

# The Summer BATTALION

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## Propaganda and Vacations

Winter follows autumn, spring follows winter, autumn follows summer, summer follows spring. It is tradition.

This vicious equinoctial regularity assures us a four months of hot, sunny days, during which it would be well for students to read all those books they should have perused during the past winter. (This does not include their textbooks.)

After a year of college, the student ought to be able to do more than read a book, accepting its doctrine as truth on the author's say-so. He should be able to see through the haze of modern propaganda. Everywhere—in street-car advertisements or in pamphlets defending democracy—the technique of propaganda is becoming an art. In a good general library, magazines like "Spain," a pro-Fascist publication by General Franco's associates, and the "Young Communist Review" may rest on neighboring poles of opinion.

Students should realize that one of the aims of propaganda is to garner support for its ideas. It knows no law except the law of effectiveness.

A human being generally is not logical, and the purpose of propaganda is not to make him think, but to cause him to react as it directs.

He responds best to statements that have an emotional appeal—statements that are built around "positive" words like liberty, democracy, Americanism. He revolts against "negative" words like Fascist, Red, atheist.

For your summer reading, here are a few suggested rules to use in propaganda analysis.

Ask yourself:

1. Who publishes the magazines or book in which the article appears? What interests do they represent?
2. Who is the author? What are his affiliations?
3. What is the purpose of the article? What techniques are used to appeal to the emotions? Are "positive" or "negative" words used? Do the opinions presented check with those of reputable authorities?

The way of least resistance is to accept all statements in reading matter as facts. Freedom, however, lies in the ability to analyze, to find truth in the welter of confusion.

It is the only alternative to literate stupidity.

Nearly a million clippings from newspapers and magazines published in 50 different languages, covering both hemispheres of the globe, have already been catalogued and filed by the Department of Press of the New York World's Fair.

Ten million volts of artificial lightning are generated and discharged at intervals in one of the exhibit buildings at the New York Fair, probably to the consternation of visitors.

Boys who want to learn football from "old masters" will have that opportunity in the Academy of Sports at the World's Fair. Free classes in every department of the game are to be taught during September and October of next year by such expert coaches and players as Jim Crowley of Fordham, Mal Stevens of N. Y. U., "Pop" Warner of Temple, Lou Little of Columbia, "Chick" Meehan, Benny Friedman of C. C. N. Y., Larry Kelly of Peddie, Alexander Mojciechowicz of the Detroit Lions and Marshall Goldberg of the University of Pittsburgh.

Evanston, Ill.—Northwestern University awarded a degree Saturday to Elizabeth Wehner, its most persevering student.

Miss Wehner, 28, is the first student to complete a full college course at Northwestern in the night school. It took 10 years.

Three nights a week for a decade she left her job as bookkeeping machine operator and journeyed to the campus. Three nights were spent in study, one night she reserved for a date.

To win the degree of bachelor of philosophy, Miss Wehner spent 2,400 hours in classrooms and at least 3,600 hours in study.

## CURRENT EVENTS

By Dr. Al B. Nelson

The neutrality question has had the nation on the horns of a dilemma, and we have found to our disgust, that the horns are sharp. The old neutrality law forbade our selling munitions to any nation at war (this is the reason Japan has never declared war on China). No one is satisfied with the old law, except Japan, and all our friends are disgusted with us. Now the administration has decided this position is too dangerous for us and wants to blindfold the old wild bull called neutrality, grab him by the tail, and sell to anyone who is willing to risk the horns to come and get it. However, there are some people in the nation who want to know why it would not be a good idea to strip off the blindfold, slip on a bridle, cinch a saddle on the critter and ride him, sell only to our friends and let the others root, hog, or die. The real question is which is the safest and the best place, before the horns, hanging to the tail, or in the saddle guiding the brute where we want him to go. Some nations are going to be dissatisfied whatever we do, therefore it seems logical to choose which ones we would rather have dissatisfied.

A joker has been found in the so-called Fair Trade Bill just passed by the Texas Legislature. Our live-wire Attorney-General, Gerald Mann, is the gentleman who brought it out into the light of day. Like an old football player would, he keeps his eye on the political or legislative ball, just as he did a few years ago on the old S. M. U. gridiron. It seems hard to fool him by Double Shifts and it is possible that he would even detect a Double Cross if anyone should ever try to put one over. The bill in question would permit manufacturers to set the price at which retailers should sell their goods. However, someone in the legislature wrote in a clause providing that any portion of the new bill which conflicts with the anti-trust laws would be null and void. Jerry Mann is of the opinion that the entire "Fair Trade Bill" conflicts with the anti-trust laws. The question is, was someone dumb, too smart, or just plain SMART?

The Anglo-Russian Treaty has not yet been signed, but the Russian Bear certainly pulled the old British Lion out of a Japanese trap down at Tientsin this week by launching a concerted drive all along the Russo-Japanese frontier. Not "war," you understand, but just plain fighting in which each side claims the victory. Japan promptly reversed her earlier stand and agreed to negotiate her differences with England. Just a Russian version of the Hitlerite "squeeze play."

DAVID THRIFT OF SAN ANTONIO, graduate of '39 in agricultural administration and cadet colonel of the Corps during the past regular session, will be back at College Station next term to accept a position as assistant secretary of the College Y. M. C. A., and will assist in formulating new plans of the Y. He has been visiting here the past few days.

FEATURING  
 MRS. PARKHILL'S  
 MEALS  
 in  
 LILLY  
 Ice Cream Store  
 North Gate



## Movie Review

By Bob Nisbet

Another week - three more shows. In order they are "Pacific Liner", "The Lady's From Kentucky", and "Tail Spin". It looks like a pretty good week's program. Picking the best of the lot would be a hard job, but I'll take "Tail Spin".

Saturday's picture, "Pacific Liner" is a story of a conflict between a ship's physician and the chief engineer in trying to curb the progress of an epidemic which has broken out in the boiler rooms below deck. The two men quarreled from their first meeting, and even fell in love with the same girl. The deadly tropical disease is kept in the fire rooms by rigid quarantine by the ship's doctor, but the men mutiny. To bring the story to a happy ending requires the able acting of an old favorite Victor McLaglen, playing the part of the roaring bull-jawed stokehold boss. Chester Morris is the ship's doctor, and the men fall in love with Wendy Barrie.

"The Lady's From Kentucky" is next on the list and while it is nothing extra, it is still a pretty good show. George Raft, Ellen Drew, Hugh Herbert, and Zazu Pitts are the featured players. As you probably guessed the show involves a race horse. Ellen Drew inherits an old estate in Kentucky and with it a very valuable race horse, but she learns that a small-time gambler, George Raft, owns half interest through an old bet. They form a partnership and make plans for racing the horse. Their partnership is a queer one, but not half as queer as Zazu Pitts and Hugh Herbert. Lots of racing pictures have had better acting, but very few have had racing scenes quite so authentic.

Might say I saved the best for the last. "Tail Spin" is a story of three girl aviators who each had her own particular reason for flying. The girls are Alice Faye, Constance Bennett, and Nancy Kelly. Alice Faye flies for the money in it so she can help her kid brother. Constance Bennett flies because the man she loves flies. Nancy Kelly's husband is a test pilot. The plot of the story lies around the air races in Cleveland and involves Alice Faye and Constance Bennett in a race called the Powder Puff Derby, for women only. You guess the rest!

Amos 'N' Andy, blackface comedy team, played the stellar roles in the first experimental commercial television program ever attempted in the United States when they appeared before the Iconoscope at the New York World's Fair.

## What's Showing

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL  
 Saturday - - "Pacific Liner," with Victor McLaglen, Chester Morris and Wendy Barrie.

Tuesday - - "The Lady's From Kentucky," with Geo. Raft, Ellen Drew, Hugh Herbert, and Zazu Pitts.

Thursday - - "Tailspin," with Alice Faye, Constance Bennett, and Nancy Kelly.

## Aggie Killed, Another Badly Hurt, in Wreck

Thomas L. Renshaw, an A. & M. agricultural administration student in Company E Infantry, was killed in an automobile accident last Thursday night between Mount Pleasant and Pittsburg, Texas.

George Lillienstern, who was Renshaw's roommate here year before last, was critically injured in the wreck and is not expected to live.

## Radio Repairing

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