

The Battalion

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

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AN EXAMPLE

An election such as was held in Louisiana January 16 should be a lesson to every young voter.

Here is an excerpt from the news stories describing activities going on at the Louisiana polls: (Could these things happen in Texas?)

"Goon" squads—pug-uglies from the wharves and bums from the hobo jungles—roamed the city all day in the interests of at least three of the candidates (for Governor, mind you). Jones and Noe followers admitted they had hired "goons," but said they had done so in self defense against Long machine "goons." The "goon's" duty was to drive voters to polls, stop and start precinct fights as conditions warranted; pour ink in ballot boxes, which they did with thorough dispatch; steal and prevent the theft of ballot boxes, also as the situation warranted.

Noe and his lieutenants together had six fights at the polling booths, but the aspiring-governor was on hand for only four of them. After the 5:20 a. m. fracas with pro-Long men, in which one Long man got clipped on the jaw, Noe went out to investigate complaints telephoned to his office and got into four fights and was arrested twice.

Can this happen here? Every person of voting age should be civic-minded enough to ask himself that question. How is Texas different from Louisiana? It's different only so long as we the voters keep our politics on a high plane.

The danger today to our democratic government is not that youth has taken up foreign "isms," but that the youth of the United States is apathetic and indifferent to the conducting of our present system. How many of the "first voters," then, can we expect to vote this year or the next? Not many, we're afraid, and that is why we should pause to think about the "goondogging" condition which Louisiana democracy has come to.

The apathy of the educated youth of Texas like yourself can easily allow Texas to get into the same unholy state of affairs; your interest can prevent it, can raise the plane of politics to higher levels.

There are more than 400,000 eligible voters in Texas between the ages of 21 and 25. Any politician in the state will tell you that this bloc of voters is enough to swing an election, but they will also tell you that they pay little attention to the youth vote, because less than one-fourth of them go to the polls. But here's an interesting point. They admit that the youth vote if ever aroused could cripple their machine politics. Young men and women under 25 are not tied down in life yet by business interests and the like; therefore there would be no way of high-pressureing them to vote one way or the other. These young men and young women would be voters who could decide their vote impartially and choose a candidate wholly on his qualifications, not on his ability to improve their own business or personal interests.

So, it's up to you and the other first voters of Texas to get interested and assume your responsibility in our democracy. Unless we rally away our apathy and resolve firmly to go to the polls this year and the next and the next, we may find the deplorable machine politics as they have in Louisiana taking hold and "goons" pouring ink in our ballot boxes or stealing them, as the situation may warrant.

FAMOUS DEAD OF 1939

Among the prominent persons who died during 1939, the most widely known was Pope Pius XI, who passed away on February 9, and was buried in a tomb under St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome five days later.

Noted Americans who died during the year included the famous surgeons, Drs. Charles and William Mayo; Associate Justice Pierce Butler of the Supreme Court; Senators James Hamilton Lewis of Illinois and M. M. Logan of Kentucky; Secretary of the Navy Claude A. Swanson; George Cardinal Mundelein, archbishop of Chicago; Charles M. Schwab, steel magnate; Douglas Fairbanks Sr., actor; Floyd Gibbons, war correspondent; Miss Grace Abbott, welfare worker and educator; Zane Grey, novelist, and Alice Brady, actress.

Foreigners of note include Sigmund Freud, originator of psychoanalysis; Howard Carter, discoverer of King Tut's tomb; former President Gerardo Machado of Cuba; Premier Joseph Lyons of Australia; Princess Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria; and William B. Yeats, Irish poet and playwright.

The 1939 death roll of persons of exceptional national and international prominence was the shortest in many years.

Indifference to World Affairs

To dispel, gradually, the fog of ignorance that envelops humanity, and that brings with it all the resultant evils of stupidity and superstition and quackery and needless suffering is the mission of the university of tomorrow.

Authorities often say that an integrated study of the social sciences and the humanities will leave our students in American universities and colleges less susceptible to the prevailing ideas and slogans regarding race, creeds, and political programs. Perhaps that holds true in some colleges, but the major fault of the A. & M. campus, it seems to us, is that of indifference.

An intelligent knowledge of world affairs comes from a minute survey of every phase of the problem. We should know, but do we? Now, there's no immediate need to sit down and study over the problem, for after all, it is still reasonable far from our hands. Let's all start perking up our ears over some of the things that happen in the world around here. After all, we are a part of it—a major part, the college student of today—and will no doubt hold an important share in what is to be and what will be thrown aside in political ideals of America of the future.

AMERICAN BIG GAME

Big game animals in the United States, once thought in danger of extinction, are now rapidly increasing in numbers, according to the Department of the Interior, which recently completed a survey in which the most accurate count possible was made.

The inventory showed about six million big-game animals, indicating a gain of nearly a million since the nation-wide survey of 1937 was made. With the exception of buffaloes, no animals in captivity were counted.

Deer are the most numerous of the big-game animals, numbering more than five-sixths of the total. Others include 228,000 elk, 93,500 black bears, 16,300 moose; besides smaller numbers of wild sheep, mountain goats, grizzly bears and buffaloes.

Least numerous of big game animals are the woodland caribou, only 16 of which were reported, 12 in Minnesota and 4 in the state of Washington. There were 845 European wild boars accounted for, 425 of them being in Tennessee.

At one time the buffalo, or bison, seemed in danger of extinction, but through the intervention of the government in recent years, these animals have been protected and allowed to multiply, so that there are at present about 4,500.

Similar conservation measures have been taken with respect to other native big-game animals and wildlife generally, with gratifying results.

BOOKS YOU'LL ENJOY

- New Books in the College Library**
Adamic—HOUSE IN ANTIGUA.
Adams—THE LOG OF A COWBOY.
Alexander—CRUISE OF THE RAIDER WOLF.
Beasley—HOW TO PLAY TENNIS.
Bradford—OLD MAN ADAM AND HIS CHILDREN.
Brand—THE OUTWARD ROOM.
Burgess—PREDICTING SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN MARRIAGE.
Fisher—FORGIVE US OUR VIRTUES.
Griswold—HANDICRAFT.
Harding—IMPERIAL TWILIGHT.
Hylander—THE WORLD OF PLANT LIFE.
Joyce—FINNEGAN'S WAKE.
Langewiesche-Brant—I'LL TAKE THE HIGH ROAD.
Matschat—SEVEN GRASS HUTS.
Miller—THE PARIS GUN.
Remarque—THE ROAD BACK.
Saint Exupery—NIGHT FLIGHT.
St. Martin—MADAME TOUSSAINT'S WEDDING DAY.
Spring—MY SON, MY SON!
Stefansson—UNSOLVED MYSTERIES OF THE ARCTIC.

As the World Turns...

By DR. AL. B. NELSON
Russia is protesting vigorously that the U. S. is not playing fair in its efforts to aid the Finns. It means that the Department of State is refusing to issue new passports or to renew old ones for engineers and other technical workers already in Russia or desiring to go there. Also tremendous undercover pressure is being brought to bear on American exporters forcing them to refuse to sell planes, gasoline, machinery and other essential supplies to Russia.

Congressman Hatton W. Summers of Texas, chairman of the important judicial committee of the House of Representatives, made a fiery speech in the House February 1 in which he demanded that the Federal Government return the powers taken from the people and cease to undermine the state governments by making grants of money directly to local governmental units.

Since the Russian failure in Finland during the last two months of military operations the Japanese are reported to be increasingly contemptuous of Russian fighting powers. The Japanese forget that they have not made such a good showing in their own Chinese campaigns in the last year and a half and that Russian troops fought the Japanese troops to a standstill in the little border war of last year.

What would you answer if you were a history teacher and a student came up just before an examination in the Assembly Hall and asked the following question: "Where should I go for marriage relations?" The student in question finally reached his destination in a Rural Sociology class.

This column does not answer anonymous letters and communications. However, signed communications will receive every consideration.

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Well all right . . . E. B. "Chick" Sale, Battalion advertising manager in '37-'38, is back again as an assistant in the Student Publication Office . . . Since 1893—but not February 10 and 13: The Battalion first went to press seven years before the turn of the century, but the combination of final examinations and mid-term have resulted in the suspension of publication on the above-mentioned dates . . . Two days before ours began, T.S.C.W.-ites and University students finished their semi-annual finals.

She sent it anyway: The writer hasn't yet understood why, but here's a letter received earlier this week:

Dear Sir:
"In your column "Backwash" printed January 20, you stated that there were five F's in the following sentence: The Famous Valspar finish is the result of scientific study combined with the experience of years."

"I found four F's on first reading, and after rereading it about twenty times, I still found only four.

"Would you please answer this and draw a circle around the other F?"

Sincerely yours,
Miss
"P. S.—While reading my letter I found the other F, so never mind."

The eleventh commandment: One of Aggieldand's English profs recently pointed out to the members of his class that, as an aid to passing finals, they should adhere to the Ten Commandments. Especially, he said, should the students toe the line on the commandment "Thou shalt not drink."

No sooner said than E. C. "Jeep" Oates pointed out that there was no such commandment in the original ten. "Very well then," the dauntless prof replied, "I'll add it and make an eleventh commandment!"

Howdy, Sarge!
An old Greek lace salesman was recently trying to make a sidewalk sale to Maurice Dunklin, E. E. Hendrix, Owen Watkins, Bill North, and Leroy McGee, in front of Legett Hall. During the attempted sale, the Cavalry's genial major, W. R. Irwin, stepped in on the proceedings. Turning to the new arrival, the Greek queried, "Can I interest you in anything, Sergeant?"

Did Nott Shoot Shott?
The following tragedy, unearthed from an old Harper's, has never been fully solved—and not without good cause. Try your hand at it. If this won't take your mind off finals, nothing will.

"A duel was lately fought in Texas by Alexander Shott and John S. Nott. Nott was shot, and Shott was not. In this case it is better to be Shott than Nott. There was a rumor that Nott was not shot, and Shott avows that he shot Nott, which proves either that the shot Shott shot at Nott was not shot, or that Nott was shot notwithstanding. Circumstantial evidence is not always good. It may be made to appear on trial that the shot Shott shot Nott or, as accidents with firearms are frequent it may be possible that the shot Shott shot Shott himself when the whole affair would resolve itself into its original elements and Shott would be shot, and Nott would not. We think, however, that the shot Shott shot not Shott but Nott; anyway, it was hard to tell who was shot."

Collegiate Review

In the future Dr. Richard J. Werner, president of Salina Junior College, isn't going to be as ready with his criticism of student conduct, and here's why:

When three students called on him to recover a lost article, he reached into the lost-and-found drawer of his desk, and began: "Just look at these car keys left here. It's a sure thing no one can do without them. And yet they are left here for days." Then began his stammering: "Why, these can't be my car keys, can they? By golly, they are!"

The students were dismissed without another word!

New Slang Department: These are the latest slang definitions developed by Ohio State University students:

Campus glamor boy—male with \$5; campus glamor girl—coed with

ROOM FOR RENT
Within easy walking distance of the campus. For further information telephone College 244.

Dr. A. Benbow
DENTIST
Phone 375
Austin Building — Bryan

Movie Review

by Bob Nisbet

Of course the year's ten best shows is a matter of personal selection, but recently the "Film Daily" made a survey of all show owners over the country. Here is their opinion: "Goodby Mr. Chips," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "Pygmalion," "Wuthering Heights," "Dark Victory," "The Women," "The Wizard of Oz," "Juarez," "Stanley and Livingstone," and "The Old Maid." That list fits my idea more nearly exactly than any other I have seen; however I cannot agree with their choice of "Wuthering Heights" and "The Old Maid." Other than that the list is a good one.

Knowing that something short and light would be just the kind of show for exam week, I'd say that the Assembly Hall calendar has shows that are just that. Saturday at noon Betty Grable will be here to startle the boys with her "MILLION DOLLAR LEGS." That night Jane Withers takes off with the Ritz Brothers in "PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES." The latter show should find lots of appreciative customers. Housemaids to a battalion of mules, the Ritz Brothers have joined the cavalry to fight in France, and before they

WHAT'S SHOWING

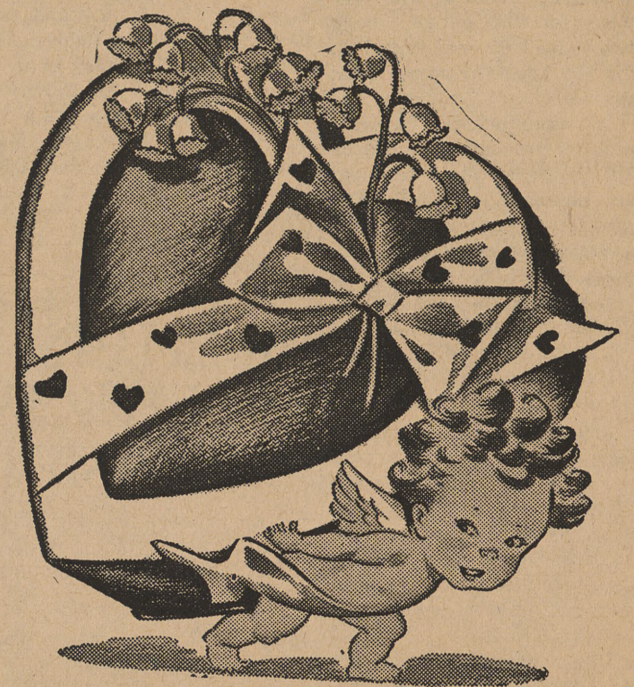
AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Saturday, 12:45 — "MILLION DOLLAR LEGS," with Betty Grable, Jackie Coogan, and Larry Crabbe.

Saturday, 6:30 and 8:30 — "PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES," with Jane Withers, Joseph Schildkraut, and the Ritz Brothers.

AT THE PALACE
Beginning Sunday—"HIS GIRL FRIDAY," with Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell.

AT THE QUEEN
Sunday and Monday — "MUSIC IN MY HEART," with Tony Martin.

Mrs. Ida Benfey Judd of New York City is working to have some U. S. university establish a Mark Twain Chair for the Advancement of Humor.



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