

The Battalion

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

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Houston Stunt

Last Wednesday a group of students, thirty or more in number, boarded several cars and left for the fair city of Houston, with one objective in mind, to visit its famed Rice Institute and strike the match which would start off their pre-Owl-Aggie game bonfire.

The Owls had a different idea in mind and had been expecting such an action from A. & M. students. They were waiting for the College Station students, with "more boys than a person thought attended Rice." A fight ensued after an attempt by these A. & M. students to light the bonfire, and as a result several students suffered injuries; and bad feelings, which were bad enough beforehand, were fired up between the schools.

This was an act of poor sportsmanship on the part of a few students, which has been reflected back upon an entire corps. So far this year A. & M. has been doing well in its football games, playing its games "fair and square," and the students should follow the same example, acting their parts accordingly.

There has always been keen rivalry between A. & M. and Rice, and the game Saturday will be rough. One football player remarked that in former years after students had pulled such a trick as they did Wednesday night, the football players of the opposing teams slugged when the game officials were not in a position to see the acts.

As the thing stacks up now, after students have pulled such a stunt, instead of the guilty ones getting the real punishment, the football team pays for the act as well as the entire student body whose reputation is injured.

The fish knew no better because they believed it to be right with upperclassmen leading the action; the sophomores evidently had learned no better; and it seems the juniors must not have been brought up right either. When students of another school try to burn our Thanksgiving game bonfire, we think it is the worst sort of sportsmanship. Does the action of a few of our students in Houston seem any better to the majority of the Aggies? We should think not. At present it is left to the seniors to see that no such action comes up again, and that students behave properly during their stay in Houston this weekend.

Modern College Ideas

College student leaders of the midwest, at a meeting conceived in freedom and dedicated to greater student influence in administrative affairs, have set up a new program of undergraduate action.

"How Can College Help the Student to Function More Effectively?" was the central theme of a two-days conference held lately at Bradley College, in Peoria, Illinois. Taking part in the meet, which represented one of the first efforts of college students to get together to solve their own problems, were the University of Chicago, Principia, Armour Tech, Wheaton, Illinois Wesleyan, Knox and Bradley.

Conclusions and recommendations reached by the conference include the following:

1. Class attendance should not be compulsory except in those few courses where the nature of the subject demands it, such as languages, mathematics, etc. If a professor cannot make classes interesting enough that students will attend voluntarily, he should be discharged.
2. Class attendance should not directly affect grades.
3. All college programs should require survey courses designed to provide an understanding and familiarity with general principles and materials involved in the "core of knowledge" which befits an educated person.
4. There is validity to offering survey courses both before and after specialization, so long as they are taken before graduation.
5. There should be curricular freedom beyond the required survey courses.
6. Academic and vocational work can best be handled as separate departments of the same institution, so that each department, each individual, can contribute to the function of the other and to the function of the university as a whole.
7. A knowledge of the so-called cultural subjects, such as music, art and literature, is absolutely essential to a college education.

The Battalion agrees with these ideas, in the main. Modern colleges are adopting them more and more. A. & M. has adopted some of them, and in our opinion, should adopt the rest.

Parade Of Opinion

Despite the fact that the eyes of the nation are on the European war and the congressional battle over neutrality, many are taking quick side-glances at the current political situation, and not the least interested of these side-glancers are the nation's collegians.

Although the national-party political activity is still slight on most campuses, there are many indications that collegians in 1940 will take an active part in what political experts predict will be the hottest campaign in many a year.

At Indiana University, alma mater of Paul V. McNutt, prominently mentioned as a Democratic presidential nominee, the Republicans have enrolled more than 500 students in a campus Republican club. The group is going in for both political and social functions, and last week held a large dance at which a nationally famous orchestra entertained.

The University of Kansas Daily Kansan sees the current international situation as strongly affecting politics in 1940: "Party politics are still in existence at least among the voters, and 1940 is becoming more than the promise of a new calendar from the local grocery store. If America should be dragged into a war before next November, would it not be feasible to induce John Gullible Public to avoid changing horses in the middle of the stream? Many citizens wear blinders put on by straight-ticket-voting forebears. They refuse to recognize political trends that are obvious to the point of alarm. The moon is made of green cheese; and the Bremen has evaporated, but can one find a handful of experts who will sincerely prophesy 'it can't happen here?'"

The University of Iowa Daily Iowan sees the situation in this light: "The Roosevelt stock has gone up tremendously since the beginning of the European conflict; Roosevelt can not be blamed for that. It is natural for the people in a time of strife to gather behind a leader. It will be an interesting election—this coming presidential race. The new deal will still be an important issue in the campaign, but the final score will be effected much by the support Roosevelt has won by his wise guidance of the foreign policy."

It'll be a sad calamity if Roosevelt does achieve a third term, according to the St. John's University Record, which says: "By accepting a third term, if given him, Mr. Roosevelt will be opening the door through which dictatorship will come and liberties may go. What an ignominious account he would receive in history! And why? Not because he wants the glory of a third term in itself, but because he has duped himself and believes that he alone can better America! If he could awaken himself, he would value his place in history and in no uncertain terms scorn the third-term idea!"

That's the college opinion on politics this week. It is certain to be more definite and more prominent as the pre-nomination battle grows in intensity.

The post office department this winter will issue a special one-cent stamp honoring Harvard's famous president, Charles Eliot.

Famed cartoonist "Ding" Darling will address the national convention of the Associated Collegiate Press in Des Moines, October 27.

As the World Turns...

By DR. AL B. NELSON

Strikes financed by U. S. Government! The U. S. Government not only encourages and aids labor in other ways but actually finances labor strikes. Laborers go on strike, then collect unemployment insurance, though they could be working if they desired, and then when the unemployment insurance runs out either direct or work relief is given, even though the strikers may be breaking the law at the time.

The slow-down strikers in the Chrysler Auto plant are giving us a splendid example of how such a situation works out.

There is a serious shortage of new and used cars reported in Dallas as a result of the combined effects of automotive strikes and the advertisement given by the State Fair Auto Show which attracted more people than the Auto Show at Chicago.

Irish neutrality in the present war is called to the attention of the American people by the Christian Science Monitor and other news sources. Germany and others have made much of the fact that Ireland failed to follow England into the war, but additional facts are overlooked: first, that the Irish government has fixed prices so the English can continue to buy Irish meat and potatoes at low prices, and second that English warships and fighting planes coming into Irish territory are not interned.

The Irish are protesting the President's act in including Ireland in the war zone and prohibiting American ships from carrying goods there. If this provision of the neutrality act is revised, as it legally should be since the Irish are not in the war, then American ships could carry goods to Ireland and England could easily carry them the short remaining distance.

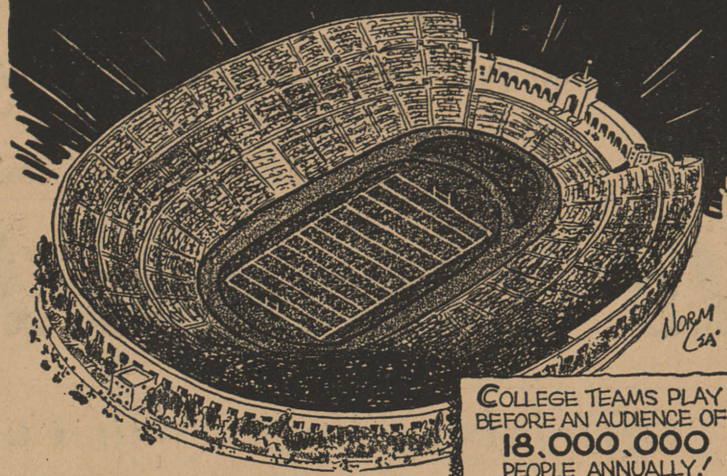
There are three new theaters of war in prospect: Russia may attack Finland and bring in the Scandinavian Peninsula; Germany may invade Holland and Belgium, or may attempt to go through Hungary to Rumania. Any one of these three possibilities would probably make a world war of the present a localized struggle.

Pierce Butler, one of the last remaining conservative members of the United States Supreme Court, is dead. When his successor is appointed F. D. R. will have appointed five out of the nine members of the Court. If this appointment is made on the basis of politics instead of fitness for the office it will mean untold harm to the country, for these five men will probably control the decisions of the Court for a generation.

Al Capone is out of jail again but is in a hospital on the verge of total insanity. Few people will be able to see any advantage in preserving any legal fiction of sanity for him.

Collegiate Kaleidoscope

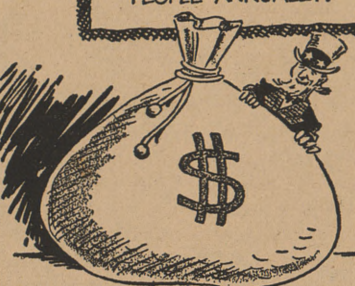
FACTS AND FIGURES ON FOOTBALL



COLLEGE TEAMS PLAY BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF 18,000,000 PEOPLE ANNUALLY!



AN ARMY OF 21,000 PLAYERS MAKE UP 700 COLLEGE TEAMS!



UNCLE SAM COLLECTS AROUND \$2,000,000 IN FOOTBALL TAXES!

Movie Review

By Bob Nibbet

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Saturday—"WUTHERING HEIGHTS," with Merle Oberon, David Niven, and Donald Crisp.

AT THE PALACE
Saturday preview, Sunday, and Monday—"ETERNALLY YOURS," with Loretta Young, David Niven, and Zasu Pitts.

"WUTHERING HEIGHTS" is one of the creepiest shows ever produced that was not originally intended for a horror show. Queer in the full Aggie interpretation, is the best adjective for the show that could be thought up. It plays Saturday night at the Assembly Hall while we are all gone to Houston on the corps trip. Those responsible for the gloomy business are the following cast: Cathy.....Merle Oberon Heathcliff.....Laurence Olivier Edgar.....David Niven Dr. Kenneth.....Donald Crisp

show is the setting in the bleak moors of northern England. Heathcliff and Cathy are in love and have been since early childhood, but she is the lady of the Wuthering Heights estate and he is a servant boy. The attractions of the dancing and parties of the richer set lure her away and she marries a neighboring playboy. Heathcliff runs away in a storm. Years later he returns rich, buys Wuthering Heights and marries Cathy's sister-in-law. The two marriages are misery for all concerned, and the show finally ends in a tragedy. I refuse it more than one grade-point. Loretta Young comes to the Palace Sunday and Monday with David Niven in a fairly good show, "ETERNALLY YOURS." In this show Loretta marries a magician and becomes an associate helper in his act, but his many feminine friends make her jealous, and she does a disappearing act of her own. When he finds her, she has divorced him and has married another man. This presents quite a puzzle for his magic powers to solve. Off hand I'd give this one two-grade-points.

Collegiate Review

Midland College has a special courtesy week during which students wear such tags as "smile" and "thank you."

Twenty per cent of Boston University's students are the victims of problems arising out of our complex social and industrial order.

Three hundred representatives of colleges in all parts of the world were represented at the Catholic University golden jubilee celebration.

Since inauguration of an unlimited cut system, Williams College reports a steady improvement in the grade averages of seniors.

Six per cent of the 1,300 men students at the University of North Dakota have Robert for their first name.

In response to a call for help, coast guardsmen in Chilmark, Mass., rushed to No Man's Island and milked a cow. The island's caretaker was sick, and his wife didn't know how to milk.

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Down Military Walk . . . Aggie with the longest name: Theodore Frederick Paul Wischkaemper Jr. Thirty-three letters—count 'em . . .



Backstage with the Cossack chorus Thursday night after the concert, Sig Neupert was the only Aggie able to converse fluently with the thirty-six Russians. Sig and the Russians are both expert German linguists . . . Bleachers are being borrowed from Texas U. which will be put in the Kyle Field Stadium end zone to help seat the 40,000-odd persons expected for the Turkey Day grid classic . . . Add to life's minor tragedies: T. P. Collier was notified that his name had been called for the \$300 bank night prize in his home town theater last week . . . One of the best entertainments ever to be brought to the campus was Thursday night's second Town Hall presentation, the world-famous Don Cossack Chorus . . . "The 'dust bowl' is no more," says an Artillery freshman. "Now it's the 'mud hole!'"

mer programs, and A. & M.'s band is the equal of any of them. At any rate, a picture of bald Aggies and pros will be sent to the Fitch Company to prove to them that their products are in demand down College Station way. Five cadets have volunteered thus far including Jim Word, Dan Martin, "Rock" Audish, "Dog" Dawson, and Roth Parker.

A. & M. on the Columbia Broadcasting Company's network: It was Thursday night that John Hix included as a major part of his weekly "Strange As It Seems" program, a dramatized story of how Victor "Choc" Kelley ran 245 yards to score a touchdown for A. & M. against L. S. U. in a game back in 1907.

Kelley is now coaching on the Pacific Coast and the broadcast included his personal appearance before the microphone.

Bill Stern, ace N. B. C. announcer who broadcast the Aggie-Pony tilt last Saturday, remarked that one of the reasons he was sent to Texas was to see the Aggies play football in respect to All-American possibilities and as a team as a whole. "Philadelphia sports writers," Bill said, "come back home following the Aggie-Villanova game singing highest praises of the Aggie team. Especially did they call the team a well-balanced unit—every man an individual powerhouse."

One more week and Backwash's dog-naming contest closes. Get your entries in now.

Musical Meanderings

By Murray Evans

Calling all bald or near-bald Aggies. The idea being: Colonel Ashburn, Tommy Littlejohn, and Backwash are trying to persuade the F. W. Fitch Company to include the Aggieband Orchestra on their list of bands to play on Fitch's Summer Band Wagon next summer. Fitch, as you may know, takes the cream of college and university dance bands for their summer.

Here's What You Have To Do If You Want To Be An "A" Student—

Hickory, N. C.—If you want to be an "A" student, take the advice of Harold L. Hoffman, a psychology major at Lenoir Rhyne College.

Here are the five steps to academic success that he recommends: 1. Study. Remember that those students labeled "geniuses" really study for their superior marks. 2. Love "all" the opposite sex, not just one of said sex. This tends to create a superior, "I'm-all-right," frame of mind.

3. Cultivate a liking for your professors and for your studies. Hard to do perhaps, but if at least a neutral attitude is adopted toward each professor and each study, and a sincere effort is made to master the subject, success will be yours.

The current popular "What's New" was written by Bob Haggart, bass man for Bob Crosby's Orchestra; Haggart first called it "I'm Free." Best recording of it, however, is not the one by Crosby's band, but the one by John Scott Trotter, sung by Bing Crosby. Trotter has one of the very best accompanying bands in the business; he emphasizes harmony and the "sweet" effects. His violin section rates ace-high, and on this record, it performs the best bit of backgrounding this writer has ever heard. Her it, and be convinced.

Every college student has someone interested in his success—a father, a mother, a sister, a brother, perhaps a sweetheart, an aunt, or an uncle. Develop an "I'll show you" attitude. Prove to those financial, loving, and/or spiritual backers that you are equal to the task.

5. Be a good "mixer"—put on the old personality with your associates, for creating a favorable attitude in the eyes of your fellow students will make you as an individual happy, light-hearted, and free-desired qualities for a successful student.

Who's Afraid Of The Big Bad Owl?



THE EXCHANGE STORE

"AN AGGIE INSTITUTION"