

# The Battalion

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

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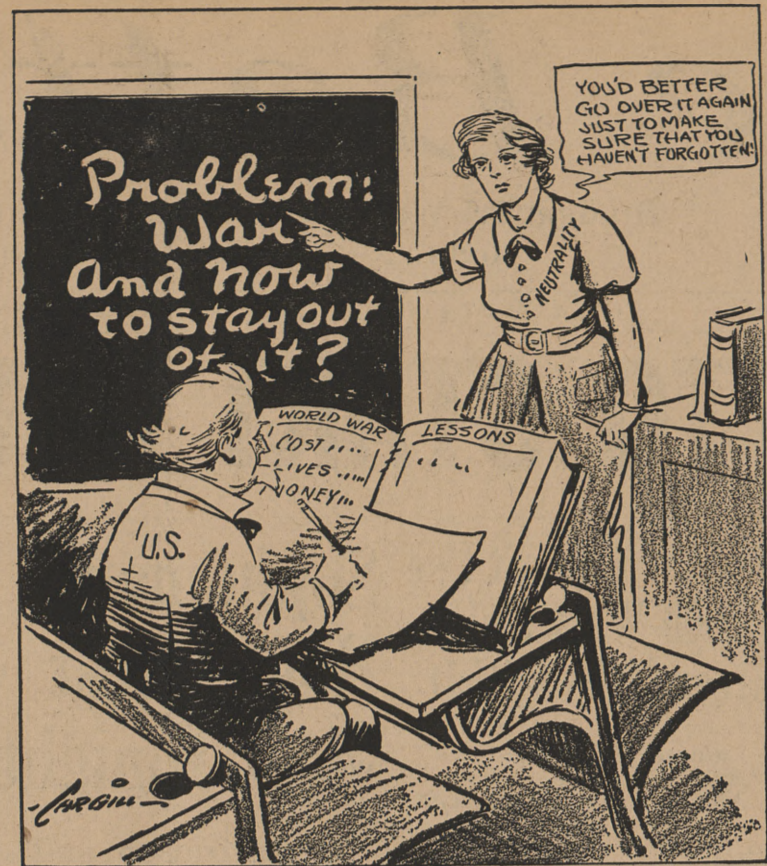
## OPEN FORUM

### AGGIES' ACTIONS GOVERN A. & M.'S REPUTATION

At the Rice-Centenary game last weekend there were several Aggies with their dates seated together in the Rice section of the stadium. The referees of the game were receiving the usual heckling from both sides, but at one seemingly outrageous decision in favor of Centenary, some Rice booster in the stands immediately above the group of A. & M. students threw a fair-sized piece of dry ice at one of the referees and with good aim. Without any consideration of the size of the crowd and the unlikelyhood of locating the marksman, one of the attendant Houston policeman promptly ordered one of the Aggies and his dates out of the stadium. No amount of statements to the contrary by several bystanders could convince this officer that his choice was wrong, and the couple were sent out.

Such incidents as this happen every weekend. Not because the present Texas Aggies are any more adept at trouble-making than any other college students, but because the uniform serves as tempting bait for all branches of law-enforcement. To say that such a condition is unfair is putting it mildly, but it leaves only one course open to wearers of the Aggie uniform. That is, to keep the fact constantly in mind that, when in uniform off the campus, our actions govern the opinion formed of not only the individual, but also of every A. & M. man. In other words, it should be remembered that every time you throw a beer bottle at the bartender in "Flossie's Snap Inn" or "Joe's Place," etc., the bystanders gain a bad impression of every other Aggie.

Probably such incidents as that at the Rice-Centenary game will continue to occur for many years, until that undesirable portion of our reputation as "hell-raisers" is lived down.  
 C. C. Mills, '40 Don Andrews, '41



### Movie Review

By Bob Nisbet

"THE WOMEN" is showing at the Palace Theater in Bryan this week. One hundred and thirty-five women make up the cast—think what George Zukor, the director, had to put up with. I wouldn't vouch for the rest, but it shouldn't have been so hard for him to look at this main cast:

Mary (Mrs. Stephen Haines).....Norma Shearer  
 Crystal Allen.....Joan Crawford  
 Sylvia (Mrs. Howard Fowler).....Rosalind Russell  
 Miriam Aarons.....Paulette Goddard

Here is one picture that is all women. Even the animal used, including three monkeys, are all of the female sex. This is just a direct contrast to "Dawn Patrol", which was an all-male picture. It is supposed to be an answer to the question of what women talk about when alone.

The story involves Sylvia as the perennial gossip, who through her blundering, causes the separation of Mary Haines from her husband Stephen. According to Sylvia, Stephen has been stepping out with Crystal Allen, a perfume sales girl. After an uneventful trip to Reno, Mary decides that Sylvia's story is not true; so she returns home to begin anew the happy married life she had left in such haste.

One comment, I think, is due. There is no wonder that people in Europe believe that Americans have no regard for the marriage vow. Their most vivid impression of our country and its customs is gained at the picture shows, and shows like this one could only

strengthen that belief. It is just a mess of scandal and divorce.

Rating for this show is one grade point! Reason for the low rating is that an all-female cast won't go over with a crowd of Aggies, that is, not when the females are all a bunch of "hens" around a bridge table.

"ONLY ANGELS HAVE WINGS" is the show at the Assembly Hall today and tomorrow. It is a benefit show for the Entomology Club.

Cary Grant and Jean Arthur carry the lead in this screen play of aviators in the little banana port of Barranca. Another story of the theme "the mail must go through", only this time it is to save a government franchise for an American airplane company.

By now this show is just a wee bit old, but for those who haven't seen it it ought to be "top-hole". I would say it is a two-grade-point show.

### WHAT'S SHOWING

**AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL**  
 Thursday and Friday — "Only Angels Have Wings", with Cary Grant and Jean Arthur.

### AT THE PALACE

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday—"The Women", with Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell, Paulette Goddard, and Virginia Weidler.

### Musical Meanderings

By Murray Evans

Have you ever noticed how nearly alike most orchestras in "the upper bracket" sound? Well, there is a definite reason and it goes under the heading of "commercialism". The meaning is the same, essentially, to the musician as to the layman. It simply means "business-like". Commercial bands make no secret of the fact that they are out for the long green, and they will do anything in their bag of tricks to please Joe Customer.

After all, that is the purpose of any kind of entertainment, whether it happens to be music, dancing, or barnyard imitations. So the business-minded maestro drills his particular band on novelties, specialties, and even in the social graces. Showmanship "sells" fine to the public, so he lies awake nights devising schemes to create laughs, to draw attention to the individual members of his band. He knows that if the customers who pay and pay call his men by their first names, there is tremendous drawing power in their goodwill. Conductors of such bands even study the tempos (time, to you) which are best suited to dancing, and herein is found the reason why most organizations sound so much alike. Few bands can, as a matter of fact, afford to be of the independent variety, for if there ever was a crowded field, it is the music business. Paul Whiteman is one of the privileged few who might be able to name his own prices and places to play without incurring the wrath of the booking companies. Some trusting Southern lady was supposed to have written him once and offered one thousand dollars for his band to play an engagement for a private club dance.

Imagine her surprise when her letter was answered stating that he thought he might be able to send his piccolo player the one night for the thousand dollars!

So much for "commercialism" There seems to be an unusual scarcity of hit tunes and good records recently. Of course, the Hit Parade must go on, so there are always "ten of the most popular in the nation" played every Saturday, but we mean genuine "hit" tunes—the kind that are sung, whistled, or hummed by Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, ditch-diggers, and janitors alike.

Wonder how many know that Gene Austin is from Gainesville, Texas? What, never heard of him! Then you shall be told. He popularized such fine old tunes as "One Sweet Letter from You", "Blue Heaven", "Among My Souvenirs", "So Blue", and "Melancholy Baby". His recordings are almost as widely used as those of Bing Crosby. He plays piano himself, uses a "blues" style guitar man (whom he calls Kowomo) and a bass fiddle. His voice is familiar to most radio listeners; it has a plaintive wail that puts one on the melancholy side while listening. His recording of "One Sweet Letter from You" should make a decided hit with the Aggies.

When fire destroyed Centralia's ornate float prepared for a parade in Longview, Wash., the town sent a goat instead, carrying a banner reading, "The fire got our float, but it didn't get our goat."

About 2,000 marriage licenses issued in New York each year are never used. Indicating that many take a second look.

## BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Backwashin' around . . . An M. E. prof to one of his students yesterday morning: "Come, come; let's be specific." . . . The power of advertising again

Music in the new mess hall will begin regularly within two weeks. Announcements will come from the new mess hall and will be heard at both eating places. Music, however, will be played at Sbis and relayed to the new section of the campus.

—Last Saturday there was a sign on the bulletin board of the Academic Building reading "SACRIFICICE! One half-pint of Golden Wedding Rye. One dollar. Sign below and I'll call." The sign was gone within an

One of the most intriguing signs your columnist has ever seen was passed a few weeks ago at crossroads near Laredo. Together with a number of other arrows pointing to various towns was one of the same shape, size, etc. telling the traveler that not far in this direction was—Ssshh!!! Obviously the sign offered two possibilities. Either someone was having a baby or else the place would turn out to be one of those silent towns of the old west.

Naomi Boutwell, T.S.C.W.'s junior class president, was on the campus Wednesday night to address Aggie juniors in respect to the pre-corps dance a week from next Friday night . . . Two Aggies who performed the near-impossible are "Slick" Matthews and Hal Pendleton, who attended the executive meeting of the T.S.C.W. junior class last Saturday to help formulate plans for the joint function.

hour . . . By vote of the old mess hall's "Sbisa Volunteers", the most popular recording played during meal time is not "The Jumpin' Jive" or "Over The Rainbow," but is "The Bohemian Fantasy No. 2" as played by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra . . . An infantry junior handed Backwash the following quotation from a letter written by a Lindenwood College girl: "I guess you knew that the shortest way to a girl's heart was to send her a Battalion Magazine."

A revival of the Band's old tradition, a fake murder for the benefit of freshmen, was successfully staged by "D" CAC last week. The cast included Jack "Strawberry" Keese, murdered; Rex Grey, murdered; and Dave Britain, "Chief of Court Matial." The fictitious enmity between "Strawberry" and Rex was carefully built up in the eyes of the fish over a two-week period, Strawberry being represented as a dope fiend. Chicken blood and a split liver were used to dummy-up a realistic murder scene which so completely darned the fish that \$27 was collected to send the battery captain to Mexico.

Cavalry's Steve Rogers claims that this really happened last year in one of the classes of College Station's consolidated grade school. A new teacher, anxious to have everything done just right, was calling the roll. She asked each boy to give his first name. Si was the first response.

"No, you should say Silas," replied the fastidious young maid. Next in line came Tom. "Say Thomas," was her insistent reply. Looking up momentarily, she asked, "and now what is the name of the boy back of Thomas?" The reply was sudden and curt —"Jackass!"

### School Spirit?

The other night when the Aggie football team left here for the West Coast to play Santa Clara, a huge crowd of Aggies assembled at the station and gave them a big send-off.

That was well and good. The Battalion is a firm believer in displays of real school spirit. So is every thinking student, employee, and official of A. & M. College. And as a display of school spirit, the send-off for the team that night was the best we've seen.

There was one event, however, that marred the occasion:

Some misguided "fish" painted and splattered up the train with not only whitewash but also red paint.

As a result, it cost the railroad company \$150 to repair the damage done. The car had to be entirely repainted.

At the request of college authorities and through special dispensation of the officials of the railroad, the Houston-Dallas non-stop Sunbeam Special was allowed to make College Station a regularly scheduled stop. This action makes it possible for Aggies to ride four instead of two streamlined trains out of College Station each day. The corps as a whole appreciates this added service, but the action of our poor misguided "fish" was certainly a poor way to show this appreciation.

The railroad company knows who's responsible for the damage done. But it has refrained from taking steps to see that proper punishment is assessed the perpetrator. If that isn't 'white' of the company, we don't know what is.

The Battalion wishes to emphasize definitely that it is for anything that is a display of true school spirit.

But we don't think that damaging railroad cars with paint that can't be washed off should be so considered, or is so considered by the majority of the Aggie corps.

### Propaganda From All Sides

With the United States in the neutral position that it occupies at the present time, no one more seriously realizes the need for an unbiased opinion on the affairs on the European continent than the college students of today who would form a large part of an American war army if the need for one suddenly arose.

A measure of the importance that the European countries place on the American opinion can easily be realized by tuning in on short-wave any time of the day or night. Where formerly it was almost impossible to pick up English-speaking foreign stations, it is now possible to pick them up without trouble on any of the short-wave bands on the standard long-wave set.

Germany's main station with the power and the directional antennae and beaming that the Germans are aiming at the United States and South America is DJD, which comes in at 11.77 megs. on the 25-meter band broadcasts from 6 p. m. to 12 p. m. C. S. T. During that period the entire broadcast is in either English or Spanish (for the benefit of South America). Its style follows the "soft-soap" line in that it presents programs of German music styled for America and includes in these programs music by Brahms, Beethoven, and Bach as well as American popular music. However, mixed in with the music are short propaganda speeches telling just how Great Britain and France resemble "the big bad wolf."

Don't think that Great Britain and France aren't both guilty of the same offense, however. Both of these countries have several strong stations directed at the United States and are piling their mush on the angle of brotherly love for this country.

Try turning your radio over on to short wave any afternoon or night and form an opinion for yourself. Short-wave requires slower tuning than with the regular band, but many of the strong foreign stations come in strong and without fading during the afternoon and night. The four standard short-wave bands are plainly marked on most sets that have anything besides the broadcast band on them, and on these bands the foreign stations are intermingled.

It may not be quite as easy to tune in Berlin or London as it is WBAP, but the ability to do so can insure us of the right to hear both sides of the present conflict and then to make up our minds the way that we want to.

ROGER BABSON, ECONOMIST, SAYS CONGRESS could have been worse. He doesn't specify how, but perhaps he is thinking of the fact that at least it did adjourn.

### City Tax Situation

The board of aldermen of the city of College Station are very glad that the inhabitants of this city are accepting the taxes as set by the equalization board with their whole-hearted approval. It is the general opinion that the taxes are equitable and on the right level. When the residents of a locality band themselves together and resolve to make of theirs a better community in which to live, and accept the burden of financing the movements to make it such, then progress is being made. It is felt by the board of aldermen that such is the case here at College Station. By working together and cooperating with each other this city can become a model after which others can pattern themselves. In fact, the Texas League of Municipalities has a special interest in this movement and would like to see this goal realized.

The board wishes to express through The Battalion its appreciation to the equalization board, composed of A. A. Blumberg, Guy Boyett, and V. M. Faires, for the excellent job they did in setting the taxes to the satisfaction of all concerned.

A PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR FINDS SIMILARITY in prisons and universities, since many inmates of each merely are doing time. Prisoners, however, have to behave.

LACK OF CLOSE RELATIVES IN NEW York is keeping many people away from the Fair.

A WISCONSIN MAN HAS BEEN BARBERING for 51 years. Wonder if he's given up trying to sell the shampoo massage and tonic combination?

### As the World Turns...

By "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

The diplomatic front seems far more active than the military during the last several days. One by one the little Baltic states, except Finland, have come under Russia's domination, retaining of course nominal sovereign right. Finland too has sent a negotiator to Moscow. Her strenuous objections to similar status as the other Baltic states might cause Stalin to modify his demands somewhat. Still, Finland is in no position to challenge Russia's demands.

It is reported that Russia is making two serious propositions to Turkey: (1) Turkey must close the Dardanelles to British and French ships but allow Russian supplies to go to Germany; (2) Turkey must abandon the reciprocal provisions of her treaties with England and France. Should Turkey yield to these propositions, she would be far on the way to complete domination from Moscow. Neither Turkey nor the rest of the Balkan states relish the idea of receiving orders from Moscow. These states are marshalling every effort to form a solid neutrality block to counteract both the German and Russian march to the Aegean Sea.

Last Friday Hitler made another "generous" peace offer on his own terms. Two hours later after he delivered his speech, Premier Deladier commented, "An imposed peace cannot be a just peace." Last Tuesday he stated in his radio address that Hitler's peace terms are just the usual propaganda tactics and not to be taken seriously.

As we go to press, Chamberlain is replying to Hitler's peace proposals, but judging from advance press and radio reports, England, too, would leave the door open for genuine peace if Hitler really wants it. The British labor party already has laid down some essential peace terms: (1) restoration of democratic life in Germany (Hitler's government must fall); (2) both Poland and Czechoslovakia to be restored as independent states; (3) Austria to be given a chance to choose between German annexation and restoration of her independence. These terms would not appeal to Hitler. Moreover, Chamberlain, like Deladier, can not put much faith in "mere assurances". However, the Allies can not justify their stand by merely refusing to accept Hitler's offer for peace. They must formulate their own constructive plans for peace if they expect enthusiastic support by their own people and the sympathy of the world for their own cause.

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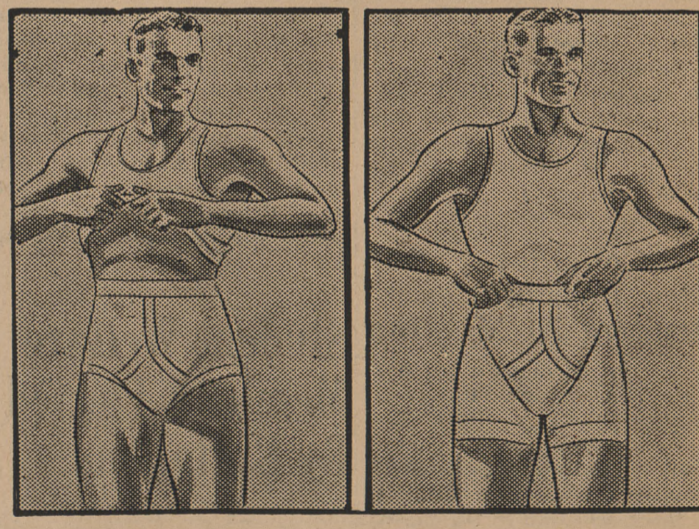
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