

## COUNCIL'S MESSAGE

Saturday, March 4, has been designated as Sports Day in order that students, ex-students, and other friends of the College might have an opportunity to see the various athletic squads in competition with each other.

Speaking on behalf of the coaches and members of the different athletic teams, the Athletic Council wants this also to be the occasion when the spirit of cooperative devotion on the part of every one will be dedicated to restoring successful athletics at Aggie land. In this spirit I summon every student and every ex-student to join us in this undertaking. No one can watch the clashes of the football squads without realizing that this spirit is already flaming high in their hearts and actions of coaches and players.

There has been a broad and interesting program of athletic events arranged. I trust that a large gathering of students and ex-students will be present on Kyle Field throughout the day. This would be an ideal time and occasion for students to give up week-end trips in order that they might play their part in this movement that will mean so much for the general welfare of this College and all who are interested in it.

E. J. KYLE,  
Chairman Athletic Council

## MISLEADING

In its Tuesday edition, The Battalion carried an editorial explaining the history of Dead Week this year in which a poorly-expressed idea may cause some concern.

The paragraph in question is as follows: "The Battalion herewith offers the warning it made the first term: Unless Dead Week is acted upon one way or another in the near future, instructors will be handicapped in the closing weeks of the term."

The true meaning of that paragraph is that unless instructors are informed of changes in the college calendar a considerable time before those dates are reached, their course organization may suffer.

## DISEASE MILESTONE

America is slowly becoming conscious of the seriousness of syphilis and the toll of lives that it takes every year. For years the medical profession has waged a fight on this dreaded infection. Now the governments of the states are taking up and enacting laws for the curtailment of venereal diseases.

One of the most progressive measures taken to date has been the adoption of laws by which couples are compelled to take physical examinations before entering the state of matrimony. Some of the states have erred in forcing only males to take the test, but others compel males and females to take the examination. All will soon adopt measures of this type.

Why must this disease be stamped out? Each year at least sixty thousand American babies are born to die or to live handicapped because of congenital syphilis; another twenty-five thousand are born dead. One million potential mothers in the United States have or have had syphilis. Over one hundred thousand deaths are caused each year by syphilis.

These facts are staggering, but when a disease takes more lives than the highway toll, it must be stopped.

Youth favors sex education and youth has taken up the fight against venereal diseases to a greater extent than any other group of people.

The spread can not be laid at the door of immorality as it may be contracted by kissing, drinking from a glass or other such everyday occurrences. Regardless of the means of engulfing thousands every year, the public must realize the horrorfulness of the situation and do its part in stamping out such syphilis.

When this is done, America will have passed another milestone.

-BAYLOR LARIAT

Rupert Koeniger, Ohio State University sociology instructor, has a swell sense of humor, and here's the proof:

He opened a recent class hour with this announcement: "Because of a red-headed girl who is visiting me right now, there will be no test today."

"How much does she weigh?" a student asked, and Koeniger nervously wrote on the blackboard, "6½ plus 2 ounces."

## The Battalion

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## THE STUDENT FORUM

TO THE BATTALION:

A significant number of the progressive members of the faculty and student body have repeatedly expressed the opinion that revision of the quiz system at A. & M. to provide for the exemption from final examination of students of high scholastic standing is a possible reform meriting the serious consideration of administrative officials. It has been suggested that students be granted exemption from final examination in all courses in which their scholastic record places them in the highest 20% of the section enrollment. Another suggested plan provides for the exemption of all students who have at the end of the semester an average grade of 85%.

The institution of such a system at A. & M. would undoubtedly be both logical and desirable. The aim of all methods of education employed in modern colleges is to impart to the student in fullest possible measure a clear and lasting knowledge of the subject studied. In the case of the superior student, the contribution of final examinations toward the ultimate attainment of that goal is negligible. The final examination does little more than verify the superior quality of work done by the good student during the semester. Rarely does this check-up lower his grade. Nor does it result in any important educational benefit to him. The student who has proved his superior ability, initiative, and industry by the establishment of a high scholastic standing in his section needs no final examination either to prove further the authenticity and accuracy of his record or to afford him a more clear and thorough understanding of the course. Such a student is possessed of intelligence and habits of industry that will not allow him to be guilty of the folly that lies in failing properly to evaluate and summarize the subject matter included in his courses.

The argument has been advanced that final examinations serve as an excellent whip to be popped over the heads of college students for the purpose of compelling them to study. This point merely serves to strengthen the argument of the advocate of limited exemption. There is no reason for subjecting to such coercion the student who has proved himself to be scholastically superior. For the serious student, earnestly interested in obtaining the fullest possible benefit from his college work, such figurative "whip-popping" is entirely unnecessary. More than that, it is unjust. No student who has demonstrated his intelligence need be forced to take full advantage of the opportunities offered him. He requires no inducement.

A student who is included in exemption as one of these ranking scholastically in the upper 20% of the section enrollment, or as a student who has maintained an average of 85, is being granted no more than the reward and recognition which he justly deserves. Exemption is seen in this light as a reward for effort. Such reward would undoubtedly furnish a definite incentive to study, inspiring greater interest and industry in the average student as well as the superior student. The educational benefits derived from this general increase of effort would certainly be more valuable than those derived from the necessarily hurried and concentrated study previous to final examinations.

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ED HAGAN LEONARD E. GARRETT

## On National Affairs

BY R. P. LUDLUM

Benito Mussolini (Continued)

After the first World War Mussolini continued to be a socialist, although not a member of the party, and for a while he retained some of his principles. For example, he asked for an 85% tax on war profits. At the same time he began to organize the Fasci di Combattimento, consisting mostly of war veterans, and in the end he turned this organization into an instrument for suppressing the working class. This is another example of Mussolini's faithlessness to principle. His chief motive is love of power, and he will do anything to gain power.

I said in connection with Hitler, and I implied in connection with Franco, and I say again in the case of Mussolini—for it cannot be said too often—that dictators do not come to power unless their countries are confused and unless the people are dissatisfied with the way things are going and are looking for some alternative to an insupportable condition. If the condition be insupportable enough, the merits of the alternative need not be great. Italy was in such a condition after the war.

Wages were intolerably low and living conditions were unbearable. In consequence, labor troubles shook the country as the workmen tried to get living wages. Mussolini took advantage of this. His followers spent part of their time producing violence, and the rest violently suppressing the outbreaks they had themselves produced. At the end of each cycle they could claim that they have saved Italy from Bolshevism. This was not true, but enough ignorant Italians were found to enable Mussolini to make it a leading issue. Mussolini had to have an enemy in order to gain power, and he (a former socialist!) used the working class as the requisite enemy. When he was sure the army would stand aside and that he would be named prime minister, he went to Rome and became head of the government. That was in October, 1922, and he has been dictator ever since.

Personally, Mussolini is short (five feet six) and rugged: He is widely and deeply read, and keeps careful notes of what he reads. He writes well and talks well. He is abstemious, neither smoking nor drinking, and eating little. Formerly fond of women, he cares little for them now. He has limitless energy and great magnetism. He exercises often and enthusiastically. He has thousands of acquaintances, but, since the death of his brother, no intimate friends. He cannot stand criticism from anyone but his daughter Edda, wife of Count Galeazzo Ciano. As an executive he is super-efficient, and he learns facts readily from advisers, although he does not accept their counsel. He himself admits that his own career would have been impossible if he had cultivated the fascist virtues he prescribes for others, namely, discipline, loyalty, and obedience.

## Sophomore Class Heads Plan To Invite T.S.C.W. Sophomores to Ball

The officers and representatives of the sophomore class held a meeting last Monday night in Y. M. C. A. chapel. The representatives consist of one man from each outfit on the campus who act as agents for the entire class.

The main discussion of the evening was on the forthcoming sophomore ball which is to be held Friday, March 31. There is also a possibility of a tea dance for the sophs Saturday afternoon, April 1. That will be decided later, however. The Aggieband Swing Band will play for the ball.

Plans are being made to invite the TSCW sophomores down for the dance. There will be a date bureau for all sophomores who would like a date with a T. S. C. W. girl and don't know one.

Several committees were named, and a few men were placed on them. More will be appointed at

the next meeting. The committees are as follows: Entertainment Committee, Lewis J. Nelson, Chairman, Joe Germany, and Charles Berry. T. S. C. W. Invitation Committee, Aubrey Hamilton. Date Bureau Committee, J. P. (Pat) Ledbetter, chairman, and Earle A. Shields. Decorations, Preston Bolton, chairman, Jo R. Spiller, Sheridan Cavitt, and Eli Whitney. Reception Committee, Joe Floyd, chairman, and Alfred H. Hirsch. Finances, Willie Hawkins. Favors, J. J. Riley, chairman, and Ed Ivey. Accommodations, Bill Decker, chairman, Marshall Bethel, and W. M. Rutherford. Publicity, Earle A. Shields, A. J. Robinson, and Billy Clarkson. The Saturday Social committee will be appointed at the next meeting.

Seventy U. S. colleges and universities have provided scholarships for refugee students.

## COLLEGIATE REVIEW

If they are nothing else, the 15 pledges of Alpha Tau Omega at the University of Missouri are ingenious. To protest recent assignment of pledge "duties" outside their fraternity house, they marched down to the city jail, asked (and received) lodging for the night.

The jailer claimed he meant no slur on their valor when he quartered them in the little used women's section of the "cooler."

University of Illinois males, a bit out-of-sorts over the many systems used to pick campus beauty queens, have devised a rating form they believe beats any used else-

where. Their subjects are given points for the following:

Two points for a letter from the boy friend at home.

Five points for a male phone call.

Seven points for a long-distance phone call.

Eight points for a week-end date.

Ten points for a major dance bid.

Thirty-five points for the first fraternity dance bid.

Thirty-five points for the first fraternity pin acquired.

Under this system, you are really a queen if you can score 50 points in a week. Chief problem is to get the co-eds to give accurate reports on phone calls, letters, etc.

## PREVIEWS and REVIEWS

BY RAY TREADWELL

"The Girl Downstairs," a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture produced by Harry Rape, directed by Norman Taurog and based on a short story by Sander Hunyady. Showing Saturday afternoon at the Assembly Hall.

The cast: Katriana Lins ..... Franciska Gaal  
Paul Wagner ..... Franchot Tone  
Mr. Brown ..... Walter Connolly  
Willie ..... Reginald Gardiner  
Rosalind Brown ..... Rita Johnson  
Charlie ..... Reginald Owen

The picture offers little as far as acting goes but has at least the attraction of a story and plot that is unusual and attractive even though it is built around the eternal triangle of one man and two girls. It is a romantic comedy starring Rita Johnson as the society heiress who is jilted in favor of Franciska Gaal who is working as a maid in the home of Rita's father. Franchot Tone is the man in the case.

Norman Taurog, director of the picture and the man who directed "Boys' Town" is the person who can be given chief credit for the picture, because it was chiefly through his work that the story was presented in so interesting a fashion that it goes a long way to cover up the acting and slow spots of the film. As in this picture, very often it is the case that a producer or director can be the difference between a picture being a hit or a total failure.

If one is out for entertainment this film offers plenty of it but don't by any means expect anything in the way of brilliant acting or unusual dramatic scenes.

"The Jitterbug Revue," a five-act stage revue on the Southwest-

ern circuit, is to be presented at the Palace on Tuesday, March 14, along with a regular feature and a "jitterbug" contest for local contestants.

Press reports and comments by other newspapers show that this revue is one of the best ever presented by the Southwest circuit, which handles most of the stage acts in this state. The show includes acts by "The Southwest Champion Jitterbugs"; song stylist Barbara Kay; Buddy Stubbs, the guitar wizard; Dorothy Murry, dancing comedian of the Fort Worth Casa Manana; dancing stylist, George Cox; and the Rhythm Boys who feature some unusual arrangements in swing music and who will furnish music both for their own solo numbers and for the other acts of the revue.

The earth is 13,900,000,000 years old, according to Dr. Alois F. Kovarik, Yale University physicist.

## What's Showing

Friday at the Assembly Hall—"I'd Give a Million," starring Warner Baxter.

Friday and Saturday at the Palace—"Let Freedom Ring" starring Nelson Eddy, Virginia Bruce, Victor McLaglen, and Edward Arthur.

Saturday, 12:30, at the Assembly Hall—"The Girl Downstairs" with Franciska Gaal, Franchot Tone, and Rita Johnson.

6:30-8:30 at the Assembly Hall—"Going Places" with Dick Powell, Anita Louise, and Allen Jenkins.

Saturday night revue, Sunday and Monday—"Yes, My Darling Daughter" starring Priscilla Lane and Jeffrey Lynn.

## Enjoy the Post tonight

So I'm England's Secret Dictator, am I?

"They whisper that I wield more power than Queen Elizabeth, Marie Antoinette and Cleopatra all in one. Why?"

"Do diplomats, bankers, Cabinet ministers and journalists meet weekly at Cliveden, my country home, to rule England behind the scenes?"

"Did they bring about Anthony Eden's downfall?"

"Do I personally favor Nazism? Fascism? Communism?"

LADY ASTOR lashes out in reply to the sensational stories about the "Cliveden Set" reveals the real beliefs of the women who want from Virginia to a seat in Parliament.

## LADY ASTOR INTERVIEWS HERSELF

by Viscountess Astor

## MR. GLENCANNON KIDNAPS A MERMAID

"Ah, fieshi!" gasped Mr. Glencannon. "What a frightful situation! Either I capture a mermaid or I lose my job. A terrible fix!" Aided only by a bottle of Duggan's Dew, he sets out. But with finding Marina the Mermaid only started his troubles!

The Way of a Man with a Mermaid  
by GUY GILPATRIC



## MEET BASEBALL'S BOMBSHELL



"Brilliant screwball," they call him. "Arrogant popoff." But you can't dent Larry MacPhail's indestructible chin. Didn't his dithering Dodgers show a profit, for the first time since 1932? A sportswriter interviews the man who brought night baseball to Brooklyn.

"Subtle as a Punch in the Nose"  
by STANLEY FRANK

## WHY I NO LIKE JAPANESE SPIES

The Shanghai correspondent for The New York Times, Hallett Abend, relates his experiences with Japanese spying. It used to be funny—but not any more, as you will see in "So Sorry for You."

★ "HE SPOONED MY RED FLANNELS!" But those flannels put Granddaddy on trial for murder—and what a trial! *Red Sweet is the Flavor of Justice*, by George Seaton Perry.

★ A NEW NOVEL by Clarence Budington Kelland, *Arizona*, introduces Phoebe Titus, red-haired and quick with a ride. Second of eight installments.

★ COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS of beautiful Natches capture the glamour of the Old South. Turn to *So Red the Rose*; photos by Dmitri.

AND two short stories, *The Girl in the Hamster*, by the Nebraska novelist, Mari Sandoz; and *Can-ton Park*, by Sidney Herschel Small.