

The Battalion

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

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Credit Where Credit Is Due

It's time for the college and the entire student body to give deserved recognition to the music of Jack Littlejohn, the young campus Berlin who has added another song—"I'd Rather Be a Texas Aggie"—to the Aggie hit parade, and has composed a number of other worthy tunes.

Jack's song, "I'd Rather Be a Texas Aggie" is exceptionally meritorious. It is a song that can live to the good advantage of the school's traditions if it is given the attention that it deserves. And it seems to be getting it.

That the music—recently published in very attractive form and now on sale at various places about the campus—IS good, is evidenced by the fact that since its first playing it has been heard increasingly often, being whistled and hummed and sung by students and others.

The students who have heard it all like it. The Battalion thinks well of it, and commends Littlejohn for having contributed something worthwhile to the original music of the campus.

At the same time, it might be well to say a word about the Aggieband Orchestra, of which Jack is a member. It has been doing a great job this year. Its music at the huge football victory banquet Saturday night was much enjoyed by the crowd that attended. Though sometimes taken too much for granted simply because it is a student organization right here on the campus, the orchestra actually makes music as good as, if not better than, that of many visiting orchestras that have played here in the past. (And too, its price is far less.)

Visitors to the campus are unanimous in declaring it a fine orchestra. In our opinion, it's one of the best college orchestras in the country.

The Devil's Instrument

A wise man once said, "Examinations are instruments of the Devil!"

For both professor and student the task of preparing, taking and correcting an examination is a painful experience, and still is accepted by all parties as an essential element in an educational program.

A proposal to abolish them would come like a heresy in the middle of a revival service. We firmly believe that examinations are the root of the chief defects in the present educational system of study and that any movement to de-emphasize them would be a step in the right direction.

Under the present educational system of study, a premium is put upon "cramming." With strong emphasis laid predominantly upon the final examinations and too little weight placed upon his performance throughout the term, the student is encouraged to let his work slide until a few days before the final, when a furious burst of concentrated study must boost him over the hurdle.

Aside from the tremendous strain on the health and nerves of the student produced by such a method of study, psychologists have agreed that the knowledge gained by cramming is not usually lasting.

A course examination is valuable in the respect that it tests in a sweeping review knowledge obtained from the course by the student. It is valuable only for the students who have labored faithfully throughout the term. If the average student could be encouraged to do his cramming day by day we feel sure that professors would be willing to forego final examinations.—S. M. U. Semi-Weekly Campus.

Campus Religion---Where?

Nobody said anything about missionary fields, but right here on the campus is a mighty good place to have one.

Democracy on the campus is thought of by most of us as something to raise cane about till we get it, then to sit back and loaf after it is achieved.

What connection does this have with religion on the campus? Just this—that democracy in religion is something that has been firmly established in the roots of America; but few people on our campus really get up and go to bat for it. They take it as merely a matter of course.

That's no way to do anything that is worth the struggle which has been fought for this necessary phase of life. You've got to be an active participant.

No one has to draw you a picture of what to do to champion religion. If you haven't found that out just by observation you're a long way from being educated.

So get in there and go to bat for it. Give out a little of what you soak in while you are a student at Texas A. & M. College.

Protest N.Y.A. Slash

Not many students on American campuses know that the President's budget estimates of the governmental expenses for 1941 had bad news for them. The N.Y.A. appropriation estimate was curtailed from \$95,000,000 to \$83,000,000, a difference of \$12,000,000. This means that N.Y.A. rolls at A. & M. will be cut when the present appropriation runs out, if Congress agrees with President Roosevelt on his budget plans.

After reading about the increase in appropriations for defense, those who put a high value on education will resent the N.Y.A. cut.

Every campus group which claims an interest in student welfare, and in education itself, should protest such an event taking place.

The rallying cry of "Scholarships, Not Battleships" should become more than a mere slogan. It should become part of our whole philosophy.

What Are You Gripping About?

Getting out this newspaper is no picnic. If we print jokes, people say we are silly. If we don't they say we are too serious.

If we clip things from magazines and other papers, we are too lazy to write them ourselves.

If we stick close to the job all day, we ought to be out hunting news.

If we go out and try to hustle, we ought to be on the job in the office.

If we don't print contributions, we don't appreciate true genius; and if we do the paper is filled with junk.

If we make a change in the other fellow's write-up, we are too critical; if we don't we are asleep.

Now like as not, someone will say we swiped this from some other paper. Well—we DID!

In "Mein Kampf" Hitler referred to Russians as "the scum of the earth." In allying himself with them, he not only accomplished a deft diplomatic coup, but he did a neat bit of social climbing.

A lot of Europe's combat flyers, it seems, are still trying to make their first downs.

Europe, says an editorial, is sick of war. But not sick enough, apparently, to obey doctor's orders.

It's foolish to boo personalities appearing on the screen, because to a celluloid celebrity, says Zadok Dumpkopf, a hiss is as good as a smile.

The meek, says the Bible, shall inherit the earth. But in Europe it begins to look as though they'll inherit only what is left of it.

The best things in life are free. In Uncle Sam's case, it's the Atlantic Ocean.

Europe-to-America trans-Atlantic television will be a fact within a few years, according to a news item. Well, if things don't improve over there, we won't look.

The City of Phoenix announces it is debt free. Phoenix is in Arizona and not—as you must have supposed—in the Land of Oz.

No wonder Stalin is sore at Finland. The Finns are so dumb they think they have a right to keep their own country.

As the World Turns...

By DR. R. W. STEEN

Most amusing news report of the week is the Russian story that the Finns get drunk before every battle and then see visions. If the battle reports from Finnish front can be at all depended upon it would seem that the Finns are doing their utmost to make visions out of some Russians. The Russians report, combined with progress reports of the war, bears a strong resemblance to the Lincoln story concerning General Grant: At a time when Grant was about the only Union leader with a consistent record for victory, a political group appeared before Lincoln to demand his removal on the ground that he was drunk most of the time.

Lincoln, according to the story, replied: "Find out what brand of whiskey he uses, and I shall get some for the other generals."

America has achieved, with a minimum of noise, a leading role in the future of China. By abrogating our commercial treaty with Japan we have strangled to some extent the economic welfare of that country. A Senate committee is now considering—this does not mean passing—an embargo against Japan. Such an act would seriously interfere with the prosecution of Japan's course in China. In a sense the United States, by insisting upon the time-honored principle of the "open door" for China, has taken the side of China in her contest against her small neighbor. The American attitude, regardless of its effects, is doubtless justified by Japan's treatment of American and American property in China.

John L. Lewis has made politics the central topic in several recent addresses. So far he has listed John N. Garner, Paul V. McNutt, and Franklin D. Roosevelt as not being acceptable for the Democratic nomination in 1940. He has made no definite nominations, but seems to favor Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana as the next occupant of the White House. In theory, at least, Lewis is a political power to be reckoned with, as his position makes him the spokesman for several million American workmen and their families. In fact, however, it is doubtful that he can speak with authority as to how the members of his organization will cast their votes. The average American is content to pay dues to an organization, usually takes with a grain of salt the utterances of its leaders. To many American workmen the administration of Roosevelt appears as one quite friendly to labor.

Collegiate Kaleidoscope

COLLEGES COLLECT QUEER THINGS

HARVARD HAS A UNIQUE COLLECTION OF 5400 ODD PLAYING CARDS

THE UNIV. OF TEXAS COLLECTS HAIR FROM THE HEADS OF FAMOUS WRITERS AND STATESMEN!

THE U. OF KENTUCKY LIBRARY HAS 18,000 POST CARDS ON FILE!

CORNELL U. HAS FIFTY PIECES OF EARLY AMERICAN FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT!

THE UNIV. OF ROCHESTER HAS A COLLECTION OF "PHONEY" STOCKS AND BONDS. FACE VALUE IS \$25,000,000—ACTUAL, \$0.00!

Movie Reviews

by Bob Nisbet

Two good shows appear during this time of letter quizzes, but neither is good enough to warrant anyone's slighting his work to see. At the Palace beginning Wednesday is a show that has been a long time in coming, and consequently the effects of the studio's nation-wide advertising have worn off. The Assembly Hall's show is one that had all the possibilities, but it just seems to lack something or other that cannot be explained altogether.

The show in mind in Bryan is "THE REAL GLORY," released by United Artists and directed by Samuel Goldwyn. The cast is composed of the following stars: Gary Cooper..... Dr. Canavan
Andrea Leeds.....Linda Hartley
David Niven.....Lieut. McCool
Reginald Owen.....Capt. Hartley
"The Real Glory" is a story of fights against disease, against floods, and against men. It is based upon the story of the birth of the Philippines as a nation and a people. For a background, much interest and excitement is derived from the life and customs of the Filipinos. Dr. Canavan, a hardened army doctor, and his two friends, lieutenants Larson and McCool, who are soldiers of fortune and fighters, have quite a few adventures fighting a native chieftain, Alipang. Then, of course, there is a girl involved. Linda Hartley comes to the islands to visit her father, and also gets into the fight.

RECENT RECORD RELEASES

Tommy Dorsey couples a beautiful new ballad of stunning lyric and melodic appeal with another Sy Oliver killer-driller. FAITHFUL TO YOU is a composition of Martin Block, Harold Green, and Mickey Stoner. Anita Boyer lends her vocal charms to this promising song while Dorsey's trombone assumes the instrumental solo role. LOSERS WEEPERS is a medium fast swing affair featuring typical Sy Oliver ensemble riffs together with solos by Babe Russin, Yank Lawson, and Gene Traxler. A combination of top-flight swing and mellow sweet dance music has been the foundation of Tommy Dorsey's climb to fame.

Tommy Ryan's tenoring earmarks a new Harold Adamson-Dana Suesse composition for success. THE CHANGING WORLD is a suave new ballad with a melting melody and fetching lyrics. Sammy Kaye's recording is in medium slow tempo. The companion piece is a novelty affair written by Al Lewis, Larry Stock and Vincent Rose. THE CREAKING OLD MILL ON THE CREEK is played in fast waltz time with "The Three Kadets" and the Orchestra's glee club assuming important roles in its interpretations. The old mill's actual creak at the beginning and ending of the record lends a note of authenticity to this promising Sammy Kaye disc.

Artie Shaw couples a pair of Cole Porter selections—DO I LOVE YOU? and WHEN LOVE BECKONED—from "DuBarry Was a Lady." Helen Forrest, vocalist for both numbers, presents an extremely creditable performance. Both tunes are done in medium swing time emphasizing the sax section and Artie's clarinet.

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Tuesday and Wednesday—
"HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE," with Don Ameche and Alice Faye.

AT THE PALACE
Beginning Wednesday—
"THE REAL GLORY," with Gary Cooper, Andrea Leeds and David Niven.

AT THE QUEEN
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday—"NURSE EDITH CAVELL," with Anna Neagle, Edna May Oliver, May Robson, and Zasu Pitts.

DYERS HATTERS

AMERICAN STEAM LAUNDRY

SEND IT TO THE LAUNDRY

DRY • CLEANERS

PHONE 585 BRYAN

Patronize Your Agent in Your Organization

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

In the light of impending finals... Here's what the students themselves have to say about the semi-annual ordeal. Jim Borden says, "We come to college to do less work. Final exams necessitate more work. Therefore, finals oppose the very purpose for which we come to college. To summarize — Ah'm agin 'em!"

Marvin Jennings: "It's the bitterest disappointment of it all. How would you feel if you had spent four and half months making friends with your profs—only to discover finally that you had to take ALL the finals!" Charles Greene moans: "They always exempt the wrong students. Those that are due exemptions don't worry about finals and those that are not exempt must do extra-duty worrying." Thomas Benjamin Bowdre: "Being exempt from all of my final examinations, I really have no concern or anything to say on the subject." G. D. Gordon: "I don't believe in finals. Instead of raising scholastic standards they tend to lower them—and especially grades!" Pete McCrary: "I'm for 'em—exemptions I mean." Freshman H. A. Pimlott: "I care but little for them." T. A. Arnold: "Well, I'll tell you—it's all in your point of view." Randolph Peterson: "Confidentially, they stink!" E. C. Owen: "The truth is, I'm afraid that you couldn't print my real opinion of finals."

We weren't interested anyway: Feeling in need of gastronomic refreshment, a Coast Artillery junior entered one of Houston's better-known restaurants last weekend. By chance or otherwise, he seated himself near a table where an attractive brunette was sitting—apparently alone. A bold soul, he tried for the better part of five minutes to attract her attention, but his attempts came to naught. In desperation, he asked a waitress to deliver a note to the young woman asking to meet her. The reply was short and to the point: "As soon as my husband returns from the phone booth, I'll see if it can be arranged."

Frances E. Jones, by the way, is the name of the T. S. C. W.-ite who won the recent "What I Like (Or Don't Like) About Aggies." Her winning entry, however, didn't meet with the entire approval of the corps. Witness, for example, two letters she has received. One says, "I'll have you know that my kiss is quite noiseless, and no one has ever complained of its lack of sincerity!" Another letter points out that if Aggie dispositions were only as bright as the ten-cent shine on their boots, it must be pretty dull because boot shines cost 25.

Fair warning to Benny Goodman, Tommy Littlejohn, et al: Last Friday's WTAW Aggie Clambake featured an all-freshman

orchestra made up of seven members of the famous Aggie Band. Since that Friday afternoon, WTAW manager John Rosser has received many requests for the group to play again. Composed of Paul Berthelot, Lloyd Jenkins, John Stephens, E. W. McClelland, Charles Post, Kendall Chapman, and Joe Maples, the group may become a regular feature of the Friday afternoon Clambake.

Cadet Colonel Woody Varner's address at the Sugar Bowl presentation:

Several requests have been received to print Woody's address, so here it is:

"This opportunity to express the appreciation of the entire cadet corps to the New Orleans Mid-Winter Sports Association is a genuine pleasure. Almost a month has passed since that eventful January 1 in New Orleans, but that trip, that game, and that city are still the high points of any Aggie conversation wherever Aggies may be together. So, to the New Orleans Mid-Winter Sports Association and the State of Louisiana, the Texas A. & M. cadet corps has this to say—don't change a thing; you have reached perfection. Our feelings can be summed up no better than to say simply—we are sincerely happy over the whole thing. "To you who may be wondering why this great football team of ours is great, we offer the solution in 'The Spirit of Aggie Land.'"

Two justices of the first Supreme Court of Texas were the first law teachers in the state. Associate Justices Abner S. Lipscomb and Royall T. Wheeler joined the faculty of Baylor University, along with John Sayles and R. E. B. Baylor, when the pioneer Baptist school offered in 1849 the first instruction in law in Texas.

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL

HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE

FROM SLAPSTICK TO SOUND...

...The real life story of the world's movie capital

FAYE-AMECHE

J. EDWARDS ALAN STUART
BROMBERG CURTIS EDWIN
LITW BUSTER DONALD
BARI KEATON MEEK
IN TECHNICOLOR

Tuesday & Wednesday
Jan. 30 & 31
6:30

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YOUR PHOTOGRAPH FOR MISS VALENTINE

That's the gift that will thrill her most—So arrange for a sitting today! You'll like the natural results. She'll like your thoughtfulness.

AGGIELAND STUDIO

North Gate of Campus