

The Battalion

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

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We Owe Our Team Support

A. & M. is thrice blessed in the matter of school spirit. Freshmen may not fully realize it yet; but after a few of the yell practices to come, the realization should soon come to them.

With the student body a large one—with twelve new dormitories and the new mess hall, vastly enlarging the institution—with the many changes being instituted—there is grave danger that the "Aggie spirit" may suffer. School spirit is usually manifest better in smaller colleges, but this has not been and need not be the case with A. & M., even though we long ago outgrew the small college class.

Upperclassmen should do their part to make yell practice what it should be, and encourage the freshmen to do likewise. We all ought to cooperate with yell-leaders Bodie Pierce and Bert Burns to make the Aggie yelling louder and better than ever before.

Addressing this primarily to the freshmen, we might point out that while it may seem unimportant now, the school spirit which has made A. & M. renowned throughout the Southwest is a matter of great importance. After witnessing a few games this year and noting the lack of school spirit in many students of other institutions, a better understanding of why the upperclassmen of A. & M. are proud of the "Aggie spirit" can be gained.

The important point is that A. & M. is our school, football season is under way, and we should do our best to furnish a great "twelfth man" for the eleven on the field.

Delay on the New Halls

The Battalion believes that the twelve new dormitories are very fine indeed, and that the main construction of them has been a remarkable feat. We like the halls. But the time has come to point out a few sources of much annoyance.

For one thing, we cannot deplore too much the fact that the extensive system of complicated built-in radio aerials installed on the room of each of the new halls is not yet working as it should.

A new feature, undoubtedly costing some thousands of dollars, and eagerly looked for by many hundreds of radio-owning Aggies as providing the ideal solution to the old problem of poor reception on the radios in the new halls, it does not function anywhere near properly. This is unfortunate, because a worse condition tends to exist now as a result than that which existed and remains in the old dormitories.

Fully eighty per cent of the rooms in the dormitories, it is estimated, have radios. Everyone expected that such an elaborate and expensive system as the new one is would give from the start the most nearly perfect reception possible on the radios in the new dorms. But it hasn't yet.

This condition is not the fault of the college officials, we wish to point out. The electrical contract remains to be fulfilled by the contractors.

Countless radio-owners have complained that the reception is weakened by hooking into the built-in aerial and ground plugs. Static and "fading" are bad. Many stations usually among the strongest on the air can scarcely be tuned in. Many radio-owners have thought that it was the fault of their radios; but it is the fault of the new aerials instead.

In order to get good reception, a number of radio owners have so far been forced to resort to "home-made" aerials strung about the rooms, attached to the screens, or hung out the windows to the nearest tree or lamp-post. Unsightly as these temporary aerials are, they function several times better than the permanent ones do as yet. But their existence is tending to create the very condition that the new permanent aerials were meant to eliminate: wires of all kinds strung every which way about the new halls, thus marring the otherwise pleasing impression made. This state of affairs should be remedied immediately.

Such a fine-looking and costly aerial system should be more than a mere experiment. Logically it should give the finest reception possible on radios around here. Therefore, the only desirable solution, and the one The Battalion urges be reached as quickly as possible, is the repairing of the new system just as speedily as this can be done.

There has been delay in equipping the new halls in a number of ways. Of course, some delay in perfecting such a "rush job," finished in a remarkably short duration considering its vastness,

might have been anticipated. But a multiplicity of such small delays has proved and is proving extremely vexatious.

Beds were put in the halls late, and dressers have not yet been installed in all the rooms; clearing and temporary landscaping of the grounds has not been thorough; Post Office service of more than the most perfunctory sort has not yet been inaugurated; the new mess hall does not have its public address system functioning or telephones in operation; no telephones have as yet been installed in any of the halls; and hot water is not even now available in any of the halls.

The Battalion wishes to call these things to the attention of the authorities, and urge as great speed as possible in alleviating the annoyance of these inconveniences.

Superstitious?

In this enlightened age people laugh at the superstitions of their grandmothers and grandfathers.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the Maze of Superstition in the Hall of Medicine and Public Health at the New York World's Fair, 1939.

This exposition of the whimsical medical beliefs that have been exploded by modern scientific research is daily drawing thousands of Fair visitors, and they are all highly amused at the fantastic superstitions which served as curative and preventative medicine in a less enlightened day.

There is for example, a model of a hand covered with toads to explode the popular belief that toads cause warts. Some of the truths which the show preaches include:

Fish is not brain food.
Scaring is no cure for hiccoughs.
Cobwebs are germ traps and will not heal wounds.

An amber necklace will not cure goitre.
Inhaling camphor will not prevent disease.
Eating ground glass will not cure tapeworm, but it will ruin the lining of the digestive tract.

Carrying a rabbit's foot or an old potato will not cure or prevent rheumatism.

Wearing red clothes is no substitute for vaccination for smallpox.

The superstition that the color red was a cure for smallpox was one to which Francis I, Emperor of Germany, clung until his death from the dread scourge. That was, of course, before Pasteur's vaccine was discovered.

As the World Turns

By V. K. SUGAREFF
The Russian Riddle

In a world already full of shocks to international confidence, the Berlin-Moscow announcement of a seven-year trade agreement dealt a stunning blow to the Anglo-French negotiations, aiming to bring Russia within the orbit of Chamberlain's "peace front." Next day (August 21) Germany and Russia revealed that they had agreed to sign a non-aggression treaty. This announcement sent the Anglo-French negotiators back home with the hope that, at least, Russia would remain neutral in the war which it seemed impossible to avert.

Such a treaty between the two arch-antagonists, Hitler and Stalin, appeared well-nigh impossible. Both have engaged in verbal recriminations which led cunning diplomats, as well as the man on the street, to think that the two countries would never come to an understanding. However, "international politics is a fluid thing," Bismarck, the Iron Chancellor, used to say. In the present situation Russia's interests more than logic or ideology of words are the potential factors: (1) Russia and Germany can be of mutual help during the war—the seven-year trade agreement provides for large-scale purchases by both countries of each other's goods; (2) England and France disregarded Russia's possible influence in world affairs during the Czechoslovakian crisis; and (3) Russia could stand aside while the democracies and the totalitarian states fight it out, and then come in as Europe's arbiter and spread Communism in a war-torn Europe.

Whatever motives one ascribes to the Nazi-Bolshevik rapprochement, some results are already evident. Russia has concluded an armistice with Japan. Queer! No one knew that they were at war. The armistice was followed by Japan's change of military command in Asia, which seems to indicate a new policy. Already there are new hints that Japan is eyeing the English, French, and Dutch possessions in the Far East. Only the United States, if she chooses to do so, could restrain Japan from venturing such conquests. As a result of the meteoric speed of the German advance into Poland and the collapse of Polish resistance, Russian troops have occupied the pre-World War Russian territory included in Poland by the Versailles Treaty. Russia's haste to re-establish the old Ukrainian boundary with Hungary indicates that she had rather have a shrunken Poland than Germany for a neighbor. Premier Commissar Molotoff has announced his country's neutrality toward England and France and, however doubtful, it has been accepted by the latter powers.

Other probable results of the Nazi-Bolshevik agreement may soon materialize. The Turkish minister of foreign affairs is now in Moscow. Turkey, like Poland, has a reciprocal treaty with England and France but the quick collapse of Poland may call for special interpretations of that treaty. Should the visit of the Turkish envoy result in a neutrality parallel to Russia's, it would seriously weaken the allies in the Mediterranean, the Balkans, and the Black Sea.

Rumor has it that a million and a half Russian troops are on the Russo-Rumanian border in Bessarabia. If Hitler forces and helps Hungary to attack Rumania, Russian troops would occupy Bessarabia and, perhaps, a large portion of eastern Rumania. Thus, the map of southeastern Europe might be re-drawn and the Russian riddle unfold itself as the old Czarist plan: march toward the Aegean Sea, which will ultimately conflict with Germany's march to the East, and Italy's interests in the Balkans.

Movie Review

By Bob Nisbet

Just glancing over the movie calendar at the Assembly Hall for the month, I find a number of good shows. A few of the best are "Man About Town", "Captain Fury", "Pygmalion", "The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle", "Goodbye Mr. Chips", and "Maisie". Such an array for one month is unusual enough to rat an honorable mention.

On the pan for today is "Trade Winds" starring Fredric March and Joan Bennett, and showing Thursday and Friday night at the Assembly Hall. Here is a detective story with a slightly new angle. It is different enough to be good fun and entertainment. Rather than the actors pulling a lousy plot out of the fire, this case is just the reverse. However there is enough novelty about the show that, personally, I enjoyed it thoroughly. Joan Bennett switches to a brunette in the middle of the show. When she did so, she looked so much like Hedy Lamarr that it seemed as though the other actress had been added to the cast.

The story of "Trade Winds" is about a detective—young and handsome—who is sent out to find a girl wanted for the murder of her sister's husband. First, he learns as many facts as he can about the life she has led, discovers her small mannerisms, finds out her hobbies and interests. He traces her through Bombay, Shanghai,

Honolulu, Singapore, always getting a little closer on her trail. When he first finds her he doesn't realize that she is the fugitive he is chasing, and he falls in love with her. His decision as to whether to stick rigidly to his duty and turn her over to the authorities or to defy the law and become a fugitive himself is the climax. Really, he does neither, but he finds a satisfactory solution to the problem.

Perhaps it might not be a bad idea to remind the forgetful that "The Wizard of Oz" is showing in Bryan this weekend. A write-up of it is in September's magazine, but I want to repeat that it is not a show just for the kiddies. Anyone can laugh at the silly antics of the Cowardly Lion and the Scarecrow. A picture all in technicolor, with some very popular new tunes and an entertaining story, it is said by most people to be highly enjoyable.

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Thursday and Friday—
"Trade Winds", with Fredric March and Joan Bennett.

AT THE PALACE
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday—
"The Wizard of Oz", with Judy Garland, Jack Haley, and Bert Lahr.

Knockin' Around

By Paul Ketelsen

The most important question being circulated on the A. & M. campus at present is what effect will the new dormitories have on the unity of the school student body.

There have been many answers rendered as to this and after separating them, this answer, given by a junior living in the new dorms, seems to be the solution or rather a medium through which none of the school spirit will die. His opinion, whether important or not, was that the yell-leaders were responsible for most of the school spirit and that it would fall on their shoulders to stress the importance of "Aggieland" and Aggie spirit from the very first of school and through the repetition of this finally drive home to the new students their responsibility for "carrying on."

The new dorms, while not actually so far away from the center of the campus, have been made to seem as though they were miles away. With such sayings as "sitting in my room and window-shopping in Houston," "the foreign legion," "the last outpost," and many others that have merit for originality.

The fact remains that in the course of a day the old students can't help but run into their friends, but the new students will have to be content with "knowing" their own organization. From this can be drawn a more closely knit group in each outfit, creating keener competition in sports and other outside curricula activities.

The name of Sally Rand adorns a late list of licensed aviators. After years of manipulating those feathers, she finally got off the ground.

Marjorie Hillis, author of "Live Alone and Like It" has just been married. A book can certainly have a great influence on a person.

Daniel was the first man to be lionized without letting it go to his head.

Extension Service Cooperates To Call Conference of Women

The Extension Service of Texas A. & M. with the cooperation of the State Agricultural Conservation Committee and the Division of Information of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C., is calling a conference of rural and urban women to be held in Dallas, September 28-29.

Last April the Secretary of Agriculture, Henry Wallace, called a similar meeting in Washington. In his letter of invitation he said, "The American home needs an abundance of food and clothing. The American farmer needs buyers for the abundance he produces, so that he may enjoy some of the abundance that industry can produce. An increasing balanced abundance to both the American home and the American farm can be brought about only if homemakers and farmers understand that the problems they face are essentially the same."

Stated Miss Mildred Horton, vice-director of the Extension Service and state home demonstration agent, "It is our belief that such a conference will be helpful to us—a conference of Texas women representing all rural and urban interests, including church and labor and consumer groups. Such a conference, we believe, will result in a better understanding of the mutual problems of producers and consumers, and will lead to a higher standard of living for Texas families.

"It is our plan to have present at the conference, representatives of various organizations. These representatives are not members of the conference to the extent that they participate in the round-table discussion. They are present, however, to hear the discussions and to contribute in the event questions arise in their fields."

"When you get mad you should immediately go out and kick something," advises a psychologist. Yes; preferably yourself.

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BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Backwashin' around... The best cure for nostalgia, says J. M. Hamblin, is hearing the 'good ole Aggie Band'... And one of the eco profs enlightened



Fuermann

can teach anyone to play the piano in 10,561 easy lessons... The telephone operators really get around—One of the boys in the office asked information for the number of the Commandant's Office whereupon he was asked "College or Bryan, puleese?"

One of Texas' metropolitan newspapers, offering \$1 each for all "embarrassing moment" letters accepted by the editor, received the following epistle:

"I worked on an early night shift in a steel plant. I got home early last night and found another man visiting my wife. I was very embarrassed. Please send \$2 as my wife was embarrassed also."

The editor sent a check for \$3, admitting the possibility that the stranger, too, might have been embarrassed.

Backwash repeats the question which has been heard oft repeated of late—Why no hot water for the dormitories yet?

Walter Sullivan's 1939-40 Town Hall is easily the finest of its kind in the college's history. "Sully's" staff, which isn't yet complete, includes Henry Herder as assistant manager, Paul Haines, Tom Richey, Lerow Johnson, Leslie McCarthy, and Russell Yanke.

Incidentally, the prizes which will be awarded to the winner of the amateur night being sponsored by Town Hall next May will be cash and, as Sully says, "nothing to be sneezed at."

Jimmy Shoultz, notorious for vari-colored diets, has changed again. This time it's dog biscuits since being christened "Pluto, Hound of the Biltmore."

One freshman who doesn't pay any attention to handicaps is Abilene's "fish" Jones. He's a one-armed candidate for the freshman football team and, besides being an excellent guard, he is reported as being an exceptionally accurate place-kicker.

And so forth... As compared with Aggie's 6,000-odd students, last registration figures from Austin give the University an enrollment of 8,950... And Baylor's enrollment has upped a little as 2,295 passed through the Waco school's registration lines... The story of A. & M.'s project houses went on the N. B. C. network Tuesday night from Chicago... An Artillery freshman was heard claiming that "A mayor is a she horse."

Poultry Association To Have Annual Meet At Cornell in 1940

Ithaca, N. Y. — The Poultry Science Association will have its annual meeting at Cornell University in the summer of 1940, and some 500 members are expected.

Organized in Ithaca in 1908, the association which meets on some University campus each year, last had a convention at Cornell University in 1918. Its 1938 gathering was at Pullman, Washington, and this year at the World's Poultry Congress in Cleveland, Ohio.

The group, which is affiliated with the World's Poultry Science Association, is an organization of instructors, investigators, and extension workers in poultry husbandry in the United States and Canada. Its object is to advance the poultry industry both in this country and in Canada.

At its Cornell meeting, the association will dedicate the poultry building and give it official recognition as "Rice Hall," in honor of Emeritus Professor James E. Rice, first head of the poultry department at Cornell University who was also instrumental in the organization of the Poultry Science Association.

An annual prize for poultry research is given each year.

It has been suggested that we might have hot dogs for the new Thanksgiving Day and turkey on the regular date.




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