

The Battalion

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

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Know Your Fellow Student

There is a great need for tolerance of many kinds in the world today. If the various peoples of the world knew each other better, it would be more difficult for a single man to precipitate them into war against each other.

One of the things A. & M. needs—as do all colleges—is a closer, friendlier feeling between students of the various races and creeds, and a better understanding of the people, life, culture and customs of other countries.

In furthering such a purpose as this, the A. & M. Cosmopolitan Club is to be highly commended. The Cosmopolitan Club, an affiliate of a national organization, is sponsored here by the College, Y.M.C.A. Students of all nationalities are welcome as members.

It's not the usual type of club. Its meetings are informal, social, entertaining. They bring together a large group of boys—all students of A. & M.—hailing from all parts of the globe, who take part freely in interesting discussions of widespread subjects, and witness well-planned programs dealing with foreign lands and peoples.

It's one of the most active, convivial and congenial groups on the campus. At its meetings mingle boys from the United States with boys from the West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America, Hawaii, the Philippines, China, Japan, India, Arabia, Egypt, and other lands.

In such associations boys gain new friendships, changing and broadening viewpoints, greater tolerance and understanding of others. In tales of far-away lands one finds great fascinations—next best to taking a trip to them. In tales of other countries one hears of things of interest not found in his homeland, but he discovers at these meetings that even though customs and languages differ, people are much the same the world over.

A number of American boys are already members of the Cosmopolitan Club, and are deriving much pleasure from its meetings. Everyone who wants to join is welcome.

Aggies, take advantage of this unusual opportunity to meet and know your fellow-student—whether he be from your own home country or from a distant clime.

NYA Helps Musicians

Music students of the nation, including those of this college, have until February 15 to make application for a place in the 109-piece All-American Youth Symphony Orchestra which is to tour South and Central America next summer.

A project being worked out with the aid of NYA forces throughout the state, the orchestra will aid many young musicians who want a chance at orchestra work and who would profit by working with Leopold Stokowski, who will direct the symphony group on the good-will tour. NYA for the college will advise any students here who are interested in the orchestra.

Leopold Stokowski outlined his requirements for the young musicians he will help to choose from final eliminations. He wants the players to be within an age range of 16 to 25 and possess great ability as orchestra players.

"Good technique is necessary," he says, "but even more important are beauty of tone, variety of tone color, good phrasing, musical feeling, imagination, and poetry. It would be taken for granted that they read music fluently, have a good ear, and play in tune. Orchestral experience is valuable but not one of the most important requisites. Great talent is more important than experience."

We Owe It to Them

"If that is the true Aggie spirit I'm glad that I graduated from the University of Texas," remarked a member of the A. & M. faculty Saturday night after seeing the cadet corps deliberately handicap its basketball team by making the gym a smoke-filled hades for the players when the team, by means of leaflets, had just asked the cadets to refrain from smoking during the game.

Aggies always point with pride to the fact that they think so much of their football team that they stand up the entire game, yet these same Aggies will go to a basketball game and deliberately handicap the team by filling the gym with cigaret and pipe smoke. They will stand up for two hours for the football team but they won't give up a luxury like smoking for two hours for the basketball team. And yet they talk about having "the old Aggie spirit."

By its very nature basketball is a game that puts a strain on the lungs by demanding enormous amounts of air. When that air is half full of smoke not only does the smoke tend to choke a player but in addition cuts his wind and consequently his ability. Still the student body, with every desire to see the team win, persists in placing that handicap on it.

During the Rice game last week the gym was so full of smoke that it was almost impossible to see spectators on the opposite side of the room. At the S.M.U. game leaflets were passed out to the audience requesting them not to smoke and while the condition did not approach that of the Rice game the gymnasium still looked like a testing ground for smoke screens.

Smoking is not allowed in the Assembly Hall and the rule is vigorously enforced by the O. D.'s, so why couldn't the same rule be applied to the gym? Three weeks on the "bull-ring" or a visit to Senior Court might serve as an inspiration to those Aggies who are so thick-headed that they can't get it any other way. The basketball team is as much a part of our school and its life as the Assembly Hall or the football team, so why shouldn't it get the support that they have so fully earned and so rightfully deserve? It would be an immense aid to the team if smoke was eliminated from the gymnasium and with the support of the senior class and its officers this could easily be done. Action should have been taken ages ago on the problem, or is the senior class against the curtailment because the seniors would have to give up smoking too?

—Ray Treadwell

LEE DIED A "PRISONER"

It may not be generally known that General Robert E. Lee was technically a prisoner of war at the time of his death in 1870, but such is the case, according to a recent writer.

After Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, he was released on parole. President Johnson's amnesty proclamation issued the following month did not include Confederate officers above the rank of colonel, or any who had been educated at West Point or who had resigned from the United States Army to join the Confederacy, so Lee was ineligible for amnesty on all three counts.

Johnson provided, however, that those in the expected classes would have their applications for pardon considered, and Lee made application accordingly, but his request was entirely ignored by the president. The terms of his parole were respected however, and he was never molested, although he was never restored to citizenship.

As is well known, after the war General Lee accepted the presidency of Washington College at Lexington, Virginia, and remained in that office until he died, when the name of the institution was changed to Washington and Lee. But at the time of his death he was still a paroled prisoner of war, deprived of his civil rights.

As the World Turns...

By "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

The cooperative organizations in the United States are severely criticised by Harold P. Janisch, general manager of the Association of Insurance Agents and Brokers. Mr. Janisch takes the position that the cooperative movement in the United States is "subversive" and tends toward Communism. The United States Chamber of Commerce has also branded the cooperatives as "un-American."

The cooperative movement is one of the by-products of our industrial age. Back in 1761 the Weavers' Society in Fenwick, Scotland, supplied its members with oatmeal for home consumption. The "Rockdale Equitable Pioneers," later known as the "Rockdale Clan," organized a cooperative society in 1844 at Rockdale, England, and sold groceries to its members. England today has a large number of cooperatives with 8,000,000 members, which do an enormous business throughout Great Britain. It is hardly possible that the movement is leading England toward Communism.

The cooperative buying and selling movement in the United States has had varied successes and failures. The Grange tried in the decade 1860-70 to counteract the large profits of the middlemen and commission merchants but made little headway, due to opposition from various interests. Since then the movement has been revived in many sections of the United States and there is now a Cooperative League of the United States. It has about 2,000,000 members and sold \$600,000,000 worth of goods last year. The League has also encouraged cooperation in production. A \$7,000,000 oil refinery was built last year at Phillipsburg, Kansas; two feed mills, one flour mill, a coffee roastery, four fertilizer factories, and other productive ventures, amounting in value to \$2,000,000, were built.

The proposed \$60,000,000 loan to Finland has caused a great deal of speculation, both in and out of Congress. The President passed the question of the loan to Finland on to Congress to avoid making a political issue of it. If the loan is granted with the approval of Congress, both parties will share the responsibility of making the loan. If we disregard the emotional aspects of the question, and consider it in a realistic manner, the question of a loan to Finland assumes varied implications. Government aid to Finland would be drifting away from the avowed policy of the American people to keep out of this war. It is true that there is no war between Russia and Finland in the traditional sense, but the dictator states have disregarded the preliminary technicalities of declaring war. At least, the "undeclared war" between these two countries is a good old-fashioned trial of arms. It is possible that Russia, Germany, the Allies, and other countries might look upon this official loan to Finland as a means of "breaking the ice" for more actual participation in the war. Then, too, the President has recommended large reductions in many New Deal projects, such as W.P.A., C.C.C., N.Y.A., and R.E.A., to mention only a few. Wisdom, like charity, should begin at home.

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Touch and go... Combination radio-victrola sets are popular features in several rooms on the campus, but one of the most unusual and complete of these sets



Fuermann

is that owned by "Red" Guill and Tommy Hagood. More than a hundred records in the collection, they are indexed as expertly as the library's Carnegie collection... Coach Hub McQuillen, to a protesting coach of an opposing team: "Sit down, coach; you're rockin' the boat!"... At the risk of his Christmas hat and personal aplomb, one A. & M. prof dared to walk past a dozen snowballers to catch his afternoon bus, yesterday. All went well until he entered the bus—twelve snowballs hit as one—the dozen snowballers looked guiltless... Barry Francks and J. J. Stevens wondered what would happen if they tried to put through a long-distance call to President Roosevelt. The attempt was made and, to their surprise, could have been successful except for one thing—a \$5 charge... Jack Littlejohn's great song, "I'd Rather Be A Texas Aggie," has been published and is receiving a quick sale indicative of its popularity.

The Midnight Coffee Club:

If you've ever wondered why the lights on the fourth floor of the Academic Building remain on all night long almost every night, the answer is — architecture students. The very nature of their course makes for long hours. The result is a nightly time-out for coffee at one of the college eateries. Main stand-bys of the Midnight Coffee Club include Sid Lord, La Vere Brooks, Jo Spiller, Roland Laney, Preston Bolton, Ed

Whitney, F. R. Ross, Charles Bailley, Frank Beadle, and Mike Soto.

'Morbid' is the word:

And speaking of the architects, they've lately adopted a pass-word. Everything—to the architects—is morbid; a morbid problem, a morbid automobile, etc. They've even taken custody to a local tomcat. Its name—you guessed it—"Morbid!"

Backwash predicts that within a few weeks the directorship of the Aggieband Orchestra will change hands. Tommy Littlejohn will soon accept a fine position in Houston and brother Jack—of "I'd Rather Be A Texas Aggie" fame—will take over where Tommy leaves off.

Two T. C. U. coeds did it:

In the unusual vein is the telegram received last week by a Band senior and an Infantry sophomore. Written entirely in song titles, here it is:

"Hey Good Looking" "Is It Possible" to "Get Out of Town." "Please," "It's A Lonely Street" "On This Side of Heaven" "When We Are Alone." "It's Been So Long" and "I Want My Share of Love" for "There Is So Little Time." "My Prayer" is to spend "One Hour With You" so "Please Be Kind." "To You" "I Am Faithful Forever."

Not to be out-done, the two Aggies wired back:

"I Need Lovin'" "About A Quarter 'Til Nine."

After making a thorough search of all the high-class and not-so-high-class night spots of our various Texas metropolises, searching for the most original name for the place that always comes to mind after ten beers or so, one Aggie the writer knows of ran across this gem in Houston which is passed on to you for what it is worth: "First Aid Station No. 1 For Exhausted Jitterbugs."

★ Musical Meanderings ★

PLUG YOUR OWN SONG SAYS JOHNNY GREEN

"I was pretty smug about writing a hit song when I was a sophomore at Harvard," said Johnny Green with a typical grin, "and I still am. But I'm not the only college student who ever wrote a good song. The trick is to know what to do with it after you write it."

"I haunted an unknown band that was playing over a little local radio station. I kept after that band until they finally played my song on the air. It sounded good. The band started to feature it. Then a music publisher heard about it, listened to it, and decided to publish it. The song was called 'Coquette.' The unknown band was also heard from later. It was led by a man named Lombardo."

Johnny was giving his orchestra a five-minute rest during a rehearsal for one of his Columbia "Johnny Presents—" broadcasts. Johnny didn't seem to want to rest himself, although he'd been doing the work of four men: leading the orchestra, adjusting arrangements, playing the piano, and remembering what notes the first sax played in the 93rd bar. In the brief intermission a dozen details had to be taken care of: a bandstand arrangements at a party where Johnny would play

later in the evening, the piano's microphone pick-up, new orchestrations for the band's theme.

"I must get over a hundred letters a week from young people who've written songs and want me to see about publishing them. Lots of them are college students. I'd like to help them, but I just haven't got time. No one in the music business has time to attend to anyone else's things; he's having enough trouble just with his own stuff. The thing a college songwriter has to do is go into the music business for himself..."

"Impossible? Not at all. There isn't a college in the country that isn't near a radio station where some band broadcasts. Every college is near some kind of roadhouse where a band plays. If you write songs you've got to keep after those bands—pester them, talk to them, and finally get them to try playing your songs. Eventually, if your songs are any good at all, they may play them over some local radio station—and from then on it's in the lap of the gods."

Four bullfighters refused to sail from Spain to fill contracts in Venezuela, frankly admitting that they were afraid, not of the bulls they were to fight, but of mines or submarines their ship might encounter.



By R. B. Pearce

(Pinch-hitting for Bob this week because of sickness in his family. Since the grade-point rating was his idea, we won't try to classify "Charlie McCarthy," Detective" at all.)

In "Charlie McCarthy, Detective" Charlie not only has the title role, but he's a big star. Only fly in Charlie's honey is the presence in the cast of Mortimer Snerd, Bergen's other boy friend, who describes himself as living on a farm where he is the "chief squirt" in the dairy. McCarthy thinks of him only as "an uncouth person, a hick from the sticks."

Bergen and McCarthy find themselves in the midst of a tangled-up murder mystery; and, besides tormenting his associates and insulting Mortimer Snerd, Charlie finds time to solve the murder just as the going gets tough for the hero. Those who suffered most under barrage of Charlie's splintery wit were Mortimer Snerd, Robert Cummings, Constance Moore, John Sutter, Samuel S. Hinds, Louis Calhern and producer-director, Frank Tuttle. After Sutton, in playing the scene had fumbled a line for the second time, McCarthy turned to Director Frank Tuttle.

"Frank," he said, "Let's rewrite the script; I'm sure we're going to kill the wrong man in the picture."

An interesting highlight of the picture is that it includes Bergen's "hospital act." The act, one of the most famous ever performed by Bergen and his talkative partner, has been seen only at the exclusive night clubs in America and abroad and before special audiences which have included heads of foreign governments. Charlie goes to the hospital as a result of stopping a bullet intended for another, as McCarthy is doing a little unofficial investigation on the crime.

Robert Cummings, Constance Moore and John Sutton furnish the romantic element of the story, with Cummings as a magazine columnist, Miss Moore as Bergen's partner in his night act, and Sutton as Miss Moore's sweetheart. The

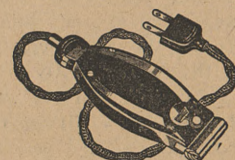
story is unusually sound, and with Bergen's inimitable comedy, the combination produces one of the top entertainment offerings of the season.

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Thursday and Friday—
"GOOD GIRLS GO TO PARIS," with Melvyn Douglas and Joan Blondell.

AT THE PALACE
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday—
"JUDGE HARDY AND SON," with Mickey Rooney and Lewis Stone.

AT THE QUEEN
Friday and Saturday—
"THE INVISIBLE MAN RETURNS," starring Sir Fredrick Hardwicke and Nan Grey.



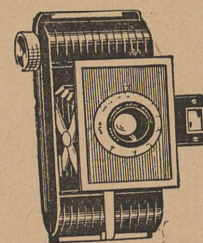
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