

The Battalion

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

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For Seniors Only

This week is being held an election of seniors only, by seniors only, for seniors only. It is the annual election of the "five most popular seniors" of the class of 1940 to which we are referring. In today's Battalion is a ballot with five blanks on which each senior is requested to fill in, in descending order, the names of the boys he considers the five most popular members of his class.

It is an acknowledged fact that in past years this election has been shamefully unrepresentative - in fact, almost farcial, Last year less than 20 per cent of the class voted. Members of the senior class commonly "gripe" and joke about this condition of things. But dismissing the question with a complaint or a jest is not improving matters. It is the opportunity, the privilege, actually the duty of the members of the senior class that they all voice their opinions in order that the election may be truly representative, democratic, and correct in its results.

The Longhorn annually devotes a full page to each of the five seniors chosen. Those men chosen should actually be most popular in the eyes of the class, and it is up to the class to see that they are.

The officers and leaders of the senior class, the editors of The Battalion and the Longhorn, and all interested in holding of the election are urging that each senior do his part by casting his vote. After all, it's but a little trouble to clip out a ballot and write in five names. Top sergeants are requested to collect the individual ballots and turn them in by Friday noon to class president Max McCullar. All top sergeants are asked to do their best to secure the ballot of every senior in their respective organizations, to help in making the election as representative as possible.

So come on out, seniors, and do your part. The class of '40 has been the most active senior class in A. & M.'s history. Let's not have its election as farcial as those of previous years.

Ha-Ha Department

The Battalion has received, as doubtless other newspapers have received, an interesting pamphlet from the German Library of Information in New York. Called "Facts in Review," the pamphlet is a propaganda organ which presents the German point of view. An analysis of the material shows such statements as "The execution of two fighters for Irish freedom, Peter Barnes and James Richards, invokes profound sympathy in the German press," and "In India, too, judging by the failure of Gandhi's attempt to effect a reconciliation between the Indian National Congress and Great Britain, there may soon be a new crop of martyrs." All this is propaganda against the British, the "capitalistic" enemy of the Third Reich.

There is another side of the propaganda, the propaganda for the Reich.

"Glass slippers will provide a real Cinderella touch this spring. Soles and uppers are made of Plexiglas, which is as flexible and smooth as first-grade leather. The heels are of splinter-proof Plexiglas, providing a slipper more practical than Cinderella's."

"This new wonder apparel can be obtained without ration cards."

For this information, the German ministry of misformation can kick itself in the pants. For the interpretation of this is that the German government is short of hides and leathers, and has turned to ersatz footwear. The last paragraph looks like it was turned out by a pro-Ally writer. At least, praise Wotan, there is something not on the ration list.

Propaganda is a dangerous thing. It can turn and bite its masters as easily as it bites its enemies.

MAN, YOUR MANNERS—

QUESTION: Is it correct at a college dance for a man to cut in on a girl to whom he has not been introduced?

ANSWER: It is not correct, but what chance would an A. & M. stag have if he did not?

QUESTION: When introducing small college groups, is it best to use first and last names or the conventional titles?

ANSWER: The conventional is correct, except, for those who are intimate friends of yours, and already know each other's names but have never met; you might say, "Jane, this is Pete Smith"; then to him, "Jane Worth."

OPEN FORUM

ONE REASON STUDENTS FAIL

Has it ever occurred to you why so many students have failed out of school thus far? Naturally you blame it on the student who fails for not studying enough, but do you know that it might be partly your fault? In a survey of several students who failed out or who failed one or more courses, the majority took part of the blame, but "passed the buck" on to somebody else. The chief reason for not being able to concentrate wholly on one's lessons is because of excessive disturbances both inside and outside the campus dwelling places, especially the dormitories. To a certain extent this is very true, because if one has to stop studying for a few minutes due to some unnecessary confusion going on, several minutes may be lost each day, and when the end of the semester rolls around, the previous minutes which have been lost show up on the student's grades. Just a little more consideration from each one of us toward our neighbors during study hours aren't only helping them but ourselves as well.

—L. B. TENNISON.

THE "ISMS"

Inasmuch as most of us are not very familiar with the various forms of government, and are frequently embarrassed at trying to explain them, we submit the following to clarify the situation:

SOCIALISM: If you have two cows, you must give one to your neighbor.

COMMUNISM: If you have two cows you must give both to the government, and the government gives you some of the milk.

FASCISM: If you have two cows you may keep the cows, feed and milk them, and give the milk to the government and the government will sell part of it back to you.

NAZISM: If you have two cows the government shoots you and takes both cows.

NEW DEALISM: If you have two cows the government shoots one cow, you feed and milk the other, and the government pours the milk down the drain.

CAPITALISM: If you have two cows you milk both cows, sell the milk, and buy a bull and increase the herd.

Lines To Gladys Swarthout

By Dr. John Ashton
Last night a bird came warbling
And dropped upon our lawn;
It sang so sweet and lustily
That, when I woke at dawn,
I still could hear it singing
In notes both clear and true.
We'll ne'er forget fair Gladys!
For, Gladys, we mean you.

New Books in College Library

Rausching, Herman—THE REVOLUTION OF NIHILISM.

Brooks, Robert Romano Ravi—UNIONS OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING.

Hart, Moss—YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU.

PERIODICALS

"Discovery"; the popular journal of knowledge . . . new series, v. 1, April 1938-date.

"Hoy" (published in Mexico City) v.12, No. 152, January 20, 1940-date.

As the World Turns...

By DR. R. W. STEEN

Texas Independence Day will be celebrated officially at Washington-on-the-Brazos, Saturday of this week. Washington's chief claim to fame lies in the fact that the convention which declared Texas independent met there on March 1, 1836, and the following day issued the famous declaration.

Today it is little more than a crossroads village, and in 1836 it was something short of a metropolis. It was made up of a few poorly constructed cabins, and stumps were still standing in the most important street. The town did not have a library, a printing press, or a building suitable for the convention to meet in. The meeting was finally called to order, in near freezing weather, in an unfinished building. Places of cloth were hung over the open windows in an attempt to keep out the biting north wind.

The members of the convention bore ample testimony to the cosmopolitan nature of the Texas population. Eleven members of the body were born in Virginia, nine in Tennessee, nine in North Carolina, five in Kentucky, four in South Carolina, four in Georgia, three in Mexico, two in Pennsylvania, two in New York, one in Massachusetts, one in New Jersey, one in Scotland, one in England, and one in Canada. Several other members were present, but nothing is known of their nativity.

The menu of speeches for this celebration offers ample variety. Among those scheduled to address the meeting are Governor W. Lee O'Daniel, President Homer P. Rainey of the University of Texas, and Justice John H. Sharp of the Texas Supreme Court. The theme of the meeting will be the Declaration of Independence, but honor will also be paid the Supreme Court which is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary, and to Thomas Jefferson Rusk who was chief justice one century ago.

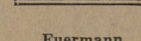
Decency seems to be one word not included in the vocabularies of some Louisiana politicians. Earl K. Long was defeated in the Democratic primaries last Tuesday. Early Sunday the "lame duck" state committee, under control of Long, named the defeated governor as the party candidate for secretary of state. This state of affairs was made possible due to the fact that the candidate for that office died on the eve of the primaries. Sam Houston Jones (most Texans will approve that name), the nominee for the governorship, has stated that he will not permit this flouting of the popular will. The courts may have the pleasure of solving the problem. Long had to act hurriedly, as his state committee goes out of power Wednesday.

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Backwashin' around . . . A headline on a story in the T. S. C. W. Lass-O reads: "Not Married at 20? There's Hope Left Even After 30" . . . Two members of the Ross Volunteers—attired in full R. V. uniform—were recently returning to their room after having had their picture taken for The Longhorn. Suddenly, a not-too-well-informed teen-age lad popped up with the sincere-enough query: "Say fellas, what school are y'all from? . . . And Hoot Gibson says that the usual reply which a Sam Houston State Teachers College girl gives another on being asked what she will do over the weekend is, 'Oh, just 'string' another Aggie along.'" . . . Best quip of the week via radio: Bob Hope's "Let's swing and sway in a negligence." . . . One of the Aggie-land's chem profs to his laboratory section: "It's better for you students to look things up, but if you're as lazy as I think you are, I'll tell you." Logical: As Lester Hodges—Gladys Swarthout's accompanist—sat down to play his solo portion of last Friday night's memorable concert, a woman sitting behind the writer pointed out to her companion, "Watch his mouth as he plays the piano." . . . The Aggie-land Orchestra is finding the two most currently requested numbers are "Tuxedo Junction" and "I'd Rather Be A Texas Aggie." . . . Just cautions—that's all: The History Department's "Count" V. K. Sugareff discovered last week that two of the members of his History 306 class had "busted" the course last semester. When seated alphabetically, however, they turned up in the same seats they had occupied the previous semester. Superstitious, though wise, they asked for a change—and got it.



Fuermann

Here's how they did it: More than a few cadets have wondered what magic the A. S. C. E. members used to entice Sam Houston State Teachers College coeds to their dance last Friday night. It all started when Cecil DeVilbiss and J. D. Hancock visited Huntsville recently and met James Butler, a former student of the class of 1912 whose daughter is a Sam Houston freshman. Learning last week that two of the members of his History 306 class had "busted" the course last semester, Butler offered his assistance. A week later, Bruce Cloud, Fred Sandlin, H. C. "Snuffy" Smith, and Frank Perrin journeyed Huntsville way and completed negotiations. As a result, Butler came through with typical Aggie spirit and drove ten Sam Houston-ites to Aggie-land for the dance. The consensus of the girls' opinions was the same: "We had a wonderful time—and we hope we'll be back soon."

Hollyhocks to the Old Army Bar racks: In a recent noon-day address, via his daily radio editorial "One

Musical Meanderings

COTT'S TOT. Every Sunday, for quite a while, on his CBS So You Think You Know Music quiz, Ted Cott asked his contestants to sing, whistle, hum, shout, grunt, or groan the theme of some musical selection.

The grunting and groaning didn't really get started though, until a couple of weeks ago when the program was taken off the air. The mail and telephone calls that piled up at the studios began to melt the hearts of CBS program chiefs, who had other plans for the Sunday half-hour—2:30 to 3:00 p. m., EST. They were topped by a letter from a mumps-ridden little Toronto girl who complained that if she couldn't learn about music from the program, her parents would make her start taking piano lessons.

So So You Think You Know Music is back on the air. Walter Winchell gave it a (or is it an?) Yorichid and the N. Y. World-Telegram voted it one of the best quiz programs on the air last year. Ted Cott invented the show one Fourth of July afternoon when he was playing records over a small station. He invited the engineer, the cleaning woman, and the porter into the studio for a quiz on the air. The station got so much mail that the program became a regular thing. It moved to CBS last spring.

P. S. The porter won the quiz. **STATE'S STAKE.** CBS last week staked Ohio State University's private radio station to a transmitter. The transmitter replaced at CBS by a larger model, cost originally \$30,000, and rolled into Columbus in a caravan of two trucks. O. S. U. Vice-President G. Lewis Morrill accepted the gift for the university, saying: "Its uses in research and instruction in Communications Engineering will be extremely important."

The Buckeye Radio Institute has long been recognized as one of the country's best. In addition to student-acted and produced programs, the Institute has done pioneer work in radio research. The annual educational conventions of the Institute are the Pulitzer prize awards in Educational Radio.

We could list the technical names for the equipment included in the gift. But it's pretty long. Briefly—it works.

ON THE CUFF. Marvin Miller,

Man's Opinion," Hal H. Collins, prexy of the Crazy Water Crystal Company, warned the public against rides to hitch-hikers—whether in uniform or not. No sooner heard than W. L. "Tick" Bryce, I. C. Baucom, Al Knippa, Edgar Schawe, C. J. Jones, Rip Barnhill, Jake Creager, Elmer Ellis, J. L. Heard, and Marion Wilkerson (all residents of the Old Army Barracks—the Houston County Project House) wrote a polite letter to Collins explaining that they enjoyed his programs very much, but failed to see eye-to-eye with some of his policies. In short order Collins came back with an equally courteous letter explaining that he had meant no harm to Aggies, that he was a former Aggie himself (B Company Infantry, 1910), and, as a solution to the problem, advocated the formation of an organization which would insure motorists' safety and provide rides for college students.

Various parts of the campus are bringing out their favorites for Backwash's Ugly Boy championship. Full details of the contest appear on the front page of this paper and a ballot appears elsewhere in the paper.

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Movie Review

by Bob Nisbet

A split benefit between the fencing team and the boxing team is scheduled for Thursday and Friday nights. The picture showing is "THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK." If you have read any of Dumas' books, you will be delighted with Warren William as D'Artagnan. In my estimation his acting was the best part of the whole show. But then Joan Bennett's good looks and sultry personality cannot be overlooked. As the story goes, twins were born to the king—an event that proved a catastrophe since both had equal rights to the throne. To try to avoid trouble, the king sent one to another country in the care of his old friend, D'Artagnan, to raise in the ways of a musketeer. Much later, however, the two did meet, and despite the efforts of the king's minister, the two learned their identity. The heartless son who had become king then had the other thrown in prison with a horrible iron mask locked around his head. There is much more to the show including another counter-plot, but it is easier told on celluloid than in print. Rating—three grade-points.

At the Palace this weekend is another of Wallace Beery's pictures, "THE MAN FROM DAKOTA," and as usual he is the wicked old sot with a heart of gold underneath. Also in Beery pictures there must be a young man and a young woman to bring together. After a look at the story, I see that my surmise is correct. John Howard and Dolores Del Rio are the budding young couple.

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Thursday and Friday—"THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK," with Warren William, Joan Bennett, Alan Hale, and Louis Hayward.

AT THE PALACE
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday—"DESTROY RIDES AGAIN," with Marlene Dietrich and James Stewart.

AT THE QUEEN
Friday and Saturday—"WHAT A LIFE," with Jackie Cooper and Betty Field.



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