

### PLACEMENT BUREAU PATRIOTISM?

The Former Students Association of A. & M. has announced a plan to create a placement bureau here, an institution needed possibly more than any other.

Graduating from A. & M. in itself means a great deal, but not as much as it used to mean. This year approximately 600 Aggies will graduate. This is a far cry indeed from the days when only a few students graduated each year and were immediately hired because of the small number of graduates both here and elsewhere.

Because A. & M. is a state-supported institution, it has lagged behind some of the important private schools, where placement bureaus have been in operation for many years. The state legislature has almost always adopted the attitude that, as soon as a student has completed a four-year course of study in a state school—largely at state expense—the duty of the state to its young citizens ends and the duty of the young citizens to their state begins. While this point of view may be questioned by students in state-supported institutions, there is some justification of that attitude.

Had things been allowed to rock on, we would eventually have had around 1,000 graduates each year from A. & M. with no chance of obtaining employment except through their own pavement pounding and the work of their already-worked-down department heads and deans.

The Former Students Association has hopes that the plan may become operative next fall. Next year almost 700 students may graduate here. It seems as if the bureau will begin its operation with a full schedule. However, when the Former Students Association of A. & M. undertakes something, the results are generally quite readily seen.

The Battalion, for the student body, offers its sincerest congratulations to the Former Students Association on taking a step which will result in fine opportunities for all A. & M. graduates.

### CAREERS

Some of the most potentially important news often fails to make the front page. This was demonstrated a short time ago when the President appointed a commission to study the subject of a federal career service. In the words of a team of Washington columnists, Alsop and Kintner, this should "shine like the traditional good deed in a naughty world. Yet, instead of shining, it has passed strangely unnoticed."

Bureaucracy, in the view of most political economists, is the imposing barrier that stands square and unmovable in the way of any movement to reform and improve the administrative side of government. And bureaucracy is the direct result of our long-entrenched patronage system, whereby politicians in power pay off their obligations and indirectly or directly feather their own nests by appointing their friends and backers, and their sisters and their cousins and their aunts, to federal jobs. It has been believed in Washington for some time that the president has been thinking about ways and means of doing something about tearing down this barrier, and establishing an American career service patterned more or less after the justly-famed British civil service. The appointment of the commission seems to be a tangible start toward this end.

The job this commission has been given requires first calibre minds. And it has them. It consists of two members of the Supreme Court, Justices Reed and Frankfurter; the Attorney-General, Frank Murphy; a well-known industrialist, General Wood of Sears-Roebuck; a distinguished engineer, Gano Dunn; a former civil service commissioner, Leonard White, and a Treasury administrative expert, W. H. McReynolds. All of these men, it is said, have long been interested in improving the government service.

No matter what the committee decides, any move to place the government service on a career basis is certain to meet with much congressional opposition. The patronage system is too old and too strongly entrenched to make its abandonment easy. On the other hand, the great wealth of dispassionate opinion is in favor of the career system—even though there would undoubtedly be differences over particulars in any definite plan—and it may be that Congress will be eventually forced by public pressure to make a move in that direction, even though it does it reluctantly.—Daily Texan.

Ohio's five state universities have formed an inter-university council to co-ordinate the national policies and programs of the schools.

Hedy Lamarr has been nominated for freshman class president at Dartmouth College.

### The Battalion

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Recently a national poll was taken of the college youth on the question of volunteering for war. The question was put in two forms. One was to the effect of whether or not the collegians would volunteer to cross the seas to fight. The other approached the topic from the standpoint of invasion.

The men said nearly they would not sign up for army or navy duty or hop into a flying machine by the count of one out of every ten.

Is American youth losing its patriotism? Are they being surpassed by the young men of other countries in grabbing of guns to teach nations to respect their country?

Just what the status is today was easy to determine, but the reaction in war time is the question which all of the political leaders of this country would like to know.

The young men of this country are not losing their patriotism. They are gaining knowledge of the futility of fighting wars such as the last one. They have seen too many of the after-effects of war. Too many of the veterans came home and told of the horror. Too many of the veterans are now lying maimed in hospitals twenty years after the signing of the peace pact.

No, they are not unpatriotic. They want America to stay out of war on foreign soil and to have the opportunity for "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Foreigners may be a little quicker to cross borders and slap down men whom they have never seen before. The geography of the nations deal with this influence.

But should America be invaded, it would be safe to say that not one out of every ten thousand would refuse to take up arms in defense of his home. But only if the country were invaded.

Youth may be a little more brilliant than the politicians are giving them credit for. Perhaps they realize that if the leaders can not depend on them to lay down their lives for no good cause, the salve and smooth talk of the war lords will not be as effective.

America will not jump as heading into the next war as she did the last. Isolation is a much more appealing alternative for youth and they may force the federal government to adopt measures to insure this.

Politicians had better not count on the blare of the bugle and the stirring refrains of band music to the extent they did twenty-two years ago. Youth is against it.

—BAYLOR LARIAT

### Parade of Opinion

By Associated Collegiate Press

Super Sleuth Martin Dies, Congressman from Texas, is not in very good standing with most collegians. His forays into the realm of isms in the U. S. seem to bring only smiles to the faces of most undergraduates, although many profess to be "skeptical but not unconvincible."

Commenting on the recent action of congress giving Mr. Dies \$100,000 to continue his investigations, the "Daily Iowan" at the University of Iowa, said this: "It looks very much as if there'll be a lot of fun among the Dies investigators during the coming 11 months. Probably \$100,000 isn't too much to spend for a good laugh; Hollywood spends much more for those with less humor."

While the University of Maine "Campus" called it "the most obvious and deplorable example of pure waste of public money in recent Congressional deliberations," the St. Lawrence University "Hill News" said: "It is a sad commentary on the American people that a biased, prejudiced, narrow-minded committee such as this should continue its activities unchecked."

Taking a little more serious stand, the University of Minnesota "Daily" called upon Chairman Dies to choose his witnesses and issue statements "with greater consideration. An investigation of un-American activities is definitely needed. With increased funds and a stronger personnel, the American public has a right to expect the committee to live up to the promise it showed at its inception."

Chief fault found with the investigation is that it is foreign to our constitution. The "Egyptian" of Southern Illinois Teachers College put it this way: "What would you propose doing to an individual whom Mr. Dies proves to be a subversive character? If you put such a person in prison or take away his right to express himself because his interests and opinions run contrary to that of vested interests, then we don't need to worry about dictatorships in other countries, we'll have one of our own."

Something new and novel in the way of student accommodations is proposed by the Duke University "Chronicle"—its editors would have their alma mater establish rest homes where tired and study-worn undergraduates could spend a few days catching up on their sleep.

As a precedent for their proposal they cite the following: "Duke women are fortunate in having a unique privilege—that of spending a few days in the East campus infirmary whenever they feel themselves tired or run-down by too much study or social activity. They need not be ill to avail themselves of this free opportunity for a rest amid quieter surroundings than prevail in the average dormitory."

Calling for a complete divorce of the National Youth Administration from all relief and unemployment agencies, the college press is campaigning for greater support for this branch of the present administration's emergency program.

Citing the facts that N. Y. A. work is done by scholastically desirable students on socially desirable projects, collegians are asking that the N. Y. A. be administered by the federal Office of Education and that finances for it should not be curtailed.

To gain these ends, N. Y. A. students in many states are forming their own organizations. These organizations might well take the words of a Modesto Junior College "Collegian" editorial writer for their creed:

"N. Y. A. not only will build for the future a more educated America but also an America with stronger character."

### PLANK STEAK!



### PREVIEWS and REVIEWS

BY RAY TREADWELL

"You Can't Take It With You," a Columbia picture directed by Frank Capra and a screen version of the George S. Kaufman-Moss Hart Pulitzer Prize play. Showing Tuesday and Wednesday at the Assembly Hall.

The cast: Grandpa Vanderhof.....Lionel Barrymore  
Alice, his granddaughter.....Jean Arthur  
Tony Kirby, her boss.....James Stewart  
Anthony Kirby, his father.....Edward Arnold  
Mr. Poppins.....Donald Meek

Rated as one of the best pictures of the past year by the screen guild this picture is one of the kind you don't want to miss and want to see again after you have seen it. It started out as a Pulitzer prize play and was done full justice by Frank Capra, the director who made "It Happen One Night" and "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town" and who has three times won the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Award for picture directors.

The picture is a wild comedy of a crazy family, the carefree Vanderhofs with an added touch of philosophy in the saying and beliefs of Grandpa Vanderhof. The plot centers around the romance of Tony and Alice who are the typical rich boy and poor girl and as a result plenty of conflict is brought into the story in the actions of their two families against each other. If it had not been for the excellent mating of actors to parts this picture would have been a total flop as a picture because it is one of those impossible, fantastic types in which nothing is barred and everything happens but because the actors fit the parts so perfectly one does not have time to do anything but laugh at the Vanderhof family and their mad pursuit of their hobbies.

Lionel Barrymore is the sensation of the picture as Grandpa who thirty years ago decided one day that he had enough money for the rest of his life so he promptly retired and ever since had been having fun collecting stamps and playing the harmonica and philosophizing on life. It is his belief that

everyone should do exactly as they want to and this belief is carried out to the fullest extent on his family and friends with the result a family that resembles the inmates of a mad house, each doing just what he wants to whether it is making gunpowder or dancing and all of them making side-ripping laughs for the audience.

### What's Showing

ASSEMBLY HALL:

Tuesday and Wednesday—"You Can't Take It With You" starring Jean Arthur, Lionel Barrymore, James Stewart, and Edward Arnold.

PALACE:

Tuesday and Wednesday—"There Goes My Heart" with Frederic March, Virginia Bruce, Patsy Kelly, Alan Mowbray, and Nancy Corroll.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday—"The Ice Follies of 1939" starring Jean Crawford, James Stewart, Lew Oytes, Lewis Stone and "The International Ice Follies."

### CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

BY BILL MURRAY

Till just about a month ago, the Aggie chemical engineers were represented by just their local A. & M. Society of Chemical Engineers, which has functioned actively for some years.

But now the Aggie chem engineers have attained national affiliation, with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers; and already the local chapter of this widespread group has stepped off to a good start, with some 150 active student members. The society is now engaged in formulating its new constitution.

The College Station chapter of the A. I. Ch. E. is the largest chapter in the United States. It is one of the two such chapters in the state, the other being at Texas Tech.

Meetings are held every other Thursday evening in the Chemistry lecture room. They are open to the entire public. Speakers connected with chemical companies, oil refineries, and other such industries are presented. They speak on both general subjects of wide interest, and on complex technical subjects of interest more particularly to engineers.

The A. I. Ch. E. holds an annual contest, for seniors, in problem-solving, and various other contests and activities.

The College Station chapter already is planning its part in this year's Engineers' Day show given Mothers' Day, in order that it may be a bigger success than ever before. Other plans include the presentation for the public of a fine moving picture on chemical engineering made by the DuPont

Dartmouth College students played the part of extras in a movie filmed on the campus during the recent Winter Carnival celebration.

The Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University is conducting a campaign for funds to reproduce on the Tulane campus the great Maya pyramid in Mexico.

Two-thirds of Vermont's village communities are represented in the University of Vermont student body.

University of Kansas has a new type of popularity contest. Students are voting to select an intelligence queen.

Chemical Corporation.

Ed Hagan is president of the organization, Tom Hingle vice-president and program committee chairman, and Bob Adams secretary-treasurer. Dr. J. D. Lindsay is sponsor.

To be a member one must be a student in the chemical engineering field, or majoring or minoring in chemistry. There are also the ranks of "Junior," "associate," and "active" member, which men who have worked in these fields may be admitted to after fulfilling certain requirements of the A. I. Ch. E.

### New Records

Tommy Dorsey's Orchestra, Tommy Dorsey's trombone, and Tommy Dorsey's vocalist have been teamed again to produce an outstanding Victor record. HEAVEN CAN WAIT and YOU TAUGHT ME TO LOVE AGAIN, with Jack Leonard doing the vocal tasks, share the disk of distinction.

From the land of M-G-M and RKO come the selections which Hal Kemp and his Orchestra have perpetuated in wax. IT'S ALL SO NEW TO ME, from the M-G-M film "Ice Follies," and BLUE ITALIAN WATERS, from the RKO film "Fishermen's Wharf," are the songs which have been subjected to the Kemp treatment and, aided by Bob Allen's vocalizing, have resulted in something delightful in swing.

Larry Clinton paired a number of his own compositions with one by Sammy Cahn and Saul Chaplin on his latest Victor record. Be Wain sings Larry Clinton's DON'T LOOK NOW alternately with Ford Leary, and sings I WANT MY SHARE OF LOVE ALONE.

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