

The Battalion

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

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Thirteen Days

Thirteen more days and students will be faced with "stark reality"—final examinations for the first term which begin Friday, February 2, and last through the following Thursday.

The practice put into operation last year whereby the top 25 per cent of each class with an A or B average will be exempt from final examination in that course still holds true this year. But it is not this type of student who should be worrying at this time. It is those students who are straddling the fence, those with which the difference of one or two points means continuing his studies here or planting his feet under mother's table once more.

On December 1 of this term a larger percentage of students were passing less than ten hours of work than ever before in the history of the school. There are arguments why such a condition might exist, but the one object today for those students who do care is to pitch in and work for a grade which will show to their instructor that they have gained a knowledge of their course during the year and receive a grade that will pass them, not the reason why they are flunking.

There remains practically two weeks yet, and no time should be lost in getting down to get those deficient subjects. Some instructors might give their analysis on "how to study for a final examination" as, undoubtedly, will many fellow students. But the matter is still left up to the student and the energy and work he expends in doing the job in his own manner will no doubt be the stepping stone either up or down the ladder. It's time now to start preparing for what's coming ahead.

Economy of Scarcity

"The economy of scarcity," says Dean Carl F. Wittke of Oberlin College, "represents glaring failures in our whole system of production and distribution and, in my opinion, these failures outweigh all the success in science and technology of which we boast."

And what is an "economy of scarcity?" The term is rather new and not widely understood yet. Broadly speaking it means creating an artificial scarcity to keep prices up. This is the belief that high or well sustained prices make prosperity.

So they do apparently, for some people. But the benefit of the many seems to demand making and distributing goods and services as cheaply and plentifully as possible, depending on many small profits rather than a few large ones.

This process is obviously good for the mass of consumers. The idea has been spreading, in recent years, that it is also good for the business man.

OPEN FORUM

You probably read in The Battalion the story concerning the amnesia victim, whose mind a blank as to his identity, home and past, that was identified when his classmates rallied to his aid. This story was read by people throughout the state and below is what one reader thought of the episode. The irony of it all is that the writer is a University of Texas graduate. But he expresses the true state of being that is connected with A. & M. and what it stands for.

"If a man is ever in trouble, the best asset he can have seems to be a schooling in Texas A. & M. A demonstration of Aggies rallying to the side of a former schoolmate took place the other night in the chief of police's office in Beaumont, when the Aggies swarmed over the place for hours, attempting to identify an amnesia victim known to have attended the college at one time. (They finally did it, too.)

"Even so, it wasn't a full show of strength, as only those were called who attended the school about the time the amnesia victim was here.

"There wasn't an answer of, 'So sorry I'm awfully busy as the Aggies SOS went out over town. The answer was always, 'Be right down.' The chief was on the phone but a few minutes before the lads started pouring in. And they were sincerely eager to help and anxious over the condition of the other Aggie.

"I believe it can be said without great fear of contradiction that no college in the state—and maybe in the nation—has a spirit that lives as long after graduation as A. & M.'s."

—Jimmie Kokinos, '40.

Medical Victory

While civilization latterly seems to be ailing in many ways especially in economics and international relations, it is making remarkable progress in the medical arts. This is true alike of surgery, drugs and the courses of living prescribed for patients.

Some of the most spectacular developments, lately have been in the nature of what laymen are inclined to call "miracle drugs." The best known recent contributions of this sort, perhaps, are sulfanilamide and sulfapyridine, used for various ailments for which there have been no satisfactory remedies.

The latest wonder-worker is a chemical bearing the terrific name of "hydroxyethylapocoupreine" and obviously impossible for a layman to spell or pronounce. It's chief use so far has been for pneumonia, and in Pittsburgh hospital where extensive tests have been made it is credited with reducing the mortality of such cases by one-half.

Such gains as these promise to increase the average span of life considerably beyond its present length. What remains is to make the life itself more worth living.

That's a job outside the medical field, falling particularly upon statesmen, economists, educators, and pacifists.

Parade of Opinion

Keeping pace with the ever-increasing movements of the Democratic Donkey and the Republican Elephant, college and university students are gradually taking a more active part in party political activities. As evidenced by the early organizational activities on many campuses, 1940 promises to be a banner year for student participation in a national election.

So far as can be determined at the present time, the winter book ranking of the political horses seems to be: Dewey is the favorite, with McNutt (carrying democratic colors) picked to run second. Hardly a third of the collegians favor a third term for F. D. R., so he seems to be ruled out as a starter at post time.

However, all collegians feel that it is a bit too early to start picking candidates now—they feel that too much can happen between now and convention time to upset many a candidate's chance. They're organizing, yes, but along party lines.

Now let's turn to a cross-section of undergraduate opinion on current political developments as expressed by student editorial writers:

Concerning Thomas Edmund Dewey (Michigan '23), the University of Kansas Daily Kansan says: "This is the day of ear-consciousness and a radio-dominated public. To compete with a swing band, a politician has to be pleasingly vocal. Dewey may or may not write his own speeches, but he can deliver them in a manner to warm a ghost-writer's heart. He threatens the Rooseveltian supremacy as America's Number One political bedtime story teller."

But, says the Dartmouth College Daily Dartmouth, "the present campaign will be fought out on some very specific and important problems, the most important of which is America's policy during a European war, and not the least important of which is what to do with twelve million unemployed. The public is pretty well aware of these problems, and so Handsome Tom Dewey will have to be presented to America as something more than a racket-buster if he is to be treated with any more seriousness than the polite amusement with which most people greet him now."

John Nance Garner's announcement of his willingness to accept the nomination from the democrats drew this comment from the University of Iowa Daily Iowan: "There will be many who will hesitate before accepting him. It will be remembered that he is an old line southern democrat, a traditional party man candidate. He is an expert politician, but his qualities as a statesman have not had an adequate test. The feeling still remains that he lacks youth, the statesmanship and the foresight necessary for the presidency at the most critical time in the history of the U. S."

Warning the G. O. P. not to disregard the social advancements made under the New Deal, the University of Michigan Daily says: "It is not so much our leanings toward any one party that causes us to express our opposition to such measures as the Republicans are now supporting; what disturbs us more is the callous destruction of reforms which have been established and accepted, and which we believe America needs."

As the World Turns...

By AL B. NELSON

Japanese admit that 70,000 of their soldiers have been killed in their unofficial war with China. If they admit that number the total must be much larger. They have met with few successes and a number of defeats in the last few months.

King Gustaf, the 81 year old King of Sweden, still plays tennis and actively leads his nation. At the present he is concentrating on building up the army and in sending aid to Finland. Recent reports indicate that a total of about twenty thousand volunteers from all nations have reached Finland. Several companies of these are from the United States.

The U. S. has established a legation in Australia for the first time. The new Minister is Clarence E. Gauss, who has been stationed at Shanghai recently and has learned the Japanese problem thoroughly.

and is directly responsible for much of the war and misery in the world today.

A Texan, Admiral Richardson, has just taken command of the United States fleet and will command it in the midst of its great expansion program.

Wm. E. Borah, isolationist leader in the U. S. Senate for the last thirty odd years is at the point of death as this is written. Senator Borah is one of the smartest and most capable of the men in Congress but his very ability and isolationist leadership kept the U. S. out of the League of Nations and is directly responsible for much of the war and misery in the world today.



Nelson

Off the Record



"No, no—that's not the way to bust rocks—here, hold my gun, I'll show you how to do it!"

Movie Review

by Bob Nisbet

Perhaps the lowest trick pulled during the current cold spell was some low-life digging into the store-room of a theater and dragging one of last summer's signs reading "Twenty degrees colder inside" to the front of the show.

Speaking of the cold spell, it ought to make us feel all right about traveling "down Mexico way" with Gene Autrey at the Queen Sunday and Monday in "SOUTH OF THE BORDER." Gene and his pal, Smiley Burnette are in Mexico this time as Federal agents on government business. However, as a sideline, they break-up a revolution. You know Mexico is always a good ground for at least one revolution. This show itself is not much, but it did serve to introduce a very popular swing tune, that was not written by Gene Autrey as many believe, but by two song writers from London, England, who wrote the song about Mexico looking at the Thames river. The song writers were Jimmy Kennedy and Michael Carr.

Saturday night at the Assembly Hall in "THE SUN NEVER SETS", the English again enter in, but this time the whole story is about life in the English army at an outpost in dark Africa. The cast contains enough outstanding characters to make the show appear very attractive. John Randolph..... Douglas Fairbanks Jr. Clive Randolph.....Basil Rathbone Phyllis Ransome.....Virginia Field Helen Randolph.....Barbara O'Neil Hugh Zurof.....Lionel Atwill Sir John Randolph..... C. Aubrey Smith

As the story begins, Basil Rathbone, who has served as district commissioner on the African coast for two years, arrives home to hear his younger brother, Doug Fairbanks, rebelling against the family tradition of entering the service. C. Aubrey Smith, as his grandfather, persuades him to enter in order that he and Basil can return to Africa to quell a plot to overthrow the great United Kingdom. This is in medium tempo voca-dance style. Like its companion piece, it is one of today's more promising tunes and easily doubles the worth of this record.

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Saturday 12:45 — "OUR LEADING CITIZEN," with Bob Burns and Susan Hayward.

Saturday 6:30 and 8:30— "THE SUN NEVER SETS," with Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Basil Rathbone, and C. Aubrey Smith.

AT THE PALACE
Beginning Sunday—"GERONIMO," with Preston Foster and Andy Devine.

AT THE QUEEN
Sunday and Monday—"SOUTH OF THE BORDER," with Gene Autrey and Smiley Burnette.

RECENT RECORD RELEASES

It is difficult to conceive of a popular tune more completely suited to the personable song stylist, Bea Wain, than the new Cole Porter selection, WHEN LOVE BECKONED. This song from the "DuBarry Was a Lady" score has already achieved a considerable measure of fame and seems bound for top place among current hits. In this recording, Miss Wain deserts her usual vocation style for a vivacious ballad type of presentation. The orchestra presents a brilliant background and adds greatly to this Grade-A vocal disc. BLUE RAIN, a Johnny Mercer-Jimmy Van Heusen composition, is in medium tempo voca-dance style. Like its companion piece, it is one of today's more promising tunes and easily doubles the worth of this record.

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

While College Station freezes... Authentic reports from Hollywood indicate that John Kimbrough will be offered a hard-to-refuse movie contract when he graduates in '41. The reports indicate that John will immediately be given starring roles in a series of six westerns... And here's one turned in to the column which the writer will let you decide upon. It seems that a certain Chinese woman, anxious to enter the United States, swam the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass. Soon after arriving she gave birth to a baby who might, without much stretching of the imagination, be considered an American citizen. The youngster was scarcely born, however, before immigration officials hustled mother and child back to Mexico. Then it happened again—another child, this time born in Mexico, therefore a citizen of that country. The problem being: one twin a citizen of the U. S., the other a citizen of Mexico, and the mother a Chinese.



Fuermann

Two to one you don't get it right the first time: Psychologists and educators throughout the country have exhibited an unusual interest in the following test, which gives a person a chance to test the sharpness of his vision. Scrutinize the following sentence and state how many F's, either large or small, it contains: "The Famous Valspar finish is the result of scientific study combined with the experience of years." Out of twenty people of intelligence, not more than two will get it right the first time, and a large proportion will not find more than three after being told that there are more. Testing a few members of the corps, it was found that the Cosmopolitan Club's president, Mike Rodriguez, only found three F's on first reading; Duron Kerby found three, and John Collier found two. Vernon Woolridge was hardly born, however, before immigration officials hustled mother and child back to Mexico. Then it happened again—another child, this time born in Mexico, therefore a citizen of that country. The problem being: one twin a citizen of the U. S., the other a citizen of Mexico, and the mother a Chinese.

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AH WOMEN

By Tess Charlton

Special to The Battalion from The Lass-O of T. S. C. W.

Freshmen returned to T. S. C. W. rather nonplussed after the great time they had at the Fish Ball. "I met John Kimbrough," said one thrilled freshman in the post-office Monday. We hear that Bonny Bess Nummy had a date for the dance Friday night with the boy who invited her down to Aggie-land, but she spent most of her time with Fish Phelps. Was a time when Aggies didn't put up with that sort of thing... Pinky Winslow, freshman from Illinois, couldn't get over all the fellows yelling at the girls from the windows of the dorms. She said she wondered if she were popular or if the Aggies yelled at all girls! Gloria Wynne came back to school minus an Aggie but pretty happy about the whole thing nevertheless.

Six Lowry freshmen have formed a new club, the Alpha Alpha Alpha (Anti-Aggie-Association), based on the principal that all Aggies fall into two groups: (1) the wolves, and (2) those with cogs in their brains, therefore, Aggies are to be shunned and given up as bad jobs. And of course, Helen Joyce Schott only went to the Fish Ball as a secret agent of the A. A. A. to pile up evidence against the long-suffering cadets. Anti-Aggie Association members say they are holding out for fraternity men with pipes in their mouths. Members say that membership in their organization will soon be increasing. That's to be seen!

Nan Vineyard says Harvard and Yale unknowns have more glamour than unknown A. & M. boys, so she's stopped writing to her box number down there. Now ain't that heartbreakin'!

Missing from the T. S. C. W. campus last weekend—a pair of auburn-haired monies. Secret agent X5z reports they were seen running rampant over the Aggie-land premises. Did they answer to the names, Imogene and Kath-

ryn? That's our part of the menagerie, boys!

But speaking of menageries, we hear part of your barks. Martha Teas reports that while she was eating in the mess hall a Fish came up to her and said, "Bow! wow!"

We wonder if George "Buck" Bentinck has digested his recent stack of fan-mail. The Brack Juniors sponsoring this drive are hoping that this will help overcome his "I hate women" complex.

STUDENT WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETS

The regular meeting of the Student Welfare Committee was held Thursday night in the banquet room of Sbsa Hall will Dean Bolton presiding.

Talks were given by Bruce Davis and Keith Dahl, concerning their recent trip to the National Student Federation convention in Minneapolis. Subjects presented were joint student-faculty curriculum change committees, student finances, the honor system, and student activity fees. Ideas and information obtained at the convention are to be the subject for discussion of the next two meetings of the committee.

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