

The Battalion

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

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"Goodby Now, God--"

"God bless Mamma and Daddy, and goodbye now, God, I'm going away to college," said the freshman on the night before leaving for school.

This quotation is supposed to be a joke, but it's not so funny when you stop to think there's a certain amount of truth in it. But youths of college age are not so much growing away from religion as from the church.

This is not so startling—skeptical youths, taught to accept those things which are of practical value to them, cannot be expected to be satisfied with a religion too far removed from their daily problems. The average college student considers church a waste of time—it's all right when there's nothing else to be done. He believes he can stay at home on Sundays and be as good a Christian as if he went to church and listened to texts he has heard hundreds of times. And as long as this is all the church offers young people, they will continue to stay away by the hundreds.

Most college students are not really irreligious—they want something from their religion, something more practical and tangible than an abstract spiritual crutch. They want, and need a modern religion that will help them find their way in a busy world.

—T. C. U. Skiff.

THE WHOLE STORY

In a little book containing only one hundred and twelve words and entitled, "The Whole Story," James W. Elliott boiled down the gist of his complete series of Man Messages which were published regularly every week for many years. And here are the one hundred and twelve words.

Men of Principle are the Principal Men . . . Work is Life and Good Work is Good Life . . . It isn't what you know, but how well you know how to use what you know that really counts . . . For, Good Friend, the trouble in business is not the lack of men and ability—but the terrible lack of ability of men to USE their ability . . . In life it is just as important to FORGET some things as it is to remember others . . . So don't forget to remember and always remember to forget . . . And Keep on Keeping on. For you are judged by the Record that you Make—Not by Your Ability to Make a Record.

The World's Most Careless People

We Americans are the world's most careless people when it comes to fire. Nowhere else in the world is the "crime of fire" so prevalent.

A simple set of statistics readily proves this. Fire loss in this country runs in the neighborhood of \$2.00 per year for every man, woman and child of the population. By comparison, loss in Sweden is 89 cents per capita; loss in Great Britain is 82 cents; loss in Italy is 78 cents; loss in France is 61 cents, and loss in Germany is 11 cents. In other words, we destroy more than twice as much property with fire as is destroyed in the next highest country—and close to 20 times as much as in the lowest on the list.

Here's a case where alibis are no good. For the greater percentage of all fires, great and small, are the product of human carelessness. Somebody is thoughtless—somebody forgets—somebody takes a chance. And a home or a factory goes up in smoke. Human failure is the great fire breeder.

The record is the more shameful in that we Americans have the best of all chances to fight and lick fire. Organized fire prevention, supported by insurance companies, fire marshals, civic organizations and others has reached a high peak of excellence in this country. Experts scour the country searching out hazards—other experts fight arson 24 hours a day—others examine machinery, building materials, electric appliances and similar commodities and draw up fire-resistant standards of construction—others keep check on fire departments, water facilities and alarm facilities. A wealth of invaluable information is our for the asking.

We can't pass the buck. Fire is our fault. And fire can be prevented only by the concerted, thinking efforts of us all.

New Books at College Library

Strecker—DISCOVERING OURSELVES.
Tressler—HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS AND ALIENATE PEOPLE.
Tucker—MISS SUSIE SLAGLE'S.
Wallin—PERSONALITY MALADJUSTMENTS AND MENTAL HYGIENE.

Doubtless the dictators think that Finland sets a bad example by paying its debts.

Parade of Opinion

A. S. U. Take it from the nation's collegiate editorial writers, the American Student Union has pulled a boner. The organization of campus liberals has drawn almost unanimous condemnation from the college press for refusing to vote favorably on a resolution condemning the Russian invasion of Finland. The fire-drawing resolution was presented at the Union's recent national convention.

While the one-sided debate continues in the press, the final determination of the Union's stand is being thrown back to the individual campus chapters. Alan Gottlieb, president of the Harvard chapter, has organized a national referendum of all members. At this writing, the vote by chapters stands even.

Here is a brief resume of the editorial thought on the A. S. U. action:

Temple University News: "When all the rationalizing is done, the one thing that is clearest is that the A. S. U. refuses to recognize that Russia is an aggressor along with Italy and Germany. The 'boys' have pulled a grave tactical blunder. By refusing to pass an amendment to a resolution that would have done no harm to their cause, they have only lost in prestige in the minds of the average student and the general public."

The Dartmouth College Daily Dartmouth: "By test and investigation, the A. S. U. is not a Communist organization. The vote at the convention would make it appear so. By test and investigation, the A. S. U. is a liberal and progressive organization. The vote at the convention would make it appear otherwise. Unless the A. S. U. can return to an honest liberalism, its career in American colleges is at an end."

The Ohio University Post: "Whether or not the Union was morally justified in this action, we disregard. The point is that they left themselves open to attack by everyone who believes the organization has a 'pipeline from Moscow.' Any really worthwhile projects the A. S. U. may sponsor now are bound to be condemned as 'subversive' or 'Communistic.'"

The University of Nebraska Daily Nebraskan: "Discarding the theory of the Dies Committee that the Union is under the thumb of the Third International in Moscow, it appears that the A. S. U. has degenerated from an outspoken but ineffectual debating society into an organization lacking even the courage to pass a positive resolution. Ordinarily college minds do not function in that way."

The Syracuse University Daily Orange: "Its latest action will probably clinch the opinions of many doubters, who will point out that the A. S. U. must be allied in sympathy with Russia, since members fail to condemn the Soviet state's clear action as an aggressor. Only reason the A. S. U. gave for its action was that the 'convention should wait for a true valuation of conditions in Finland and Russia.' But the A. S. U. has never waited before. It has rushed in with wholesale condemnations where angels feared to tread. But those condemnations dealt with Fascist aggressions. Is Communist aggression something different?"

All collegians are waiting with interest—and hope, as the views expressed above indicate—the outcome of the referendum now being conducted by the organization.

MAN, YOUR MANNERS—

St. Valentine's Day is not far off. Flowers make the loveliest Valentine you can send to your girl; in fact, there is scarcely a situation that flowers are not the most suitable messenger of friendship or sympathy or love that we can send.

When you send a gardenia corsage to your girl for a dance, don't send more than three, as that is all a young lady can wear and look smart; two in a corsage on an evening dress is perfection, and one for the street dress is correct.

As the World Turns...

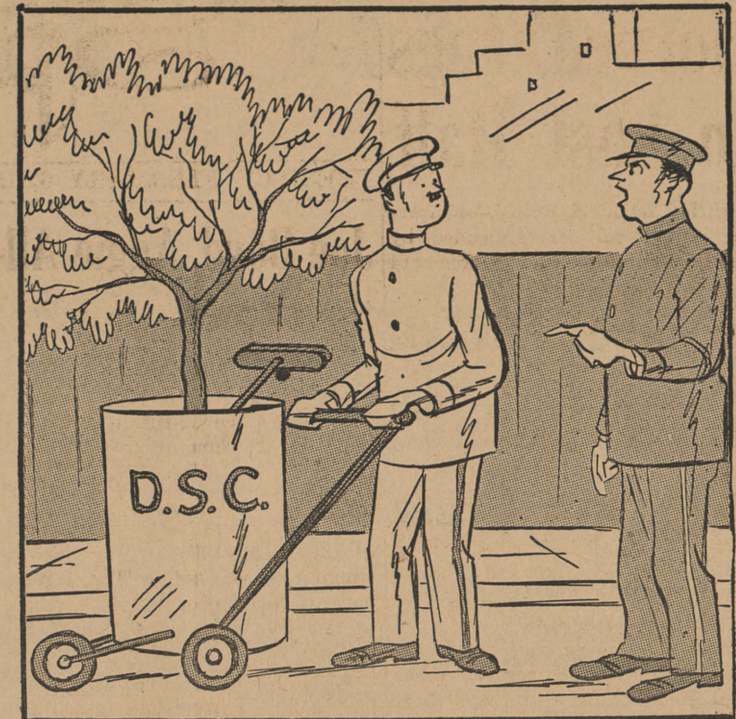
The Democratic national committee met in Washington on Monday for the purpose of choosing a city in which to hold the 1940 convention. Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, and perhaps other cities entered bid for the convention. Members of the national committee are in general friends of President Roosevelt, and many of them were outspoken in their belief that he should seek a third term. Others were doubtful of the wisdom of such a move on his part. Alaska's six delegates to the convention, which will meet in August or September, have been chosen, and are instructed to vote for a third term for Roosevelt. The President now needs only 550 more votes to assure himself of a third nomination by the Democratic party.

In an address last Friday evening Herbert Hoover increased by fire the famed horsemen of whom Ibanez wrote: War, Death, Famine, and Pestilence are the horsemen of the Apocalypse. To this dread troop Hoover added Imperialism, the destroyer of the independence of nations; Intolerance, the destroyer of minorities; Statism, the destroyer of personal liberty; Atheism, the destroyer of faith; and Hate, the destroyer of the unity of mankind.

Germans were not permitted to listen to Winston Churchill's recent address, but a recording of the speech is now being broadcast over German stations. The recording has been edited for German consumption, however, by drowning out the more important portions with enthusiastic "boos." The announcer interrupts the record after each outburst of booing to assure his listeners that this is the reception given the speech by citizens of "starving England."

It seems that nothing is free from the effects of war. Because of the fact that paper is being rationed British publishers are having to curtail their spring book lists. The books that do appear will have small type, narrow margins, and fewer end pages. The paper also will be of inferior quality.

Off the Record



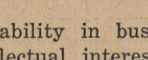
"Johnson, when was the last time you emptied that cart?"

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

In passing . . . M. W. "Buck" Castleberry is telling about the freshman who wondered if "A grass widow is the wife of a vegetarian." . . . Check up and see how you stand—here's the order of the ten most desirable qualities to be sought for in a prospective husband according to a national poll of college and university coeds: Honesty, ambition, disposition, health, education, ability in business, mutual intellectual interests, natural mental ability (common sense), good personal appearance, and abstinence from use of alcohol. . . . And via letter—here's a T.S.C.W.-ite's view on the final examination situation: "Call up a picture of me—a dejected little rag, bone, and hank of hair, just emerged from that heated institution, A. FINAL EXAM; my fingers, worn to the stump from pulling the prof about facts and figures, knowledge of which I had none." . . . The same belle further points out that, "I'm just a female among many females and don't even know but what an Aggie's kiss is a businesslike peck or not." . . . "The three most dependable feminine occupations," Jimmy James says, "are changing her clothes, her mind, and her name!"



Fuermann

John Collier studies for a final exam: True enough, it is nothing out of the usual order of things in itself, but now many students call time out from their cramming orgy at 3 o'clock in the morning to write poetry? Statistics show that not one in 7,844,563 would do so—but John did! A typical example of what runs through students' minds while preparing for the semi-annual ordeal, here's John's first attempt at versing:

Ode vs. Odor, or Thought On The Night Before
Pencils and pens and sliderules slick,
Tablets and tables and arithmetic.
Problems and formulas and square-root signs,
Lipstick and powder and valentines.
Combinations and progressions and habits bad,
Hours and credits and term grades sad.
Houston and College and dates for me,
Pictures of girls I'd like to see.
Kisses and sighs and a lover's parting,
Midnight and coffee and finals starting.
Whorls and squirrels and hair to tear,
Pistols and poison and Gabriel's stair.
Could I but see you and drink in your charm,
To hear you and have you and lean on your arm,
A flight to a world not had in a wish,
A fancy so beautiful now is my dish.
For in the morning I go, my brain in a boil,
To give out with vigor the fruit of my toil.
I'll bum up the paper with my fingers fast,
And hope that my standing will not suffer at last.
Failures and falterings and classes to make,
Bones and fingers and backs to break.
Eyes and ears and nails to trim,
May God have mercy, for I'm trusting in him—

Now it's your turn:
Final exams—or any other exams for that matter—always bring on a fresh crop of 'boner' answers, and the current siege is no exception. Witness, for example, the following collection which came from four Aggie profs:

"A compliment is when you say something to another which he and we know is not true."
"Faith is that quality which helps us believe something we know to be untrue."
"To germinate is to become a naturalized German."
"Catherine the Great's husband was hung by her supporters."
"When Browning's wife died he was very much put out."
"Isinglass is a whitish substance made from the bladders of surgeons."
"The letters MD means 'Mentally deficient!'"
"A miracle is something that somebody does that can't be done."
"Mussolini is a sort of material used in the making of ladies' stockings."
"An axiom is a thing that is so visible that it is not necessary to see it."
"A circle is a line that meets its other end without ending."
"The Kodak is the Bible of the Mohammedans."
"About this time Henry went mad and bore a son."
"To stop a nosebleed stand on your head until your heart stops bleeding."
"A sincere friend is one that says nasty things to your face instead of to your back."
"Moses was the first man to study the economy of time and motion in respect to large-scale manufacturing."

The University of North Dakota has 33 nationalities represented in its student body.



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Movie Review

by Bob Nisbet

One of the funniest shows I've seen in a long time is "His Girl Friday" at the Palace for the last time today. If you have not seen it yet, I recommend that you do so before it is too late. There are gags and funny cracks in every line of the dialogue. Rosalind Russell is my girl Friday, Saturday, and every other day in the week.

Zorina! You've probably heard the name before, many times, in magazines and ads. In fact, you probably have heard that 'girl's name more than the title of the show she appears in, "ON YOUR TOES." She is the Norwegian girl someone found and brought to Broadway to play in the stage play "I Married an Angel." In case you cannot find out anywhere else, and I don't think you can, her real name is Brigitta Hartwig. So good was she that the producer put her in a mediocre show hoping she would carry through on her own. That more or less hurt her chances of immediately becoming a big star, but she will be one some day, just watch.

"GULLIVER'S TRAVELS" has been put out as a full-length show by Max Fleischer, and is good entertainment, but I still think they are trying to steal Walter Disney's thunder. When Disney put out 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,' he started something new. His latest is "Pinochio," a story of a puppet brought to life. My idea is that when "Pinochio" gets around it will show up "Gulliver's Travels" for what it is.

Everyone, I suppose, has read Jonathan Swift's original "Gulliver's Travels," the children's story that contained some of the most vicious satire ever written, about Gulliver and his adventures in four countries. The show only deals with his stay in Lilliput, the country of the tiny people. I presume Paramount intends making sequels. In the show the Lilliputians are at war with King Bombo because he and King Little of Lilliput could not agree on the song to sing at the wedding of the prince and the princess. Gulliver breaks in on the scene, astounds the people of both countries with his size, and then solves their problems for them.

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Tuesday and Wednesday—
"ON YOUR TOES," with Zorina, Eddie Albert, and Alan Hale.

AT THE PALACE
Beginning Wednesday—
"GULLIVER'S TRAVELS," starring Lemuel Gulliver, King Little of Lilliput, and Gabby, the town crier.

AT THE QUEEN
Tuesday and Wednesday—
"EARL OF CHICAGO," with Robert Montgomery.

LaSalle Barber Shop
Stewart—O'Conner—Jones

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