversaries at bay. In the early twenties General John J. Pershing set up a National Defense program which provided for the Regular Army and the National Guard to comprise one-third of the Army, while the reserve units were to make up the other two-thirds. The observance of this one week in the year signifies the importance attached to the question by the Reserve Officers Association.

HOW THE U. S. COMPARES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN NATIONAL DEFENSE

For those who are well informed concerning the National Preparedness of the United States no reflection is being cast upon their intelligence, but it is hoped that for those who may have any question as to the situation as it really exists this will serve to enlighten them. As a world power, how does the United States rank with other nations in National Defense? Of three groups of nations—those willing to maintain their own integrity—the predatory nations—and the weak nations—we hope that these United States will always be strong and willing to maintain its own integrity. Indications are that some think the country is becoming too militaristic through the training of too many of the youths of the nation for war through the R.O.T.C. and the C.M.T.C. These people must be overlooking the training schedules of other countries or else are not familiar with the facts. Figures show that France has 14.7% of her population trained for service; Sweden, 14.4%; Switzerland, 14.4%; Italy, 14.1%; and down in 43rd position is the United States with thirty-six one hundredths of one percent—less than one half of one per cent. The latest figures available reveal that the per capita cost for all National Defense to us is \$6.08, Germany \$9.25; Japan, \$13.39; Italy, \$13.88; Great Britain \$15.28; France \$22.59; and Russia \$33.26. With this comparison of cost and percentage of trained men, surely there can be no justified accusation that the United States is overspending for National Defense.

WHY NATIONAL DEFENSE?

Why National Defense? Has not the United States always been on the defensive? The American people love peace and hate war. Never until forced to it by hostile nations have we entered war. Regardless of our lack of preparedness we went to war in 1776, 1812, 1861, 1898, and 1917. Perhaps it would be advisable to try preparedness for a change and then if it did not produce peace it would at least afford security in case of an emergency. It is true that we have won all our wars, but the price we had to pay in lives and money has been extremely high.

WHO IS TO FIGHT THE BATTLES?

Does anyone want war? The men who will have to fight do not want war. We are the ones who must fight the battles. Although we are in the second and third lines of defense, the miniature standing army with its 165,000 enlisted men and 18,500 officers must of necessity enlarge to take in the Officers Reserve Corps, Reserve Officers Training Corps, Civilian Military Training Corps, and National Guard besides those taken on some form of draft. Just because a man is in uniform does not mean that man wants to fight. His job is a profession the same as any other profession. And he, like any professional man, prefers to do his work in peace. The civilian components far exceed the regular army in numbers, and in case of war they will be uniformed men. These men have some idea of what war is like. They have taken of their own time and money to become more efficient in the rules and technique of combat. Just think of the thousands who know nothing of war at all and who would be trained in a limited time to take their places beside the seasoned and experienced soldier. So if we have to fight, everyone wants war conducted with as little loss of life and money as possible, and terminated quickly. It is the role of the civilian then to make sure that the United States is adequately prepared.

MAY WE ACCEPT OUR PROBLEM AS IT IS

During this week of National Defense may we have accepted this problem as it is. It is agreed that no one wants to fight. Unpreparedness means that we accept the world situation as it is to-day—not as the crisis it may develop into should nothing be done to prevent it. We cannot continue to ignore the possibility that unpreparedness may mean tremendous loss of money and men. There is no question about the men and resources being available, but review the pages of history that described the hasty actions, the overnight training camps, and officers referred to as the 90 day wonders, and profit by those mistakes. Truly the future is a reliving of the past looked at from a different viewpoint.

LAW GIVERS!



PREVIEWS and REVIEWS

By RAY TREADWELL

Palace, Tuesday and Wednesday, "Topper Takes a Trip", a Hal Rosch-United Artists picture taken from the book by Thorne Smith, author of "Topper" and other books on the same character.

Cast of Characters: Topper Roland Young
Mrs. Topper Billie Burk
The Baron Alexander D'Arcy
Marion Kerby Connie Bennett
The Butler Alan Mowbray
This is one sequel picture that lives up to the standard set by its predecessor in that it fails as an entertaining feature even more than did the original "Topper"; true it shows some interesting fine process photography but other than that the piece is held together only by Billie Burke's gags which are not enough to patch together a thin sophisticated plot such as this one.

COLLEGIATE REVIEW

Presentation of an exploration cruiser, floating laboratory for a number of Pacific cruises in the advancement of marine science, has just been made to the University of Southern California.

Regarded as the finest vessel afloat for scientific exploration and field research, the cruiser has especially designed laboratories and field research, the cruiser has eight years annual voyages throughout the eastern Pacific ocean have accommodated leading scientists from outstanding educational institutions.

Embodiment of a new departure in educational endeavor by a major university, the vessel will continue her exploration work and also serve for instructional purposes in nautical subjects.

In an endeavor to encourage student friendships and to bring together students with kindred leisure-time interests, Cornell University has set up a Bureau of Recreational Interests.

The Bureau is now engaged in Cornell's first comprehensive survey of recreational activities and interests, under the guidance of the student union.

Prior to his arrival on the campus each incoming freshman has been sent a form requesting information on activities participated in while in high school, and the activities each student wishes to continue or begin. Space is also provided for a follow-up record of the actual participation during each year in college.

WASHINGTON HAPPENINGS

No investigation was required to let folks know that certain countries are doing their utmost to insure America's participation in the next world war if one breaks out presently.

So, when Representative Martin Dies, whose Congressional committee has been inquiring into un-American activities in our midst, warns us that such is the case, his utterance is as sound as a dollar—merely superfluous.

We literally are being "deluged with propaganda," Dies says.

As to propaganda, I doubt (despite testimony before the Dies committee) that it amounts to anything. Britain and France naturally are the two powers which most especially want to enlist Uncle Sam on their side, but preponderantly we are on their side anyway, insofar as our sympathies go. They do not need to propagandize us. Germany seems to have tried it to some extent, through its "bunds"—but no sensible person takes them very seriously. Italian "boring from within" surely has not been done with anything more formidable than an extremely small gimlet. And imagine Japan producing the slightest favorable effect on us in favor of the Mikado!

But Russia, Dies informs us, "is working tirelessly in the United States to make Russia's fight our fight."

Russia may be working tirelessly, but is it accomplishing anything? Hooley!

Worrying About Nothing
Propaganda may be worth worrying about if it gives promise of scoring an appreciable number of converts, but if it is 99 percent abortive—let 'em propagandize and get what fun they can out of it.

The only pro-Russian propaganda I have seen that had a modicum of sense in it came from ex-Premier Leon Blum of France, who wants to line up Britain, France and Russia against Germany, Italy and Japan. Now, I would not want to be suspected of the least fellowship with Soviet ideas. Nevertheless, as a last choice, I should prefer Russia to present-day Germany or Italy. The Soviets started with a perfectly abominable czarist government, and if they have not improved it, at least it is no worse than it used to be. Possibly there has been a trifling improvement. I can refer readers to the writings, of a generation ago, by George Kennan, of

the inhumanities of the czarist regime. Yes, I fancy there has been a little betterment.

On the opposite hand, Herr Hitler and Signor Mussolini started with relatively decent governments and degraded them. Japan also, though not as bad as Germany and Italy, is worse than it was. I was there in 1912, or thereabouts, and roved around with a camera uninterfered with. Try it now!—and risk a firing squad.

(For that matter, we, too, are going duty on the subject of espionage.)

What's Showing

Tuesday
Palace—"Topper Makes a Trip" starring Connie Bennett, Roland Young, Billie Burke, and Alexander D'Arcy.

Wednesday
Palace—"Topper Makes a Trip" Assembly Hall—"The Dawn Patrol" with Errol Flynn (Wednesday only).

Thursday
Palace—"Idiot's Delight" with Norma Shearer, Clark Gable, Edward Arnold, and Charles Coburn.

New York University has instituted three courses in religion to combat the tide of persecutions "now common in the dictator-controlled nations".

Western Reserve University has started a drive for a fund to honor the memory of Newton D. Baker, World War secretary of war.

The University of South Carolina's new \$108,000 swimming pool was dedicated by Secretary of Commerce Harry Hopkins.

BIRTHDAY

"Fourscore and twenty years ago our forefathers—", how well the American people are acquainted with these words! Words spoken by a man who has gone down in history as the greatest martyr to his country. But the significance of the words carries us back further than the period in history during which Lincoln and his followers held the realm. It carries us back to the time when our forefathers did conceive in liberty and set forth on this continent to make liberty their chief and primary objective.

At the helm of a newly organized government was placed "the father of our country", George Washington, in whose memory the American people have set aside February 22 as a national holiday. American citizens in this country and at every corner of the world on Wednesday will give thanks that a man who loved his country and its people was the first president to guide the infant nation and to preserve liberty which Americans have learned to love so well.

But Washington did not only administer the first laws of liberty, he did much more by fighting for it. Even the youngest student in public schools is acquainted with General Washington and his army's hardships at Valley Forge. Washington was then fighting for American liberty. After the war he was a member of the congress which drew up our constitution. Then he served his country for two terms as its leader. What man has given more? Washington's Birthday is dedicated in his memory. And in his memory American people see the building of liberty which no other people in the world enjoy to such a high degree.

THE STUDENT FORUM

TO THE BATTALION:

The open letter in a recent Battalion which carried to ridiculous lengths our previous suggestion of a limited number of highwaying stations for Aggie highwayers was indeed a clever one. And perhaps our suggestion was a subject for humor; but it is by no means utterly fantastic, for other colleges have found their highwaying stations to operate well indeed. It may be a novel idea for A. & M., but might it not work here? How does anyone know it wouldn't?

Aggie highwayers certainly need more conveniences of this sort on the road. Furthermore, complaints from students, ex-students, and outsiders alike about upstreaming, discourtesies to drivers, and the increasing difficulty of our getting rides are becoming more numerous and severe all the time. For many of us highwaying is the most desirable or economical mode of travel, for a number of reasons; and our opportunities for it should not be lessened. We feel that something should be done, before the situation gets any worse. Any plan that would effect an improvement in it is to be desired. As we said in our first letter some time back, maybe highwaying stations would not be practical at

The Battalion

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