

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the city of College Station, is published three times weekly from September to June, issued Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings; and is published weekly from June through August.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Subscription rate, \$3 a school year. Advertising rates upon request.

Office, Room 122, Administration Building. Telephone 4-5444.

REPRESENTED FOR NATIONAL ADVERTISING BY National Advertising Service, Inc. College Publishers Representative 420 MADISON AVE. NEW YORK, N. Y. CHICAGO • BOSTON • LOS ANGELES • SAN FRANCISCO

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Editor's Note: We regret our inability at the present time to carry our complete staff in the masthead, but following staff organization Tuesday night we will be able to do so.

New Registration System

As a whole, The Battalion feels that the Registrar's Office and the college authorities are to be congratulated on the new registration system just inaugurated. It succeeded in registering nearly six thousand boys methodically, efficiently, and comparatively quickly. It is a step—a long one—in the right direction.

However, a few weaknesses were apparent.

First of all, registrants part of the time were turned loose at the Assembly Hall to continue part of their registration with the Military Department and Commandant's Office in the Academic Building, faster than it was possible for these groups to take care of them. At least four men were kept working constantly on each alphabetical group in the Academic Building, and they were kept working as fast as possible; but they at times had too great numbers to take care of.

Second, at about eleven a. m. a large group began to accumulate outside the Academic Building, and soon a line of several hundred students fully a block long formed, and was kept waiting about two hours, out in the hot sun. Many of them missed dinner; some left to eat dinner but lost their place in line. This long wait, wearisome as it was, proved enough to turn several hundred students against the new registration system completely. Who can blame them? Anyone in their place might have felt the same way.

And third, after dinner the line that had accumulated, of course went on through to the Administration Building to register. Naturally enough they would want to. However, according to the plans, new letter groups, and only those certain groups, were supposed to register at that time; and the addition of several hundred held up in registering created undue crowding and confusion.

This completes, we believe, the major complaints. We hope that by next registration time a plan may be adopted which will continue the merits of the present system and eliminate its defects.

But we still feel, of course, that the present system is the most efficient plan that has yet been tried out. Much of the tiresome waiting in line in the Main Building, the crowding conditions, the confusion and unnecessary delays, were done away with. Registration traffic was kept more even, and there was more room for registrants.

We think that the system is probably the fairest that could be devised. The usual "two per cent" who in the past have forged ahead in line by pushing and by artful tricks were no longer able to get their assignment cards ahead of anyone else; for the cards were not available until the scheduled time. The system is impartial to all classes. By rotating the alphabetical groups each registration time, the same letter group will never be either first or last twice successively.

Of course, there are "gripes"; that is to be expected about any change, even when it is obviously a great improvement over the old set-up. It is natural for seniors, for instance, to be disgruntled at not being allowed their customary first-place in line; but most seniors as well as men of other classes, we believe, will come to admit the essential fairness and efficiency of the new system, and welcome it as a considerable improvement over the old. But as a whole, we repeat our belief that the new system is an improvement, and hope that it may be brought to perfection in the near future. Few new ideas work perfectly the first time they are tried out.

A Word to the Fish

Now that football season is under way, the annual crop of "pep" signs is making its appearance.

These banners serve a good purpose in welding school spirit; but if they are not watched carefully, an undesirable result may follow.

For A. & M.'s home games, thousands of people from all over the state are in College Station. These people will take back home an impression of the school and its students from the things they witness and encounter on the campus.

If they find clever banners, theirs will be a good impression. But if they read vulgar, obscene language, then A. & M. will get a blot.

Furthermore, if objectionable signs are put up by the freshmen, the Commandant's Office will be forced to remove them for the sake of decency. There is no need for them to have to be "censored."

If freshmen will attempt to make cleverness take the place of the vulgarity which has in the past often been the keynote of the banners, A. & M. will gain all around.

DORMITORY ROMEO: A University of Florida collegian has his own "correspondence club." It's made up of 18 women in 16 U. S. cities, and he claims he knows them all. He made our reporter promise not to divulge his name—for most obvious reasons!

Battalion Policy

The primary hope of this year's Battalion Staff is to publish a newspaper which will be enjoyed by all the members of the student body, as well as by all other subscribers. We hope we will be able to arrange for complete news coverage, and that we can present the news in a pleasing fashion.

Though not stifling editorial expression, we intend to maintain an editorial policy as constructive and cooperative as possible at all times, rather than one destructive or malicious in either spirit or purpose. We will, of course, offer constructive criticism from time to time, as is the right and duty of all newspapers, student and otherwise. But at the same time, we will also give praise where praise is due.

We shall give opportunity for expression to all members of the student body and other readers. We will print in "Open Forum" any contribution which is truthful and of value, not malicious or libelous, that any subscriber may submit. We require, however, that all contributions be signed.

We welcome any considered opinion, criticism, suggestion, comment, or contribution that will help us to present a newspaper that will ever more completely satisfy you, its readers.

Exam Exemptions

The adoption last year of the present system of exemptions from final examinations was much more than a routine administrative act. It constituted a serious and somewhat drastic alteration of the A. & M. educational policy. Still more important than that, it represented an expression of continued good faith by administrative officials in the Aggies' stability of mentality and judgement.

The idea for the exemption system originated among progressive student leaders. It received the unofficial but obviously wholehearted approval of a majority of the student body. Thus the ultimate adoption of the system by the executive powers was undisputedly made in response to popular student demand. The Aggies are thereby charged with the serious responsibility of justifying the faith shown in them by proving that exemption from final examinations will accomplish the purpose for which it was intended—that of providing a greater incentive for serious study which will result in the elevation of scholastic standards at A. & M. College.

There can be little doubt that thus far the idea has been as successful as it is popular. The responsibility for its continued success or ultimate failure rests entirely upon the student body. Discussion in educational circles of the possibility of the continued success of A. & M.'s new examination scheme has not been entirely optimistic. As a representative of the Aggies and as one of the exemption system's strongest advocates, The Battalion is firm in the strong belief that exemption from final examinations for students of high scholastic standing has proved satisfactory thus far, is proving satisfactory now, and will continue to prove satisfactory in the future.

The Aggies started it—and they have a reputation for finishing what they start!

—Bob Gulley

Optical phenomena is employed to heighten color effects at the New York World's Fair. Thus, the entrance into the golden zone will be painted blue-violet. As visitors emerge from the entrance, their eyes will be "fatigued" for blue-violet and its complementary color, yellow, will appear even more brilliant than under normal circumstances.

As The World Turns

BY DR. R. L. STEEN



For millions of American boys September, 1939, means simply the beginning of another year in college. Yet the more pessimistic—or perhaps the more realistic—observers are convinced that many of them will lay aside scholastic activities long before June, 1940.

This opinion is based on the fact that European boys are even now being equipped with rifles and ushered off to the trenches. The long-rumored European war is at hand, and many Americans believe that the United States will have to take part in it within a relatively short time. It is to be hoped that these fears are ill-founded, but a fair view of the situation must take into account the fact that it is most difficult for a major power whose people have definite opinions to remain at peace.

Surveys conducted by Fortune and by the American Institute of Public Opinion indicate that only one American out of 100 wants Germany to win the war, while 17 out of 20 want France and England to win. The many Americans whose sympathies are definitely with the Allies constitute a fertile ground for Allied propaganda. The sympathies of the American government seem also to be with the Allies. It is obvious that the United States does not intend to think neutral. It is to be hoped that she can act neutral.

The Congress of the United States is now in session to consider the President's request for repeal of the arms embargo, which forbids the sale of instruments of war to belligerent nations. The Allies are anxious that the act be repealed, for repeal will make more easily available to them—probably on a cash-and-carry basis—American guns, munitions, airplanes, and other war materials. Present indications are that the act will be repealed.

It would seem, however, that repeal is not so vital an issue as it is sometimes made to appear. Naive indeed is the advocate of isolation who thinks that the embargo act will prevent American war materials reaching the European powers. It would seem to be simply a question of whether they go directly from the United States to the warring nations, or through the hands of a third nation.

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

"Backwash: An agitation resulting from some action or occurrence." (Webster).

The way of things . . . Thursday and Friday have been tentatively named as "contact your Aggies" days at T.S.C.W.'s amateur radio station . . .



Fuermann

And here's one of the first opinions on the new dorms as coming from Paul Stach: "I like the new dorms fine, but the lights of the Rice Hotel keep me awake nights." . . . Back to our sister school again: it appears that their current enrollment may be slightly less than last long session's because of limited housing facilities—but 2,628 had registered through last Friday . . . Buster Keeton overheard a waitress in one of Bryan's cafes rightfully point out "Gee, no; don't mess with any of them Aggies. If you fight one ya gotta fight 6,000 of 'em."

A new height in something or other was noticed in the home of one of A. & M.'s professors last week. A dog shop in one of our neighboring cities had mailed out advertising in respect to its canine merchandise. No ordinary advertising this—the advertising was not done by the more usual form of a catalog. Oh no, this firm used a "Dogalo."

It seems a little early in the semester for such things to happen, but an Infantryman was overheard lamenting that "I'm in quite a fix: I have to write an essay on a book which I haven't read." "Well," answered his companion encouragingly, "lots of guys have done that and gotten away with it. A little bulling does the trick." "The trouble is," Jimmy came back, "I have to compare it with another book which I also haven't read."

1904 was the class when men were willing to take a chance.

Summoned to the administrative office, Jones (we'll call him Jones, anyway) faced the Dean.

"Jones," said the Dean, "can you explain these thirty cuts?"



Movie Review

By Bob Nibbet



WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL

Tuesday and Wednesday—
"Young Mr. Lincoln", starring Henry Fonda.

AT THE PALACE

Tuesday and Wednesday—
"Hotel for Women", with Elsa Maxwell, Linda Darnell, Jane Ellison, Ann Sothern, John Halliday, Lynn Bari.

oughly chewed and digested this summer. The criticism ran like this—good wholesome show, very little basis on actual fact in history, full of dry wit and humor, no romance, and an anemic plot.

RIDE THE BUS TO BRYAN

DEPENDABLE — SAFE — ECONOMICAL



CLIP THIS SCHEDULE

For Future Reference SCHEDULE

Lv. Bryan	Lv. College	Lv. Bryan	Lv. College
7:30 A.M.	7:50	4:30 P.M.	5:00
8:30	9:00	5:30	6:00
9:30	10:00	6:30	7:00
10:30	11:00	7:30	8:00
11:30	12:00	8:30	9:00
12:30	1:00	9:30	10:00
1:30	2:00	10:45	11:00
2:30	3:00		
3:30	4:00		

Subject to Change

Half Hour Service Saturday Afternoons

Every Corner Is A Bus Stop

Bryan-College Traction Co.

Ride With Safety

Attorney-General Names Barger State Committee Member

The appointment of J. Wheeler Barger, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A. & M., as a member of a Committee for Texas on Inter-State Cooperation was announced last Saturday by Attorney-General Gerald Mann. The function of the committee is to assist the Attorney-General's office in collaborating with the Council of State Governments in working toward uniform legislation among the states.

In addition to his training as an agricultural economist, Professor Barger is also an attorney-at-law.

No reply. "Well, what do you think we ought to do about it?" After thinking for awhile about this question, Jones decided to give the Dean a fair chance. "Well," he replied, "I'll match you—double or nothing!" If you've ever wondered what would happen if you were to look for a person you knew didn't exist, ask "Cat" Garrison, Ernie Stephens, Pete Tumlinson, or Bob Lynch. While in Hearne the other night, the gang went inquiring as to the whereabouts of a fictitious Mr. J. W. Walliker. Number one reply of the evening was a cafe owner's informative bit (which came after much head-scratching and deliberation) "Mr. Walliker only comes to town on Saturdays."

TO TELEPHONE PATRONS

On August 26th, a portion of our College Station Exchange was cut to dial service, telephones in the dial units are located only on the Campus of A. & M. College, all other telephones connected to College Exchange are connected to the manual office.

Dial telephone numbers are five digits (4-4564) all other College Station subscriber's numbers are prefixed by "COLLEGE" in the directory.

Directory should be consulted for numbers, and by following the instructions listed, you will assist us in giving better telephone service.

If using a DIAL telephone, and the number listed is five digits, you should dial the number as listed, if the number is prefixed by "College" or "Bryan", DIAL "O" and ask the operator for the number as listed.

In using a MANUAL telephone, give the operator the number listed for the DIAL, COLLEGE or BRYAN subscriber.

In the Directory will be found complete information on the use of the Dial Telephone, by reading the instructions you can assist us.

No Dormitory Telephones will be connected to DIAL unit this school season.

SOUTHWEST TELEPHONE COMPANY

M. C. Atkins, District Manager.

Telephone BRYAN 12070.